



# Columbus, Georgia

## Georgia's First Consolidated Government

P. O. Box 1340, Columbus, Georgia 31902-1340

### **PRESS RELEASE**

### **CITIZENS OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA IMPACTED FROM TORNADO ON SUNDAY MARCH 3, 2019**

Our City and others in the region were hit by a tornado on Sunday, March 3, 2019 that left trees and power lines down throughout Columbus. Many streets were left impassable and many citizens went without power for hours. Five forestry crews, two right of way crews, four sanitation graballs and one street crew worked through the night clearing streets to make sure citizens and businesses would experience little or no interruption today. While the tornado caused widespread damage, the northern section of the city received more severe damage. Following is a summary of the calls and Impact on Columbus:

Public Works received 32 calls through E911 during or after the tornado. These calls represent area of devastation rather than single trees down. Public Works staff has cleared all reported areas except the Biggers Road area. Utility companies are currently working the Biggers Road area and have not released the area to allow city crews in to do their work. We anticipate citywide cleanup from the tornado will take a minimum of four to six weeks.

The City is issuing a Moratorium on its Tree for Fee Services. Citizens with down trees can place trees and debris on the curb without charge through Thursday April 4, 2019. All trees and debris must be cut into lengths of four (4) feet or less and placed on curbside for collection away from power lines or other fixed structures. Columbus residents living on private roads and those who wish to dispose of their own trees and yard debris can transport it to Granite Bluff Landfill on River Road, but will need to contact 311 to receive a certificate of approval to have the tree for fee waived at the landfill.

We ask that Columbus citizens be patient as we work to clean up the tornado damage/debris throughout the city. This will cause some interruption in the normal debris pickup schedule. Please try to avoid streets or areas of the city where the damage occurred, unless necessary. Please be safe in your efforts to clean up the tornado debris. Our prayers, thoughts and condolences go out to families throughout the region where fatalities, injuries and devastation occurred.

For Information Contact:

Mayor Skip Henderson or City Manager Isaiah Hugley  
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