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# DEKALB COUNTY

**W. Burrell Ellis, Jr.**  
Chief Executive Officer



## NEWS RELEASE

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SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CEO GETS AERIAL VIEW OF WIDESPREAD DAMAGE IN DEKALB**

*Holds Press Conference with Public Safety Director to Update Public*

**DECATUR** – Today, CEO Burrell Ellis flew over various areas in DeKalb County to assess the damage due to heavy rain and flooding. Later, he held a press conference with Public Safety Director William “Wiz” Miller and members of DEMA (DeKalb Emergency Management Agency) and a representative from the American Red Cross to provide an update on damages to homes and businesses. Communities worst hit by the storm include Briarcliff, Drake Avenue/Stone Mill Manor and Central Drive/Hairston Drive areas.

“As we move through the next few days, weeks and months, please know that your DeKalb County Government is working diligently and will work closely alongside state officials to provide necessary relief to our citizens and impacted communities,” said CEO Ellis during the press conference.

Earlier this week, Gov. Sonny Perdue issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency in DeKalb County and 16 other counties affected by heavy rain and severe weather that passed through Georgia. CEO Ellis explained, “This will ensure that state and federal resources will be available to assist our county in the wake of this historic rainfall. We are also encouraged by our Georgia leaders in Washington who have asked the President to assist the state during this natural disaster.”

Several road closures throughout the county will continue due to flooding. Among them are Shadow Rock Drive at Mystery Valley Drive which is closed due to a portion of the road being washed away, and Union Grove Road at Harmony Lakes which is closed due to the bridge being out. CEO Ellis encourages everyone to exercise caution as they travel on the roads, to be patient, and to give themselves plenty of time to navigate the county as repairs to roads and bridges are completed in the coming weeks.

For citizens in need of assistance, Clairmont Presbyterian Church at 1994 Clairmont Road in Atlanta is open to receive displaced residents. For more information, call 678-406-7850 or 678-406-7853.

#### **Emergency Contact Information**

- 911 for all emergencies
- American Red Cross at 866-724-3577
- Salvation Army at 211
- Flooding and weather question 770-270-0413

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