Continued Cleanup of Tornado Debris in our Community

Nuisance Abatement

The cleanup of our community is underway! Many residents affected have cleared their property by hiring contractors, utilizing volunteers, and doing it themselves. Also, citizens in the affected tornado disaster area have signed over 1,400 Right-of-Entry (ROE) forms allowing government-funded contractors access to clear loose tornado debris from private property.

The President authorized the Expedited Debris Removal (EDR) initiative on May 31, 2011, to help support a faster community recovery. Private property cleanup will only be funded by the federal government through August 7, 2011. Therefore, the loose debris removal within the EDR area must progress quickly to comply with this deadline, but also to ensure the health and safety of our residents. Any loose debris removal needs on private property past this date will be the responsibility of our community and would be an expensive task to bear.

Because of this short time frame, on Thursday, June 23, 2011, the City Council met and advanced the next step in the continued cleanup effort of our community. City Council approved legislation outlining the process for declaring piles of rubble a nuisance and the procedure for how the nuisances will be abated. While the abatement of nuisances throughout the entire affected area will allow the cleanup to occur by the August 7th deadline for the EDR initiative, it also protects our citizens from safety and health hazards and encourages the continued recovery of our community. This is another way to allow our citizens to rebuild in a safe and desirable manner as quickly as possible.

Nuisance Abatement

Effective June 22, 2011, the Director of Public Health has issued a declaration of public health nuisance as a consequence of the EF-5 tornado on May 22, 2011. As a result of the devastating destruction from the tornado, the City has determined that rubble piles represent an immediate threat to the public's health and safety and will be declared a nuisance. Within the entire affected area, the City of Joplin has identified properties that represent a nuisance requiring private property cleanup and for which there is no signed, authorized ROE form granting permission for cleanup of that property.

The nuisance process will work as follows:

- Notice of each identified property will be published in the local newspaper early next week giving seven days notice of a public hearing to be held by the City Council.
- The City Council will hold a public hearing sometime during the first week in July. Any property owner of an identified nuisance will have the opportunity to participate in the public hearing by attending the council meeting and speaking during the public hearing.
- If the City Council determines a nuisance exists, the Council will order the nuisance abated.

- Following this meeting, there will be an additional publication of the nuisance declarations in the local newspaper allowing another seven day notice period after the public hearing.
- During the second week of July, the nuisance will be turned over to FEMA for the cleanup of the property by the government-funded contractors.

If a private property is cleared of loose debris through the nuisance abatement process, the property owner will be responsible for the cleanup cost and a lien against the property through a special tax assessment will be issued. The assessment will be based on the lot size as established in the following 3-tier cost structure:

Lot Size	**Tax Assessment**
Up to 10,000 square feet	$1,500.00
10,001 square feet to ½-acre	$2,500.00
½-acre and greater	$4,000.00

Other Cleanup Options to Avoid Nuisance Abatement

You have the following options for loose debris cleanup from your property until the end of the fourteen day notice period:

- You may still sign an ROE form. If an authorized ROE form is completed and returned to the City of Joplin, 602 South Main, 4th Floor, prior to the end of the nuisance notification period, the guidelines established for the ROE process will still apply.
- You may do-it-yourself by carrying the debris to the curb for pickup by government-funded contractors or by hauling it to a proper disposal site.
- You may contact your insurance company and hire a contractor to remove the debris.
- You may sign up for help from citizen volunteers. To do this, call the Volunteer Reception Center at 417-625-3558.

If your property is cleared of loose debris utilizing any of these options or other resources after it is identified as a nuisance by the city and prior to the abatement, your property will no longer be considered a nuisance. **You must contact the Public Works Department at 417-624-0820 ext. 539 to notify the City.**

Demolition

The nuisance abatement of loose debris from private property does not address the demolition of structures. We recognize many residents have questions regarding the demolition of residential structures that will allow you to rebuild in the community. The City has requested demolition assistance from FEMA and is awaiting an answer as certain details concerning the demolition process are being determined.

However, the loose debris must be removed prior to the demolition of residential structures, so this nuisance abatement process will continue regardless of your demolition needs. The City will update you as soon as possible as further information develops about demolition.