

Starting on May 21, Rutherford County property owners impacted by Hurricane Helene, who do not have debris removal insurance, may apply to have qualified disaster debris removed from their property **at no cost** through the Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) Program. The program also covers the demolition of eligible unsafe structures.

What is eligible in the PPDR program?

- Removal of hazardous limbs, trees, or other mixed debris caused by Hurricane Helene that is near a commonly used area or maintained areas of a property.
- Removal of debris impacting a waterway.
- Removal of debris impacting a private road.
- The demolition and removal of a structure that is a health hazard, deemed unfit/unsafe, and may not be recoverable, or is in threat of collapse. This may include concrete slabs.

What is NOT eligible under the program?

- Debris on vacant lots, unimproved property, and unused or unmaintained areas.
- Debris on land used primarily for agricultural purposes, such as land for crops or livestock.

Required Documentation

A Right of Entry (ROE) form, signed by all property owners, **is legally required** before contractors providing PPDR and/or demolition can access the owner's private property. A right-of-entry is a voluntary document. Your land is private, and it is your decision to grant access. You may withdraw from the program at any time prior to the start of debris removal or demolition activities on your property. Private roads maintained by homeowner's associations must provide ROE forms signed by the individual authorized to act on behalf of the association. Private roads not maintained by an HOA may call or email their request for debris collection at (828) 253-4887 or clerk@woodfin-nc.gov

How to Apply

To determine if you are eligible for debris removal or the demolition of unsafe structures on your property, visit the **Senior Center located at 193 Callahan-Koon Road Ste 132, Spindale, NC** or **Call 828-319-2880** for online link. .

Application Intake Dates: May 28th & 29th from 10am to 2pm

Depending on the demand/need, additional dates will be scheduled until June 20th, 2025.

Please have the following documents available when visiting the intake center or calling for the online link:

- A copy of your insurance policy and proof/statement of loss from the company (if insured)
- A color copy of your driver's license or valid U.S. government-issued ID (such as a passport)
- Proof of ownership such as a warranty deed, tax assessment, etc.
- Power of attorney or legal documents to give signature authority if you are not the owner
- A simple sketch of the property identifying the locations of debris (hand-drawn is fine).

Other Common FAQs

What is the Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) program? The PPDR program is designed to speed recovery by helping property owners impacted by disasters, who do not have debris removal insurance, by removing eligible disaster debris or demolishing unsafe, unrecoverable structures, on their property at no cost. Properties located within the County of Rutherford are eligible for the program if they have qualified debris on them or demolition of an unsafe structure.

What is Right of Entry (ROE)? A Right of Entry (ROE) is a form that, when properly executed, provides the contractors with permission to enter the private property to provide the requested services.

There are three parts to a ROE for private property:

1. **Right of Entry form:** grants property access to contractors, and subcontractors for inspecting and removing eligible storm-generated debris or demolishing any eligible unsafe, unrecoverable structures.
2. **Hold Harmless Agreement:** releases the town, state, their agencies, contractors, and subcontractors for damages, either to the property or persons situated thereon, and waives any action which might arise during inspection, debris removal and/or demolition.
3. **Non-Duplication of Benefits:** states any money you received from your insurance agency, specifically for debris removal or demolition on your property, must be returned to the government if you received it and did not spend it on debris removal/demolition services.

Why do I have to apply in-person at the intake center? Why isn't there an on-line option? The intake specialist must review the form with each applicant and verify the individual signing the ROE form is the property owner. The ROE form also requires a wet signature and may not be filed electronically.

What if the other property owners are not available to sign the ROE form? The intake specialist will review the most practical option(s) with the applicant to obtaining the necessary authority to move forward with a complete application.

Who determines eligibility? The designated inspector will conduct a review. FEMA ultimately determines eligibility.

Is commercial property eligible for the program? Commercial properties are generally allowable. Eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

If I have homeowner's insurance, can I still participate in the PPDR program? To avoid a duplication of benefits, your insurance company may be required to provide payment from your policy, designated for your debris removal or demolition, to the county. If you have already received a benefits payment from your insurance company for work you are requesting from the town, you may be requested to reimburse that portion.

Can I use my debris removal insurance to remove items ineligible under the program? Yes. If you have a specified amount for debris removal in your insurance policy, you may use those proceeds to remove debris that is ineligible under the PPDR program. The County will only collect remaining insurance proceeds, if any, after you have paid to remove your ineligible debris.

What is the timeline after I submit my completed ROE?

1. Intake specialists will review your ROE document with the applicant and will verify all property owners have signed.
2. A site inspection will be scheduled.*
3. Eligible hazards will be documented and submitted for approval.
4. The assigned contractor will begin debris removal and/or demolition services.
5. Once the contractor is done removing the debris, a final inspection is performed to verify work is complete and property is returned to the pre-debris removal condition.

*If your property has been approved for the demolition of a structure, additional site visits may be required to test for asbestos, review surrounding environmental conditions, and disconnect utilities. The town and/or its contractors will keep you informed of the progress.

Any additional questions you may have, or for status updates please 501-604-6453.