

# PRESS RELEASE

## UNICOI COUNTY ADDED TO FEDERAL TORNADO & STORM DISASTER DECLARATION

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee announced today that Unicoi county will be receiving federal assistance to aid their recovery from the severe storms and tornadoes of April 12-13 storms.

“We are working closely with the federal government and community leaders to ensure Tennessee’s tornado-impacted counties get the help needed to effectively rebuild and recover,” Gov. Lee said.

The federal assistance will allow eligible local government entities and certain private nonprofit organizations in the declared counties to apply for reimbursement of specific disaster-related costs related to debris removal and emergency protective measures, and to rebuild roads, bridges, and other infrastructure

Tennessee now has 9 counties eligible for the federal Public Assistance program, made available in the Major Disaster Declaration for Tennessee on April 24, 2020.

The counties included in the declaration are: Bradley, Campbell, Hamilton, Marion, Monroe, Polk, Scott, Unicoi, and Washington.

Additional information on the federal Public Assistance program is available at [tn.gov/tema/recover/public-assistance.html](https://tn.gov/tema/recover/public-assistance.html) or [fema.gov/disaster/4541](https://fema.gov/disaster/4541).

About the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency: TEMA’s mission is to coordinate preparedness, response and recovery from man-made, natural and technological hazards in a professional and efficient manner in concert with our stakeholders. Follow TEMA

I am glad Unicoi County will now have access to much needed federal aid to help recover from damage of the recent tornadoes,” said Senator Rusty Crowe (R-Johnson City), Chairman of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. “I appreciate the work of Governor Lee and other local officials to secure this disaster aid. I will continue to work with community, state and federal leaders to ensure Unicoi County receives the resources it needs to recover.”

Unicoi County is very happy to be included in the Declaration. The Declaration will allow the County to be reimbursed for major road repairs and to get equipment needed to complete those repairs. Road Superintendent, Terry Haynes, and EMA Director, Ed Herndon, were instrumental in the County qualifying for the Declaration. While we appreciate the assistance, it still does not include assistance for individual property owners. We will continue to look for other sources of help for the property owners.



Garland Evely  
Unicoi County Mayor