
DEKALB COUNTY

W. Burrell Ellis, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS CONTACTS:

Shelia Edwards
Chief Communications Officer
Phone: 404-371-6305
Cell: 404-964-0155
Angela Walton
Communications Manager
Phone: 404-371-3688
Cell: 404-964-0357

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CEO BURRELL ELLIS, COMMISSIONER CONNIE STOKES AND
PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR WILLIAM “WIZ” MILLER TOUR
RAIN AND FLOOD DAMAGED AREAS IN DEKALB TODAY**

CEO TO CONTINUE ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES ON THURSDAY

DECATUR - DeKalb CEO Burrell Ellis, Super District Commissioner Connie Stokes, Public Safety Director William “Wiz” Miller, and representatives from Congressman Hank Johnson’s office toured the Harmony Hills and Stone Mill Manor subdivisions, and other communities in South DeKalb devastated by the torrential rains and wide spread flooding that hit the county last week. CEO Ellis and Public Safety Director William Miller will continue assessing the damages to other sections of the county tomorrow beginning at 10:00 a.m.

“The only way to make a full assessment of the destruction in the areas hardest hit by the floods is to get out there, on the ground. We will not stop until we have an accurate account of the damage in every area of the county,” CEO Ellis said. The four-hour flood damage tour began at Lift Station 82 on Union Grove Road at the DeKalb/Rockdale County border and ended on Redan Road at North Redan Circle, where the bridge is closed due to damage from the floods. Additional stops included New Beginning Church on Pleasant Hill Road, which was almost completely underwater during the floods, Redan Road, and Shadow Rock Drive at Valley Green Road.

“DeKalb CEO Burrell Ellis, Public Safety Director William “Wiz” Miller and the entire emergency response team in DeKalb County have done an outstanding job of assisting with the emergency response and now the recovery phase of this disaster. Working with my colleagues in the Congress and the White House, we were able to urge the President to declare a speedy disaster declaration.” said Congressman Hank Johnson. “Since the first hours of the flooding, I have directed my staff in the D.C. and District offices to make the response to this disaster priority number one. Several of my staff members joined the CEO on his tour today of flooded areas and we will continue to work closely with CEO Ellis to ensure that federal resources continue to flow to DeKalb County.”

While on the assessment tour, CEO Ellis was notified by FEMA that the Disaster Recover Center (DRC) for DeKalb County had been opened at Browns Mill Recreation Center, 5101 Browns Mill Road, in Lithonia. The center, operated by the State of Georgia and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., until further notice.

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Citizens are urged to first register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 800-462-7585** before visiting the centers. Once registered, staff at the recovery center can check an individual’s case, answer questions about their claim, or review information needed to process their claim. Recovery specialists also can supply contacts for other programs that may be able to assist citizens and businesses. Assistance will be available in all languages. The toll-free numbers are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice.

CEO Ellis announced yesterday that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) added DeKalb County to its Federal Disaster Declaration for public assistance, which follows the Declaration last week for individual assistance. Citizens and businesses are eligible to receive assistance for their damages and DeKalb County is eligible to receive funds to repair damages to dams, bridges and roads that resulted from the severe storm. The county is also eligible to join a Hazard Mitigation Grant program, which provides assistance to state and local governments and certain private non-profit organizations for actions taken to prevent or reduce risk to life and property from natural disasters.



CEO Burrell Ellis, Commissioner Connie Stokes, Public Safety Director Wiz Miller and representatives from Congressman Hank Johnson’s office discuss damages with an engineer at the Johnson Creek Lift Station

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