

# Tennessee Department of Transportation Awarded \$9.6 Million for Debris Removal

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The State of Tennessee and FEMA have awarded **\$9.6 million** to the Tennessee Department of Transportation for clearing **457,381 cubic yards** of debris left when Tropical Storm Helene swept across Eastern Tennessee in late September.

Funding for debris removal is authorized under FEMA's Public Assistance program. Debris collection began Oct. 1 across roads and public property in **Carter, Cocke, Greene, Johnson, Unicoi and Washington** counties. It is expected to be completed by Feb. 28.

FEMA's initial estimated share for this project is **\$7,231,839**; the estimated nonfederal share is **\$2,410,613**.

The expedited operation includes **90,749 cubic yards** of vegetative debris; **164,357 cubic yards** of construction and demolition debris; and **202,274 cubic yards** of sand, soil and mud. These totals were estimated and will be reconciled for actual costs once FEMA and the state receive permit documentation.

This **\$9.6 million** obligation represents about half of the total costs anticipated by completion of the debris removal operation.

Because FEMA Public Assistance is a cost-sharing program, FEMA reimburses state applicants 75% of eligible costs for debris removal. The federal share is paid directly to the state to disburse to agencies, local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations that incurred those costs. The remaining 25% represents nonfederal funds.

The Public Assistance program is FEMA's largest grant program, providing funding to help communities responding to and recovering from major presidentially declared disasters or emergencies. Tropical Storm Helene swept across Tennessee **Sept. 26-30**, and the president approved a major disaster declaration on **Oct. 2**.

