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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Help sought with tornado relief efforts as recovery phase begins

26 homes perish, 90 damaged during Tropical Storm Isaias

WINDSOR, N.C. – Recovery efforts are officially underway here today. Following Governor Roy Cooper’s visit here yesterday, families have begun picking up the pieces that Tropical Storm Isaias left behind.

Damage assessment numbers reveal that 26 homes have perished, and 8 homes are still standing but deemed unsafe for occupancy. As of this morning, approximately 200 other homes have sustained damage, but are not considered unsafe for occupancy. The majority of the homes impacted are located in the Cedar Landing Community also known as “The Neck.”

An EF-3 tornado was confirmed by the National Weather Service yesterday. The twister featured 140-145 mile an hour winds, and was reportedly 600 yards wide and 10 miles long.

“We need to know who was displaced, where they are currently taking shelter, and what their immediate needs are so that we can arrange with the State and community organizations to make sure our citizens most impacted have what they need during this recovery phase,” Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper said today.

Those who have been displaced are being urgently asked to call the Storm Recovery Hotline at 794-6144. If the phone lines are busy, citizens are asked to keep trying until their information is personally received by a live staff member.

A Morning Road Tornado Relief Fund has been set up for victims of the tornado, as well as Tropical Storm Isaias, at the Self-Help Credit Union branch here, 302 W. Granville Street, Windsor, NC 27983. All donations will provide storm victim’s with food, temporary housing, and personal assistance, and will be administered by Bertie County.

Donations can be made to the Relief Fund via PayPal by going to paypal.me/BertieStrong. A donation button is also available on the County’s website.

Donations to the Relief Fund may also be dispersed by mail to the branch directly, or to Bertie County, ATTN: Morning Road Tornado Relief Fund, PO Box 530, Windsor, NC 27983.

“Donations of goods are being accepted at our County Donation Center, and citizens are always able to volunteer with organizations already on the ground assisting with clean up,” Chairman Ronald Wesson, Bertie County Board of Commissioners said this afternoon.

Organizations already on the ground, and their phone numbers, include The Samaritan’s Purse (252-217-9724), Team Rubicon (252-670-9384), The American Red Cross (252-508-5667), Baptist Men (252-536-9701), and the United Methodist Men (336-207-8358) as of press today.

In addition, the Baptist on a Mission will be feeding storm victims hot meals, drive thru style, beginning Saturday, August 8th through Friday, August 14th at the County’s point of distribution site in the Cedar Landing Community at Cedar Landing Baptist Church located at 426 Cedar Landing Road, Windsor, NC 27983. Lunches will be served from 12:00-1:00PM and dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30pm.

Bertie County’s Donation Center for goods also opened today at the Bertie Early College High School located at 819 Governors Road in Windsor. Donations will be accepted Monday-Friday, 10:00AM-3:00PM until further notice. A list of needed donations is available on the Bertie County Government Facebook page.

To request a damage assessment, citizens are asked to utilize the Storm Recovery Hotline at 794-6144.

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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