

Perry County Storm Victims Receive Help

The Perry County Commission jumped into action to aid storm victims of the March 27 tornadoes. The North Perry County community took a direct hit from a EF3 tornado. More than 20 structures were destroyed, and a number of families have a long road towards recovery.

Perry County's Commission Chairman, Albert Turner, Jr. along with Vice Chairman Brett Harrison came together with the Perry County EMA Director, DeAndra Kimbrough to immediately begin the cleanup. The team then engaged the services of Sowing Seeds of Hope and Perry County's Healthcare Director Frances Ford R.N. to begin coordinating donations and getting an assessment of Perry County's damage.

As of press time, a couple of thousands of dollars have been collected to assist families with immediate needs. Sowing Seeds of Hope and Perry County EMA have provided hot meals for area families on a daily basis since the storm. Many different volunteer groups have delivered food, clothes, and other needed items to area families as well. Help has come as far as Madison County, Jefferson County and Montgomery County. Area churches have made consistent donations to Sowing Seeds of Hope as directed by Chairman Turner to assist the County with necessities.

As of Saturday, (4-10-21), the State was conducting damage assessments. Perry County will certainly be in the Alabama Declaration declared should one be declared by President Biden. There are two types of disaster declarations provided for in the Stafford Act: emergency declarations and major disaster declarations. Both declaration types authorize the President to provide supplemental federal disaster assistance.

There are three major categories of disaster aid made available following a Major Disaster Declaration: Public Assistance (PA), Individual Assistance (IA), and Hazard Mitigation. Chairman Turner has requested the governor to declare public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA) at a minimum for Perry County.

Individual Assistance:

FEMA provides Individual Assistance to eligible individuals and households who have sustained losses as a direct result of a disaster that receives a federal disaster declaration.

- Homeowners and renters in officially designated counties who sustained damage to their homes, vehicles, personal property, businesses or inventory may apply for disaster assistance.

Assistance can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, emergency home repairs, uninsured and underinsured personal property losses, and medical, dental and funeral expenses caused by the disaster, together with other serious disaster-related expenses.

· Disaster assistance grants are not taxable income and will not affect eligibility for social security, Medicaid, medical waiver programs, welfare assistance, temporary assistance for needy families, food stamps, supplemental security income, social security disability insurance or any other federal benefits.

Pictured below are photos of the Madison County contribution to Perry County for their victims of the March 27 tornado. Also, Perry County's EMA Director, DeAndra Kimbrough, Chairman Turner and Madison County Commissioner Steve Haraway.

