FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners

November 24, 2026

Okaloosa County Nearing End of First Pass of Debris Removal

Reminder to Residents: Keep
Storm Debris and Routine Yard and Bulk Waste Separate

***Debris Removal Questions**? 1-833-495-3664* **(closed on Thanksgiving)**

Okaloosa County, Florida – Okaloosa County is nearing the end of the first pass of debris removal following Hurricane Isaias. The County intends to begin a second pass after November 30, 2026. The timing for the second pass is subject to final conditions and progress.

As storm debris collection continues and the holiday season approaches, the County reminds residents serviced in unincorporated areas that storm-generated debris and routine yard and bulk waste must be kept separate and disposed of through their respective collection services. Residents living within city/town limits should check with their municipality for storm-related debris removal details.

Storm-debris hauling contractors are responsible for collecting eligible vegetative and construction/demolition debris generated by the storm. Routine yard waste and bulk waste as well as other items not generated by the storm, must continue to be handled through regular waste collection services.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is paying for storm-related debris removal only. If FEMA representatives spot fresh, non-storm cuttings mixed into a pile, they can disqualify that entire load from reimbursement, forcing Okaloosa County taxpayers to cover the full disposal bill instead.

"We appreciate everyone's patience as storm-debris removal continues within the County," said Okaloosa County Board Chairman Trey Goodwin. "The damage from Hurricane Isaias was widespread, affecting most residents and it will take time to remove it all. Our debris removal contractor has increased haulers throughout this process and removed nearly 260,000 cubic yards of debris so far."

Please review these debris removal guidelines:

- **Separate vegetative and other debris - Place debris on curb (Do not block roadways) -** - Place your storm debris on the curb. Haulers cannot enter your private property to collect debris.
- **Gated Communities:** The HOA president must fill out and submit the Debris Removal - ROE Agreement for Gated Communities at https://myokaloosa.com/sites/default/files/ROE%20Agreement%20for%20Private%20Communities%20%28FROC-GUI-013%29%20v2.pdf
- **Commercial Properties** - Commercial properties will not be serviced for debris removal
- **Storm-related debris only** - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is paying for storm-related debris removal only. If FEMA representatives spot fresh, non-storm cuttings mixed into a pile, they can

disqualify that entire load from reimbursement, forcing Okaloosa County taxpayers to cover the full disposal bill instead

- **Non-storm-related debris** – Your regular vegetative debris will be picked up by Waste Management per your usual schedule and specs. Unless otherwise authorized by the county, routine waste should be placed on the right-of-way in front of the residence. For questions about routine waste collection, call Waste Management at 850-301-2822.

Place yard waste in paper leaf and lawn bags or cans if possible.

Yard waste that cannot be containerized should be placed in bundles, piles, or stacks. Individual pieces should not exceed four inches in diameter or six feet in length and weigh less than 50 pounds.

- **Household Hazardous Waste -** Household hazardous waste, including paint, pesticides, used oil, gasoline, antifreeze, pool chemicals, fluorescent lamps, televisions and computers, must be taken to a designated Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) location: 80 Ready Avenue NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 (south county) or 1759 S. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview, FL 32536 (north county, enter via Goodwin Ave.) Call 850-301-2013 for hours and more information.

- **Help Keep Recovery Moving -** Okaloosa County appreciates residents' continued cooperation throughout the storm recovery process. Properly separating storm-generated debris from routine yard and bulk waste helps collection crews work more efficiently and reduces confusion about which materials are eligible for storm-debris pickup.

Remember: *Storm-debris collection does not replace regular waste collection services. Materials not generated by the storm must follow normal collection procedures.*

# # #

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Nick Tomecek, Public Information Officer
850.651.7321 | ntomcek@myokaloosa.com