

## NEXT STEPS

- If you have not done so already, you should contact your insurance agent.
- Clean-up of the exterior of the structure may begin once you feel it is safe. Beware of energized power lines, broken gas lines, and other dangerous conditions.
- The damaged structure should be secured to prevent unlawful entry.
- Contact an electrician to repair damage to the electric service. Be aware that electric service will be restored once the power grid has been repaired. Service to individual houses in the hardest hit area may take several more days to be restored.
- Contact an engineer to inspect the structure.

## SAFETY

- **DO NOT** operate a generator indoors. Indoor use can cause CO/CO2 poisoning.
- **DO NOT** operate a generator through the structure wiring unless there is an automatic disconnect. Simply plugging into the wiring can energize the power lines outside your structure and injure or kill others.
- **DO NOT** use unvented heating devices inside. Carbon Monoxide poisoning or fires may occur.
- Be very cautious when entering a damaged building. Hard hats, steel toe boots, and gloves are recommended.

## WARNING TAG



### Why does this building have a “Limited Entry” Warning Notice?

The structure appears to be severely damaged and may be unsafe to occupy. The structure has only been preliminarily evaluated at this time. Inspectors will soon be evaluating structures to determine if the structure is so damaged that no entry is permitted.

### What does the warning notice mean?

The structure may not be safe to enter. The damaged building is recommended to not be entered, except by authorized persons, such as construction repair crews and inspectors. Anyone who does enter the structure should exercise extreme caution.

### What happens next?

The structure should be secured to prevent unlawful entry. The structure will require repairs or demolition. If repairs or demolition are not started in a reasonable time, the Community Development Department may need to take further action.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## LIMITED ENTRY WARNING NOTICE



### Community Development

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# PERMITTING

## Do I need a building permit?

If the structure was severely damaged from the tornado and has been posted for Limited Occupancy, a building permit will be required to repair or demolish the structure.

## What will require a building permit?

Building permits are required for repairing damaged electric service, repairing structural elements of the building, and repairing or replacing components such as HVAC units and fire suppression systems. A building permit is also required if it is determined that the building needs to be demolished.

## How do I get a permit?

Generally, your contractor will be handling the building permits. As the property owner, you should verify that they have received the permits before they begin their work.

Building permit application form is available on the city website and at the Community Development office at City Hall. Permit applications may be emailed or submitted in person.

Office and inspection hours will be extended to 7:30 am and 6:00 pm for a limited time. Normal business hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

## Additional Resources

Please visit [ResilientRolla.com](https://ResilientRolla.com) for information on resources and assistance that are available.

# SCAMS

## Be aware of common scams

- Solicitors may offer to use leftover materials from an earlier job for your project.
- Workers may start the job and then say it will cost hundreds or thousands of dollars more to complete it. Or they will just leave town with your money.
- Some may request large down payments. Con artists even offer to go to the bank with the consumer to withdraw money.

## Beware of any worker/company who:

- Solicits door to door. Most con artists operate this way.
- Drives an out-of-state or unmarked vehicle, especially after damaging storms.
- Has no identification or address, just a phone number.
- Demands full payment before beginning the work
- Is not located in the local area or region.
- Who tries to rush you. If an offer is only good for a limited time, find someone else to do the work.
- Attempts to price gouge you for necessities such as food, water, gasoline, accommodations, or generators.

# TIPS



## In the event of a natural disaster, the Missouri Attorney General offers the following tips to assist consumers:

- Get everything in writing—detailing all of the work to be performed, the cost, and a projected completion date.
- Research the company before you sign a contract. Be sure to obtain all of their contact information.
- Beware of anyone who looks or acts unprofessionally.
- Obtain at least two or three bids/estimates.
- Check credentials and contact the Attorney General's Office and the Better Business Bureau to learn about any complaints against the contractor.
- Do not prepay for work and never pay in cash. Inspect the work and make you are satisfied before you pay. A reasonable down payment may be required for some projects, but do not pay anything without getting a written contract.
- Make sure your insurance company is working with you to provide the proper estimate and coverage under your policy.

