



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Coweta County Tornado Assistance Program Phase 1A Now Accepting Applications**

Newnan, GA (May 12, 2023) – The Coweta County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), in partnership with the Board of Commissioners and Newnan City Council, is excited to announce the next phase of the Tornado Assistance Program. Phase 1A is aimed to help both unincorporated Coweta County and City of Newnan property owners impacted by the March 2021 tornado. The program will focus on removing standing damaged trees within 125-feet of residences. Up to \$10,000 may be allocated per parcel based on the site assessment.

Property owners who live in both unincorporated Coweta County and the City of Newnan are encouraged to fill out an application [online here](#) or in-person at either the Coweta County Administration Building (22 East Broad Street) or Newnan City Hall (25 LaGrange Street). The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Friday, June 16.

Following the deadline, County and City staff will review the applications, perform onsite assessments and notify applicants if they are eligible. During this time, staff will pre-qualify contractors through a bid and/or qualification process. Contractors are encouraged to apply via the County website once posted. Work to remove trees is expected to be completed during the summer of 2023.

The program is being funded by the \$1 million donation granted by the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency in December 2021 to help offset costs incurred by the tornado.

For questions related to the program, please email [tornado2021@coweta.ga.us](mailto:tornado2021@coweta.ga.us) or call 770-254-2601. For additional information, please check out a Q&A on the next page.

## **Program Questions & Answers**

### **Q: Who should apply to the program?**

**A:** Property owners (*tenants/renters are not eligible to apply*) in the unincorporated area of Coweta County or the City of Newnan impacted by the March 2021 tornado. To verify if the property was in the impacted area, please visit <https://bit.ly/cctornadomap> and enter the address in the search field.

### **Q: Are participants of Phase 1 of the program eligible to apply for Phase 1A?**

**A:** If a property owner participated in Phase 1 of the County program, they may only participate in Phase 1A if they own other property. The same properties are not eligible for Phase 1A.

### **Q: Can I select which trees are removed?**

**A:** If you would like to be a part of the assessment process with contractors, you are welcome to be present. However, if a tree is marked and you change the marking to another tree, you will be disqualified from the program. If the tree you changed the marking to is removed, you will be financially responsible to cover the cost.

### **Q: How many trees can be removed?**

**A:** Up to \$10,000 may be allocated per parcel based on the site assessment. This can be anywhere between 1-3 trees depending on various factors. The goal is to remove standing damaged trees within 125-feet of the residences to remove any safety hazards.

### **Q: What is the process for the program?**

**A:** After applications are reviewed and approved, an onsite assessment of the property will take place with County/City staff to identify eligible trees. Once all addresses are assessed, properties will be divided up into zones and the County/City staff will guide tree contractors to each zone and property to complete a bid. After the bids are accepted and reviewed, zones will be awarded to the tree contractors based on several factors. The goal is to have all trees removed by end of summer 2023.

### **Q: If a tree is in my neighbor's yard but hangs onto my property, who is responsible?**

**A:** Whoever owns the property where the ground of the tree is based is responsible for the tree.

### **Q: Will there be a Phase 2 to remove stumps and debris?**

**A:** Following the completion of Phase 1A, the Board of Commissioners will consider implementing Phase 2 depending on available funds.

### **Q: How will I stay informed about the program?**

**A:** Applicants will receive updates and notifications about the program using the contact information provided.

### **Q: If I have questions regarding the program, who should I contact?**

**A:** For additional questions, please call 770-254-2601 and they will gather your information and pass along to the local Emergency Management Agency staff to reach back out to you.