



# Hurricane Ian

## Debris Removal Program

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### **Background**

On September 28th, 2022, Hurricane Ian made landfall in Florida as a Category 4 hurricane, devastating several Florida communities throughout Southwest Florida, and leaving behind over 1 million cubic yards of storm debris. Under Governor Ron DeSantis' leadership, the State of Florida created the Hurricane Ian Debris Removal Program to address debris removal needs for homeowners and business owners and expedite the recovery process for communities impacted by Hurricane Ian.

FEMA approved the State of Florida's request for a rapid debris removal process, which allows for the waiver of some requirements for demolition and/or debris removal on private and commercial properties based on the intensity of damage in certain areas. The streamlined approach outlines debris removal assistance for debris that Hurricane Ian left on public, commercial and private residential properties in 1) catastrophically damaged, 2) extensively damaged and 3) moderately damaged areas.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) is working in close coordination with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), United States Coast Guard (USCG) and local government agencies in its mission to identify and remove vessels, debris and other title property from participating counties' waterways, upland private property and upland commercial property as quickly and efficiently as possible.

### **The Hurricane Ian Debris Removal Program**

FDEM, in collaboration with participating counties and their municipalities, are accepting applications from private and commercial property owners who would like assistance for the removal of qualifying debris, vehicles, vessels and other title property. If requested, this program also provides support in identifying and reuniting vehicles, vessels and other title property lost or displaced due to Hurricane Ian to their rightful owners.

### **Which counties are participating in the Hurricane Ian Debris Removal Program?**

At this time, Charlotte, DeSoto and Lee counties – and their municipalities – are participating in the Hurricane Ian Debris Removal Program. Participating counties may expand as needed. Any property owner within these counties may apply for assistance.

### **How can residents in participating counties apply?**

Property owners in participating counties can apply for debris removal assistance including demolition by visiting [www.IanDebrisCleanup.com](http://www.IanDebrisCleanup.com) to complete an application. For questions, please call the hotline at (850) 961-2002. Hotline assistance is available in English and Spanish and is open Monday through Friday 8:00am – 8:00pm, and Saturday-Sunday, 9:00am – 5:00pm.



### **What type of debris will this program remove?**

The Debris Removal Program will ask private and commercial property owners to identify their specific need of removal: vegetative debris, construction and demolition debris, white goods, household appliances, electronic waste, household hazardous waste, and sediment or sand debris. Approval for qualifying debris removal is done case-by-case and assessments are currently ongoing. To see a more comprehensive list of debris that will be considered visit the FAQ here: [www.IanDebrisCleanup.com](http://www.IanDebrisCleanup.com)

### **Can residents report debris that doesn't belong to them?**

Currently, the program is only accepting applications from either (1) owners of the commercial or residential property in need of debris removal assistance, including title property, or (2) the owners of lost title property, including vessels and vehicles.

### **How do Homeowners Associations (HOA) participate?**

HOA presidents or property managers can apply for debris cleanup on the community's roadways and common areas by visiting [www.IanDebrisCleanup.com](http://www.IanDebrisCleanup.com).

### **What can residents expect once they have applied?**

Residents should be thorough with their application in identifying eligible debris on their property. Once they have submitted the application, they will be assigned to a case manager to assist them through the process. They will be asked to complete a Right of Entry form (ROE) that grants the right of property access and entry to the State, County, its vetted agencies, contractors and subcontractors for inspecting, removing and clearing eligible storm-generated debris. Property owners will have an opportunity to view the work being completed but will need to maintain a safe viewing distance.

FDEM and its partners are working as quickly as possible, but the timeline will vary given the scope of the damage. FDEM is utilizing satellite imagery and artificial intelligence to expedite damage assessments. Assessments are ongoing and more than 200 assessments completed daily.

### **Can community members opt out?**

Yes. Owners of property with qualifying debris that have already completed the Debris Removal Application have the option to opt out. To opt out, property owners may email [IanDebrisCleanup@em.myflorida.com](mailto:IanDebrisCleanup@em.myflorida.com) and include "OPT-OUT" in the subject line, or call (850) 961-2002.



Floridians need not apply if they do not wish to participate in the Debris Removal Program.

### **Can community members remove the debris themselves?**

A property owner can remove debris from their own property. Disposal should be in accordance with local and state laws.

### **Why do I have to provide my insurance information on the Right of Entry (ROE) form?**

The State of Florida's Hurricane Ian Debris Removal Program will be paid for by a combination of insurance proceeds, FEMA reimbursement, and local and state funds. The ROE Form includes a Duplication of Benefits section that explains that homeowners participating in the program are agreeing to provide their insurance information and cooperate with the State to ensure that all debris removal insurance proceeds are paid toward the total cost of the State's debris removal work.

## **Key Resources**

### **Ian Debris Clean Up Website**

[Hurricane Ian Debris Removal](#)

### **Recent press releases:**

[Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Assistance for Debris Removal and Temporary Housing for Floridians Impacted by Hurricane Ian \(flgov.com\)](#)

[Governor Ron DeSantis Issues Updates on Hurricane Ian Recovery \(flgov.com\)](#)

## **Media Contact**

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## **Public Outreach**

To request yard signs or flyers for community outreach, please call the hotline at (850) 961-2002.

### **Example of yard sign:**



### **Example of Flyer:**

