



PRESS RELEASE

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Onslow County Continues Recovery Efforts One Year After Florence

ONLOW COUNTY, NC — September 13, 2019 marks the one year anniversary of one of the worst natural disasters to strike Eastern North Carolina, our coastal communities and Onslow County. Hurricane Florence came in as a Category 1 storm that lingered over Onslow County for three days, bringing in catastrophic rainfall up to 42 inches, damaging more than 11,000 homes and businesses in the county, costing residents more than \$515 million in damages.

Damages, that many resilient Onslow County residents are still working to fix a year after the storm, facing challenges with insurance and finding contractors to do the job. FEMA is still working to reimburse county residents a year after Florence, a storm that left behind more than 800,000 cubic feet of debris.

“xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx,” says David Cotton, the Onslow County Manager.

Onslow County Government staff spent ten nights and days in the Emergency Operations Center last September after ordering mandatory evacuations for the first time in county history. They helped bus more than 900 residents outside the county to safety. 9-1-1 operators took more than 260 calls, and the Onslow County Swift Water Rescue Team plucked more than 400 residents out of floodwaters. For three days, all roads leading into Onslow County were impassible.

“xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx,” says Norman Bryson, Onslow County Emergency Services Director.

All lessons learned, as Onslow County Government continuously trains staff to be ready to serve its community if disaster strikes. The Onslow County Emergency Operations Center activated during Hurricane Dorian on September 5, 2019. A storm that dodged most of Onslow County, but still left just under \$6 million in damage to almost 140 properties in the county. North Topsail Beach took the brunt of the hurricane impacts to almost 80 properties, resulting in more than \$4 million in damage. Jacksonville had damage to almost 20 homes and businesses, estimated to cost \$168,000.

Click [here](#) to use Florence damage video, with courtesy to Onslow County Government.

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