



## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Onslow County Wins \$10,000 Grant from Duke Energy**

**ONslow COUNTY, NC** — Onslow County Emergency Services is excited to receive a \$10,000 Storm Resiliency Grant from the Duke Energy Foundation.

Onslow County will use the money to improve cellular and internet communication during disaster and rescue search situations, especially in rural areas. They will buy an “Enhanced Mobile Cellular Network Multi-Carrier” system, which will connect all Onslow County Emergency staff wireless devices to two of the major cellular providers. This device will enhance first-responders abilities to have the best possible cellular signal and data capabilities when needed.

“In the past, Onslow Emergency Services staff borrowed this technology from Pender County to help in the search for Mariah Woods. Having our own equipment will help support field staff in managing and communicating during searches, wildfires, hazardous material events and other emergencies,” says Norman Bryson, Onslow County Emergency Services Director.

Onslow County is one of sixty-five North Carolina agencies picked to receive a total of \$1.1 million to enhance storm readiness response capabilities for future weather events with advance preparation and planning.

“Duke Energy stands with our communities as they recover from the devastation of recent storms, and we want to help them become more resilient to the impacts of future storms,” says Stephen De May, Duke Energy President in North Carolina.

Duke Energy picked winners based on which communities were most impacted by severe weather in recent years, concentrating on communities that serve diverse populations. This grant supports:

- Specialized training for first responders for severe weather scenarios
- Organized planning initiatives for communities to prepare for extreme weather
- Equipment necessary for severe weather rescues to preserve human life
- Community storm4 preparedness training, materials, kits or shelters
- Emergency communication tools for severe weather scenarios
- Improved outcomes for low-income communities experiencing extreme weather

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