

Urgent message to the Elks and Elk Lodges of North Carolina:

The 8 "Super Cells" that came upon North Carolina left several paths of destruction. I am calling upon you to identify where & how you think our Order can be of assistance. Please identify those Elks and their families, your neighboring families or organizations that may need help or assistance. I also know that the Elks of North Carolina not in the immediate area may want to help with donations and specific items.

Therefore I am appointing a NC Elks 4-16 Tornado Relief Fund Committee and I have asked Steve Gunter to serve as the Chairman of this Committee and ask the Exalted Rulers of the NC Lodges to serve on this Committee.

As of April 20, 2011, 18 NC Counties have been declared "as Federal or State Disaster Relief area's": Bertie, Bladen, Cumberland, Halifax, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Onslow, Wake, Wilson, Craven, Currituck, Greene, Hertford, Hoke, Pitt, Robeson, and Sampson. I am sure that here are additional affected areas that may need assistance and that they will also be included in our effort.

Path Forward:

1- I am asking that all Lodges identify those who may need help and how we may or can help. Specifically the Lodges of the East and East Central District as most of the Counties that have been identified are within this proximity. But, just because a County was not identified does not mean we exclude where & when we can help.

2- I am also asking that you create projects whereby you can use donated funds and by adding your "Elk-power" magnify the effectiveness of the effort. Please let us know how the Elk Lodges of proximity plan to respond.

3-Please send any donation of money to NC Elks Association, 1800 Columbine Road, Sanford NC 27330. On Check identify as 4-16 Tornado Relief Fund.

Many of you have already begun an effort and many of you have called to learn how you can help. The initial recovery and clean up is close to finish but the hardship is really only beginning. By luck, chance and or by the Grace of God most of us were not harmed but the American way of life runs strongly through our Elks Order and we are compelled to act as "The kindest feeling may vanish, the best resolve may be forgotten; but the influence of a good deed, honestly and promptly performed, will continue forever".

Fraternally,
Billy Hood, President
NC State Elks Association

CC: Steve Gunter, Chairman
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