



BERTIE COUNTY
106 DUNDEE STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 530
WINDSOR, NORTH CAROLINA 27983
(252) 794-5300
FAX: (252) 794-5327
WWW.CO.BERTIE.NC.US



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tornado ravages Cedar Landing Community

Search and rescue efforts continue; extraordinary response by agencies across the state

WINDSOR, N.C. – Disaster struck here just before 2:30 AM as a tornado ravaged through a mobile home park in the Woodard Road/Morning Road in the Cedar Landing community.

Bertie County Emergency Management Director, Mitch Cooper, noted that the assessment of the area is still ongoing, but as of press, two (2) fatalities have been confirmed.

“Assessment of the scene will continue today as well into the coming days. Taskforce Teams from across the state are on the ground supplementing local search efforts. We want to emphasize that this is not a recovery mission, and rescues are still taking place which is why it is increasingly important to steer clear of the area,” he said today.

The search area encompasses Woodard/Morning Road in the Cedar Landing community also known as “The Neck.”

The number of damaged homes is still uncertain at this time.

Emergency crews were on the scene before the storm passed over, and battled strong winds, rain, and the dark of night to continue to respond to calls for assistance. Downed trees also presented a problem in appropriately responding.

“We are extraordinarily grateful for the assistance of community non-profits, churches, and local law enforcement agencies who continue to assist us. We had so many area agencies standing at the ready to spring into action. Our hearts are heavy as we continue to survey damage and get the big picture about what transpired, and just how many were impacted,” Chairman Ron Wesson, Bertie County Board of Commissioners said today.

The National Weather Service will be on location tomorrow to provide analysis on the size of the debris field, as well as gauge the size of the tornado.

During the peak of the disaster response, twelve people were transported to the hospital with storm related injuries, and at least ten additional people were rescued and transported to local shelters.

At this time, the County is not able to receive the donation of goods such as bottled water, clothing, and other items as storage is limited. Any changes will be announced. Monetary donations to Bertie County are also being accepted at PO Box 530, Windsor, NC 27983.

If you are displaced from Tropical Storm Isaias, please call 252-794-6144.

If you are a family member looking to receive a status update about a family member who is missing, please leave the missing persons' name and a contact number with a County staff member at 252-794-6144.

Those wishing to inquire about monetary donations, or to submit a damage assessment request, please call 252-794-6144.

All requests will be filtered and relayed to the appropriate County staff.

Those citizens who live in the storm impacted area are being asked to stay put due to road blocks unless they are evacuating to a shelter.

“We are working with victims of Bertie County on shelter options, as well as seeking temporary housing solutions,” Mr. Cooper added.

Media inquiries should be relayed by email only to Sarah Tinkham, Public Information Officer, at sarah.tinkham@bertie.nc.gov. Please continue to follow our Bertie County Government Facebook page for more information.

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