



**Channing Barker**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Benton County Judge Declares Emergency Disaster Declaration

A disaster declaration for the severe weather event on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 allows Benton County and cities within to obtain assistance from the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management.

Due to the severity and broad damage of Monday's storm event, Benton County Judge Barry Moehring signed an Emergency Disaster Declaration on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Damage was primarily caused by high speed winds that toppled trees, power lines and also damaged structures.

The National Weather Service has confirmed that the high speeds winds were attributed to at least one tornado and straight-line winds.

The declaration allows Benton County and affected cities to request assistance from the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) for un-insured public sector damages attributed to the storm and repair structures to pre-disaster conditions.

"Given the property damage I've seen from touring the impacted areas, I believe a declaration is appropriate," said Benton County Judge Moehring. "If the monetary damages of the storm are significant enough, then we'll be able to receive additional assistance for repairs."

Rogers Mayor Greg Hines supported the declaration.

"The City of Rogers sustained substantial damage to structures and utilities and will have a major issue cleaning up and disposing of debris," said Mayor Hines

"I want to particularly call-out the incredible work of fire and law enforcement agencies throughout Benton County who worked diligently to save and protect our citizens, and we mourn the one death attributed to the event," Moehring said.

During the event, nearly 80 roads were closed in unincorporated Benton County and dozens more in various cities. Crews spent the night working to get roads safe and

passable. All but approximately a dozen roads have been re-opened since the storm event.

For questions about this, please contact Channing Barker, Benton County Communications Director at (479) 721-3364.

BENTON COUNTY

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EMERGENCY DISASTER PROCLAMATION

2019 OCT 21 PM 3:09

BETSY HARRELL  
CO & PROBATE CLERK  
BENTON COUNTY, AR

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2019 a significant severe weather event occurred in Benton County;

WHEREAS, one fatality has occurred and with potential damages to public and private properties;  
and

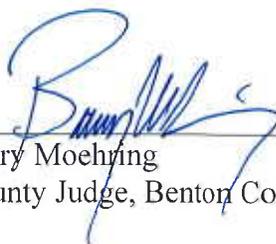
WHEREAS, immediate attention is required to protect public health, reduce further damage,  
ensure public safety, and render emergency relief; and

WHEREAS, I, Barry Moehring, County Judge of Benton County, do find that the aforementioned  
conditions constitute a threat to the safety and welfare of the County, and create an emergency  
disaster situation within the meaning of Act 511 of 1973, as amended (ACA 12-75-103);

NOW THEREFORE, under the power vested in me under Section 13, of the Arkansas  
Emergency Services Act 511 of 1973, as amended, and other enabling provisions, I, Barry  
Moehring County Judge, do hereby declare Benton County to be a disaster area, entitled to aid  
relief, and assistance and do hereby direct the implementation of the County Emergency  
Operations Plan.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I set my hand and seal to this instrument this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October,  
2019, at 3:00 PM.

This proclamation shall expire after seven (7) days, unless otherwise extended by me.

  
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Barry Moehring  
County Judge, Benton County, AR

  
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County Clerk *Betsy Harrell*