

Monday, January 28, 2008

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## Crews busy with cleanup



**JAMES GIBBARD/TULSA WORLD**

Trucks empty tree branches and debris from the ice storm at a temporary disposal site in Johnson Park, 6002 Riverside Drive, on Monday.



By **P.J. LASSEK** World Staff Writer  
1/15/2008

**To date, rubbish totaling 255,202 cubic yards has been taken to disposal sites.**

In the first week of work, the city's contractor removed enough ice storm debris from Tulsa yards to equal a 12-story building.

Storm Reconstruction Services -- contracted by the city to collect the storm debris -- has hauled 255,202 cubic yards to disposal sites during its first week of operation. That figure is roughly equal to a 12-story pile of debris

almost the size of a football field.

The volume for the second week should be even higher because the full fleet of trucks was not operating during the first four days of the cleanup, said Bob Bledsoe, Public Works Department spokesman.

Ninety-six trucks -- 80 hauling trucks and 16 tree-trimming trucks -- were operating Monday.

The removal work is being monitored by 92 inspectors from Solid Resources Inc., a firm hired to document debris removal efforts for the city of Tulsa and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Tulsa residents or local yard-care contractors can still haul debris to the city's permanent greenwaste site at 10401 E. 56th St. North. The debris disposal site on 71st Street near South Elwood is now closed.

A map of work zones and debris-removal progress is being updated daily and can be viewed online at <http://www.cityoftulsa.org/>. Meanwhile, a Tulsa group announced it is seeking volunteers to help provide continued storm related repairs and to help Tulsans unable to do the work.

Rebuilding Together Tulsa has received more than 500 calls requesting services related to the December ice storm and expects repairs to take place over the next several months, said Jennifer Barcus-Shafer, executive director. She said that initially the focus will be on the elderly and disabled.

Mayor Kathy Taylor asked the group to bring something "to the table," following the ice storm, she said.

"We thought there was a dire need to help with the debris," Barcus-Shafer said.

She said two of the original volunteer groups helping with debris removal have stopped.



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said. "We need people power."

Rebuilding Together Tulsa is using a licensed arborist to remove dangerous and dangling limbs from around utility lines and from rooftops, she said. Barcus-Shafer said many groups were helping with this effort in the beginning of Operation Power Up.

Volunteer groups of four to five people are needed per home. The group anticipates more than 200 homes will need limb removal over the next few months, Barcus-Shafer said.

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World Researcher Rachele Vaughan contributed to this story.

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## How to stack storm debris

Drag tree debris of any size to the curb and stack it just behind the curb where trucks with mechanical grappling arms can reach it.

Do not stack debris on utility meters, telephone or cable switch boxes or too close to fences or mailboxes. Debris piles too large to fit between sidewalks and curbs will still be picked up.

Debris piles outside of the curb area or right-of-way areas will not be picked up.

Haulers plan several collection passes through each neighborhood.

Do not place debris in the streets or protruding into the streets.

Do not park cars in streets where debris is piled at the curb.

**By P.J. LASSEK World Staff Writer**

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## Reader Comments

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**1. 1/15/2008 9:22:31 AM, plm, tulsa**

What's with the monitors? 1.6 million charged so we can keep the city employees from

"So we're going in and helping Tulsans get their yard storm debris to the curb so that the city can remove it," she said.





Barcus-Shafer said last year the group had 700 volunteers who helped with projects throughout the year.

Rebuilding Together is a national organization that organizes volunteers to provide free repairs and other services to low-income residents, according to the group's Web site.

"Not only are we calling on them to help, but we need anyone older than 14 years who can carry debris," she

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drinking beer in the parks.

We're also providing security incase someone steals the debris. Something the TPD is too busy to do themselves.

Lets see, one contract for debris removal 1 for these so called monitors (waste of \$) another for the removal of the debris another for the storage, another for security, another to mulch...wait ! they might have to test the debris 1st. Send out samples to the govt to make sure there's no hazardous waste in it.

**2. 1/15/2008 9:36:20 AM, jj re: plm, tulsa**

Monitors... what a scam that one is. That's a genuine Tulsa corruption call. Just enough to risk the funding on the whole project.

The monitors on my street hooked up together (parked their cars) & took off for 3 days. They just leave the cars in the area & collect 30 dollars pr/hr to go hang out with their buddies.

As far as providing security so someone doesn't steal the debris lmao!! It's not that the TPD is too busy to do it. They should drop seatbelt tickets & patrol our neighborhoods. Home invasions are increasing. Violent assaults are increasing. Armed robberies are increasing & our primary focus is still seatbelts, traffic tickets & dwi's. Try taking a walk in your neighborhood at night. Better yet, let your children go out and play.....don't worry about drive-by shootings . That only happens in the movies.

**3. 1/15/2008 11:30:34 AM, Walter Johnson, Washington, D.C.**

Ah, I love the taste of wine in the morning hours. Thanks OKIES!

**4. 1/15/2008 11:31:43 AM, Chris, Tulsa**

Blame our Millionaire Mayor. She doesn't care how she spends money as she's never had money problems. Our Tax Dollars are an endless piggy bank for Ole Bag Taylor. She really needs botox.

This is what you get Tulsa for putting a Millionaire in office.

The river vote. How funny. They tried to buy everyone off.

**5. 1/15/2008 12:13:29 PM, okcman, okc**

Tulsa can always be counted on for being negative. I love it. Just keep crying. My kids will profit while your kids will leave town to find good jobs. Please don't stop, OKC only moves further ahead. Eat our dust losers!

Love them streets Tulsa!

**6. 1/15/2008 1:22:38 PM, Ed Keillor, Tulsa**

92 inspectors? To document what? This is a typical government-run operation: expensive and inefficient.

What did the city "bring to the table"? One would think the city could have been gathering this debris up at least on a small scale during the last month instead of sitting on its hands waiting for FEMA. Can the park department not at least take it upon itself to clean up its own parks? Or do they have to wait for FEMA, too. Why do we have volunteer groups doing what the city should be doing? Talk about an entitlement mentality.

I'm just glad our mayor and her team didn't put together the plan to get our power restored; we'd be in the dark until next Christmas.

**7. 1/15/2008 3:40:14 PM, Jenks Gigolo, jenks**

I thought that the monitors were required by FEMA (I'm sure people will come out of the woodwork to complain about FEMA now) to make sure that that disposal weights are correct since the contract is written that they are disposing of 800,000 cubic meters of debris or something. They don't want another scandal where they haul away 500K cubic meters and charge for 1 million cubic meters. I am guessing that FEMA would rather pay for the monitors to make sure that it is being done right than to have another Katrina type of disaster with misappropriation of funds.

**8. 1/17/2008 8:15:48 AM, getinformed, Charlotte**

Absolutely right Gigolo. It is in the city's best interest to make sure all the pick-up is documented, otherwise the city does not get its reimbursement check from FEMA and that means y'all end up paying for the debris removal process. BTW, the reason the monitors are supposed to watch the debris piles is because there just might be a few OKIES with garbage in their yards that is NOT storm related and the city will not get reimbursed for Bubba and the boys disposing of trash from 4 years back...hard to believe, but I've heard it could be so...

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