

## **News Release**

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## Corps nearing completion of debris removal in Jefferson County

BEAUMONT, TEXAS – The US Army Corps of Engineers announced today that debris removal is nearing completion in Jefferson County with 87% of the debris removed and 60% of the stumps removed from the roadside.

"We (the Corps) are confident that debris in Beaumont and Jefferson County will be gathered and deposited at the reduction sites by March 1," said Col. Steve Haustein, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Recovery Field Office. "Extensive progress in debris collection and disposition is being made at this time and projections are that the mission, including the final disposition of debris, will be completed within 6 to 8 weeks thereafter."

Approximately, 1,107,489 million cubic yards of debris and 3,023 stumps have been picked up and delivered to reduction sites around the county by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers subcontractors.

"This has been a large undertaking and we would not be where it's at without the support and cooperation of the city and county officials," said Col. Haustein.

Cities	<b>Estimated Corps Cleared</b>	<b>Estimated City Cleared</b>
Beaumont	60%	44%
China	100%	95%
Nome	100%	100%
Bevil Oaks	85%	85%
Nederland	100%	100% except stumps
Port Neches	100%	82%
Groves	100%	100%
Port Arthur	75%	26%

"We would like to stress the importance of the synchronization between the contractor, the Corps, and city and county officials as we clear streets (or – as we declare streets "clear.")," said Capt. Michael Raymo, deputy commander of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Recovery Field Office. "This coordinated effort will ensure all eligible debris is picked up in the most efficient manner."

Concerning the debris that is still awaiting pick up, the Corps of Engineers would like to remind everyone that it's important to separate the debris and remove household items and other large items, along with separating the storm-related debris from their every day trash. In addition, "debris operations are inherently dangerous," said Col. Haustein. "I ask local citizens to be extremely cautious and remain patient whenever they encounter debris trucks in neighborhoods and roads."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Jefferson County Commissioners Court announced last December that Monday, January 2nd, was the last day to place that debris curbside. On that day, the Corps began their final pass through neighborhoods in Jefferson County.