



Buncombe County Rights of Entry (ROE) for Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR)

What is the Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) program?

The PPDR program is designed to speed recovery by helping property owners impacted by disasters, who do not have debris removal insurance, by removing eligible disaster debris or demolishing unsafe, unrecoverable structures, on their property **at no cost**. Properties located within Buncombe County (unincorporated areas and cities) are eligible for the program if they have qualified debris on them or demolition of an unsafe structure.

What is Right of Entry (ROE)?

A Right of Entry (ROE) is a form, **signed by all property owners**, that is legally required before contractors providing PPDR and/or demolition can access the owner's private property. An ROE may also be needed before for a community project can proceed, like removal of hard-to-reach debris on an adjacent property or in a waterway.

What are the three parts of an ROE?

- **Right of Entry:** grants property access to the county, its agencies, contractors, and subcontractors for **inspecting and removing eligible storm-generated debris or demolishing any eligible unsafe, unrecoverable structures**.
- **Hold Harmless Agreement:** releases the county, state, their agencies, contractors, and subcontractors for damages, either to the property or persons situated thereon, and waives any action which might arise during inspection, debris removal and/or demolition.
- **Non-Duplication of Benefits:** states any money you received from your insurance agency, specifically for debris removal or demolition on your property, must be returned to the government if you received it and did not spend it on debris removal/demolition services.

Do I have to sign the ROE to have debris removed or demolition services? Can I change my mind later?

- A right-of-entry is a **voluntary document**. Your land is private, and it is **your decision** to grant access. You may withdraw from the program at any time prior to the start of debris removal or demolition activities on your property. **However, if you choose not to proceed after formal reviews, studies, or work begins, you may be liable for work completed to date.**

How do I apply?

1. Complete an application online (website will open soon).
2. Visit one of our PPDR application centers across the county:
 - Asheville Mall, 3 South Tunnel Road (the DRC) - daily, 8A-7P
 - Barnardsville Fire Department, Station 15, 100 Dillingham Rd., Tues.-Sat., 8A-5P
 - Swannanoa Fire Rescue, 510 Bee Tree Road, Tues.-Sat., 8A-5P
 - Fairview Library, 1 Taylor Road, Tues.-Sat., 8A-5P
3. Schedule an in-person meeting at your property by calling 828-250-6100 and pressing 2.

What documents do I need to have ready to complete my application?

- A copy of your insurance policy and proof/statement of loss from the company (if insured)
- A color copy of your driver's license or valid U.S. government-issued ID (e.g. passport)
- Proof of ownership such as a warranty deed, tax assessment, etc.

What is eligible in the PPDR program?

- Removal of hazardous limbs, trees, or other mixed debris caused by Hurricane Helene that is near a commonly used area or maintained areas of a property.
- Removal of debris impacting a waterway.
- The demolition and removal of a structure that is a health hazard, deemed unfit/unsafe, and may not be recoverable, or is in threat of collapse. This may include concrete slabs.

What is NOT eligible under the program?

- Debris on vacant lots, unimproved property, and unused or unmaintained areas.
- Debris on land used primarily for agricultural purposes, such as land for crops or livestock.

Who determines eligibility? Is commercial property eligible for the program?

- The county's inspector will conduct a review. FEMA ultimately determines eligibility.
- Commercial properties are generally allowable. Eligibility will be determined case-by-case.

If I have homeowner's insurance, can I still participate in the PPDR program?

- To avoid a duplication of benefits, your insurance company may be required to provide payment from your policy, designated for your debris removal or demolition, to the county.
- If you have already received a benefits payment from your insurance company for work you are requesting from the county, you may be requested to reimburse that portion.

Can I use my debris removal insurance to remove items ineligible under the program?

- Yes. If you have a specified amount for debris removal in your insurance policy, you may use those proceeds to remove debris that is ineligible under the PPDR program.
- The County will only collect remaining insurance proceeds, if any, after you have paid to remove your ineligible debris.

What is the timeline after I submit my completed ROE?

- The county/contractors will review your ROE to verify all property owners have signed.
- Next, they will schedule a site inspection. Eligible hazards will be documented and submitted for approval. Then a contractor will begin debris removal and/or demolition services.
- If your property has been approved for a demolition, additional site visits may be required to test for asbestos, review surrounding environmental conditions, and disconnect utilities.
- The county and its contractors will keep you informed of the progress on your property via an online portal.

For any further questions, please call 828-250-6100 Mon.-Fri., 9 AM to 5 PM and press 2.