



Legal and Business Strategists

## Federal and State Public Government Disaster Assistance Information September 18, 2017

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### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

#### Federal

All 67 counties are eligible for Public Assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures resulting from Hurricane Irma.

Authorized by multiple sections of the Stafford Act, the Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program is FEMA's primary form of financial assistance for state and local governments. The PA Program provides grant assistance for many eligible purposes, including:

- Emergency work, as authorized by Sections 403, 407, and 502 of the Stafford Act, which provide for the removal of debris and emergency protective measures, such as the establishment of temporary shelters and emergency power generation.
- Permanent work, as authorized by Section 406, which provides for the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private nonprofit organizations (PNPs). PNPs are generally eligible for permanent work assistance if they provide a governmental type of service, though PNPs not providing a "critical" service must first apply to the SBA for loan assistance for facility projects. At its discretion, FEMA may provide assistance for hazard mitigation measures that are not required by applicable codes and standards. As a condition of PA assistance, applicants must obtain and maintain insurance on their facilities for similar future disasters.
- Management costs, as authorized by Section 324, which reimburses some of the applicant's administrative expenses incurred managing the totality of the PA Program's projects and grants.
- **Category A:** Debris removal: 75% federal funding.
- **Category B:** Emergency Protective Measures: For a period of up to 30 days from the start of the incident period, FEMA is authorized to provide federal funding for emergency protective measures including direct federal assistance, at **100% of the total eligible costs.**

## COMMUNITY DISASTER LOANS

This program provides loans to local governments that have **suffered substantial loss of tax and other revenue** in areas included in a major disaster declaration. Typically, the loan may not exceed 25% of the local government's annual operating budget for the fiscal year of the disaster. The limit is 50% if the local government lost 75% or more of its annual operating budget. A loan may not exceed \$5 million. **There is no matching requirement.** The statute does not impose time limitations on the assistance, but the normal term of a loan is five years. The statute provides that the repayment requirement is cancelled if local government revenues are not sufficient to meet operations expenses during a three fiscal year period after a disaster. The governor's authorized representative must officially approve the application and funds must be available in the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program account.

## INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal

Currently, the counties deemed eligible for IA are: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, and St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Union, and Volusia.

- Please encourage people in these counties to register with FEMA:
- Online: [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).
- Phone: 1-800-621-3362

**Transitional Sheltering Assistance:** FEMA may provide Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) to eligible disaster survivors who are unable to return to their homes for an extended period and need shelter. TSA provides short-term lodging for eligible disaster survivors whose residence is uninhabitable or inaccessible. To be eligible for TSA, individuals and households must:

- Register with FEMA for assistance.
- Pass identity and citizenship verification.
- Have a pre-disaster primary residence located in a geographic area that is designated for TSA.
- Be displaced from their pre-disaster primary residence as a result of the disaster.
- Be unable to obtain lodging through another source.

**Tax Relief:** The Internal Revenue Code (IRC) includes tax relief provisions that apply to individuals and businesses affected by federally declared disasters, and the following are some examples. Individuals located in affected areas are allowed extra time (four years instead of the general two) to replace homes due to involuntary conversion (e.g., destruction from wind or floods, theft, or property ordered to be demolished) and still defer any gain.<sup>16</sup> Casualty losses can also

be deducted against income in the prior tax year.<sup>17</sup> These losses also include government-ordered demolition of unsafe property. Qualifying disaster relief payments received by affected individuals are not subject to tax.<sup>18</sup> The Internal Revenue Service also has the authority to provide some relief, including the extension of tax filing deadlines.<sup>19</sup> In addition to these and other permanent tax relief provisions, special temporary provisions were enacted for certain disasters, including Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, which struck the Gulf Coast in 2005, and the severe weather that affected the Midwest in 2008.

### **DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE**

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) provides benefits to previously employed or self-employed individuals rendered jobless as a direct result of a major disaster and who are not eligible for regular federal or state unemployment compensation (UC). In certain cases, individuals who have no work history or are unable to work may also be eligible for DUA benefits. DUA is federally funded through FEMA, but is administered by the Department of Labor and state UC agencies. Generally, individuals must apply for benefits within 30 days after the date the state announces availability of DUA benefits. When applicants have good cause, they may file claims after the 30-day deadline. This deadline may be extended; however, initial applications filed after the 26th week following the declaration date will not be considered. When a reasonable comparative earnings history can be constructed, DUA benefits are determined in a similar manner to regular state UC benefit rules. The minimum weekly DUA benefit is required to be half of the average weekly UC benefit for the state where the disaster occurred. DUA assistance is available to eligible individuals as long as the major disaster continues, but no longer than 26 weeks after the disaster declaration.

### **DISLOCATED WORKER ACTIVITIES**

The dislocated worker program helps fund training and related assistance to persons who have lost their jobs and are unlikely to return to their current jobs or industries. Of the funds appropriated, 80% are allotted by formula grants to states and local entities and 20% are reserved by the Secretary of Labor for activities to fund a national reserve, including national emergency grants to states or local entities. One type of national emergency grant is Disaster Relief Employment Assistance, under which funds can be made available to states to employ dislocated workers in temporary jobs involving recovery after a national emergency. An individual may be employed for up to six months. **There are no matching requirements for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs.**

## State

### **SHELTERS**

- More than 80 shelters are open throughout Florida with a total population of more than 7,500 individuals. More than 40 special needs shelters are open with a total population of 4,500 individuals. This number is being updated throughout the day. Visit [floridadisaster.org/shelters/summary.aspx](http://floridadisaster.org/shelters/summary.aspx) to find information on shelters in your area.
- To find information about available shelter information by county, visit [floridadisaster.org/shelters](http://floridadisaster.org/shelters).

- The state has received approval from USDA Food and Nutrition Service to release foods sourced from The Emergency Assistance Food Program and Commodity Supplemental Food Service foods to be used by all counties per the Presidential Disaster Declaration.

## HAZARD MITIGATION

### Federal

All counties and Indian Tribes are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. (HMGP) provides grants to states for implementing mitigation measures after a disaster and to provide funding for previously identified mitigation measures to lessen future damage and loss of life. There is a state and local matching requirement of 25%. Historically, the amount available for post-disaster mitigation was 15% of total Stafford Act disaster costs.<sup>23</sup> However, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007 (P.L. 109-295) adjusted the percentage amounts for HMGP awards by establishing a scale that authorizes three tiers of awards: 15% of the total Stafford Act assistance in a state for a major disaster in which no more than \$2 billion is provided; 10% for assistance that ranges from more than \$2 billion to \$10 billion; and 7.5% for a major disaster that involves Stafford Act assistance from more than \$10 billion to \$35.3 billion.<sup>24</sup> As of FY2015, HMGP grants are also available with fire management assistance grants.<sup>25</sup>

### State

#### TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS

- FDOT continues to coordinate with Google's emergency response team to "close" damaged roads in Google Maps in real time following damage assessments. FDOT is also working closely with WAZE, the Georgia Department of Transportation and other transportation industry partners to communicate the potential reroutes to the public.
- Governor Rick Scott announced that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approved a \$25 million Emergency Relief (ER) Quick Release Grant to support response and recovery efforts for Florida's roadways and transportation system. This federal funding will be used to conduct emergency repairs on impacted roads, embankments, bridges or other infrastructure and help restore traffic on major roadways to ensure Florida residents and visitors can travel safely.
- FDOT debris removal crews have cleared US 1 and debris removal operations will begin this weekend after the debris sites are set-up. Nearly 70 crews are staging Thursday and are prepared to begin cut and toss work off-system roads on Friday. Local officials will determine when it's safe to reenter Monroe County.
- FDOT worked with ATT to install temporary towers so those with ATT phones should have normal connectivity.
- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has completed damage assessments on major highways. Every interstate and turnpike is open for Floridians, however, there is heavy traffic volume on I-10 eastbound and I-75 southbound. Everyone should continue to listen to local officials on when to return home.

- FDOT's cut and toss crews will continue to work with utility crews across the state to clear road debris so power can be restored quickly.
- Bridge inspections and debris clearance are ongoing throughout the state.
- FDOT is coordinating with other states to deploy additional resources to impacted counties. A number of other states have offered assistance. Maryland, Missouri and Delaware are currently deploying crews to Florida. FDOT continues to coordinate with other states.
- Around the state, FDOT has 13 traffic management centers where hundreds of DOT workers are monitoring traffic cameras 24/7.
- Governor Scott directed the FDOT to suspend tolls across the entire State of Florida in preparation for Hurricane Irma. Tolls remain suspended and immediate recovery efforts continue.

## **PRIVATE ROAD AND DEBRIS REMOVAL**

### **Federal**

**PPDR:** Private property debris removal (PPDR) is generally not eligible for reimbursement under the PA Program. However, when debris on private property is so widespread that it threatens public health and safety or economic recovery of a community, FEMA may provide PA funding for debris removal from private property. The debris removal must be in the public interest, not merely benefiting an individual or limited group of individuals within the community, and be within the legal authority of the Applicant to perform. In such cases, FEMA works with the State, Territorial, Tribal, or Local government to designate specific areas where debris removal from private property, including private waterways, is eligible.

**Approval for PPDR:** Due to the magnitude of recent disaster events, FEMA is simplifying the process for PPDR approval. Applicants must provide a written notice through the Recipient (State, Tribal, or Territorial government) to FEMA identifying areas where PPDR activities will occur (including identification of gated or ungated communities, orphaned roads, or commercial properties). Once the notice is submitted, the Applicant does not need to wait for FEMA approval to start work. However, the Applicant must submit its written request for FEMA approval so that it may receive reimbursement for PPDR work. FEMA may only approve reimbursement based on the Applicant's satisfactory demonstration (including relevant documentation) that the:

- PPDR was in the public interest,
- Applicant has legal authority to perform debris removal activities on private property,
- Applicant agrees to indemnify the Federal Government (including FEMA),
- Applicant obtained and complied with applicable permits or approvals for the locations of temporary debris staging and reduction sites and final debris disposal sites, and
- Applicant has satisfied all legal processes and obtained permission from the property owners (rights-of-entry or other unconditional authorization) and agreements to indemnify and hold harmless the Federal government.

## **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

### **Federal**

Small Business Administration (SBA): The disaster declaration covers the counties of Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Desoto, Duval, Flagler, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Saint Johns, Saint Lucie, Seminole, Sumter and Volusia in Florida which are eligible for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA.

Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in the following adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Levy and Nassau in Florida.

Individuals must first register with FEMA in order to receive SBA assistance. This can be done online, over the phone, or at FEMA's Disaster Recovery Centers. <https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/hurricane-irma>

**Summary of SBA Assistance:** The Office of Disaster Assistance's mission is to provide low interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners, and renters to repair or replace real estate, personal property, machinery & equipment, inventory and business assets that have been damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster. The SBA offers three main disaster loans in the event of a disaster declaration.

Its main program, Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs), is designed to meet businesses' cash flow needs when a disaster harms the economic activity of a region. These loans can be up to \$2 million, with an interest rate cap at 4 percent and a 30 year repayment limit.

Business Physical Disaster Loans are designed to help repair or replace damaged physical capital. These loans can be up to \$2 million, with interest rate cap of 4 percent for businesses with the inability to obtain credit elsewhere and 8 percent for businesses with such ability and a 30 year repayment limit.

Home and Personal Property Loans are available for homeowners – including non-business owners – who have experienced damage due to the disaster. These loans may be up to \$200,000 for primary residences, \$40,000 for personal property, and SBA-assisted refinancing of mortgage. The assistance has an interest rate cap of 4 percent for applicants with the inability to obtain credit elsewhere and 8 percent for applicants with such ability. There is a 30 year repayment limit.

### **State**

#### **BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, & ECONOMIC STABILIZATION**

- Governor Scott announced today that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has launched the Florida Small Business Emergency

Bridge Loan Program to support businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma to provide short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced physical or economic damage during the storm. To complete an application by the Oct. 31, 2017, deadline, visit [www.floridadisasterloan.org](http://www.floridadisasterloan.org). For more information contact the Florida Small Business Development Center Network at 850-898-3489 or email [Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org](mailto:Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org).

- DEO has launched the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Program to provide assistance to businesses and residents whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted as a result of Hurricane Irma. To file for DUA or for more information go to [www.FloridaJobs.org](http://www.FloridaJobs.org) or call 1-800-385-3920.
- A private sector hotline is available at (850) 410-1403 to respond to calls from businesses and private sector support organizations.
- The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is readying the Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program to provide temporary income support to eligible individuals in counties approved for FEMA Individual Assistance.
- The state is working to identify the “open/close” status of businesses. This information is being posted to the SERT Tropical Storm Irma web page: <http://www.floridadisaster.org/info/>.
- The Florida Retail Federation is assisting in coordinating information to Florida Retailers regarding restocking of emergency supplies, readying mobile pharmacies, and the transportation of fuel.
- The Florida Small Business Development Center Network is working with federal officials to identify additional staffing and financial resources to support business response activities.
- The Florida Chamber of Commerce is coordinating with their members and local chambers to determine post-storm recovery needs and identifying resources available to be sent to the affected areas.

## INSURANCE

### Federal

National Flood Insurance Program: FEMA has directed its NFIP partner insurance companies and the NFIP Direct to begin issuing advance payments to help NFIP policyholders impacted by Hurricane Irma flooding begin their recovery.

- If you have NFIP flood insurance and suffered damage during the recent floods related to Hurricane Irma, you may be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 for building and contents damages prior to the adjuster’s inspection with a written, verbal, or electronic request.
- If you have photos and receipts which validate your out-of-pocket expense, you may receive an advance payment up to \$20,000. FEMA has increased the maximum amount from \$10,000 to \$20,000 with the updated bulletin.
- To file a flood insurance claim under the NFIP, contact your insurance agent immediately. You can also call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) – select option 2 – to learn more about your policy, and be directed to the appropriate claims resource.

## State

### INSURANCE

- At the direction of Governor Scott, Insurance Commissioner Altmaier issued an Emergency Order suspending and activating certain insurance rules and statutes for the health, safety, and welfare of Florida's policyholders. Among other provisions, the Order provides an additional 90 days to policyholders to supply information to their insurance company; prohibits insurance companies from canceling or non-renewing policies covering residential properties damaged by the hurricane for at least 90 days; and freezes any and all efforts to increase rates on policyholders for 90 days. The Order can be found [HERE](#).
- Floridians affected by the storm must now begin the process of surveying damages to their property and belongings. If you need help finding your Florida's property insurance company's website and contact information, click [HERE](#). For a list of licensed insurance agents in Florida, click [HERE](#).
- Consumers with questions about their policies and those who need help filing a claim should call the CFO's free Insurance Consumer Helpline at 1-877-693-5236.
- It is important to document all damaged property and belongings. A free smartphone app developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners called "MyHome Scr.APP.book" is available to assist with photo documentation.
- OIR has updated its "Hurricane Season Resources" webpage, which contains links to information provided by the Governor, Chief Financial Officer, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program, and contact information for Florida's property insurers.

### ADDITIONAL FEDERAL INFORMATION

**U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA):** USDA has programs that provide assistance in the wake of disasters. USDA staff in the regional, state and county offices that stand ready and eager to help. USDA's Operations Center is activated 24/7 keeping the Secretary and USDA's leadership team informed. An Incident Management Team supports the USDA Operations Center and will remain in effect through both Hurricane Harvey recovery and Hurricane Irma's response and recovery. USDA has important roles in both response and recovery to hurricanes and stands ready to support the American people who rely on it each day. In a continuing effort to better serve the public, USDA partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other disaster-focused organizations to create the [Disaster Resource Center](#) website. This central source of information utilizes a searchable knowledgebase of disaster-related resources that are powered by agents with subject-matter expertise. The Disaster Resource Center website and web tool now provide an easy access point to find USDA disaster information and assistance. USDA also encourages residents and small businesses in impact zones to contact the following offices to meet their individual needs:

- **Property and Shelter:** While the Federal Emergency Management Agency is managing all emergency housing assistance, when floods destroy or severely damage residential property, USDA Rural Development can assist with providing priority hardship application processing for rural single family housing. Additionally, under a disaster designation, USDA Rural Development can issue a priority letter for next available USDA multi-family housing units at properties across the country. Many USDA Rural Development programs can help provide financial relief to rural communities hit by natural disasters by offering low-interest loans to rural community facilities, rural businesses and cooperatives and to rural utilities. More information can be found on the Rural Development website.
- **Food Safety and Food Assistance:** Severe weather forecasts often present the possibility of power outages that could compromise the safety of stored food. The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) recommends that consumers take the necessary steps before, during, and after a power outage to reduce food waste and minimize the risk of foodborne illness. FSIS offers tips for keeping frozen and refrigerated food safe and a [brochure](#) that can be downloaded and printed for reference at home. Owners of meat and poultry producing businesses who have questions or concerns may contact the FSIS Small Plant Help Desk by phone at 1-877-FSIS-HELP (1-877-374-7435), by email at [infosource@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:infosource@fsis.usda.gov), or 24/7 online at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulatory-compliance/svsp/sphelpdesk>.
- The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) coordinates with state, local and voluntary organizations to provide food for shelters and other mass feeding sites. Under certain circumstances, states also may request to operate a disaster household distribution program to distribute USDA Foods directly to households in need. In addition, FNS may approve a state's request to implement a Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) when the President declares a major disaster for individual assistance under the Stafford Act in areas affected by a disaster. State agencies may also request a number of disaster-related SNAP waivers to help provide temporary assistance to impacted households already receiving SNAP benefits at the time of the disaster. Resources for disaster feeding partners as well as available FNS disaster nutrition assistance can be found on the [FNS Disaster Assistance website](#).
- **D-SNAP:** USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recently approved a temporary waiver and supported other actions that will help households participating in the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Florida, Georgia and the Virgin Islands and the Nutrition Assistance Program in Puerto Rico access food in the wake of Hurricane Irma, including:
  - Allowing SNAP participants in Florida to buy hot foods and hot ready-to-eat foods with their benefits through Sept. 30.
  - Supporting Florida's plan to issue all September SNAP benefits on Sept. 7 and Georgia's plan to issue all remaining benefits for September on Sept. 10; both actions will ensure families have access to their monthly benefits sooner during this time of immediate crisis.

- Supporting Puerto Rico's action to issue all September Nutrition Assistance Program benefits on Sept. 5, before the storm.
- FNS is working closely with the affected states and territories to be ready, if appropriate, to make use of the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) to offer continuing food assistance after commercial channels of food distribution have been restored and families are able to prepare food at home. D-SNAP can be a critical tool in the recovery process, but it is not the first step, Perdue said, noting that FNS offers states a range of assistance from rescue to recovery.
- For more information **USDA's Disaster SNAP program**: : <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/disaster-assistance/forms-of-assistance/5769%20/%200/D08>
- **D-SNAP Fact sheet**: [https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/D-SNAP\\_Disaster.pdf](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/D-SNAP_Disaster.pdf)
- **Crop and Livestock Loss**: The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers many safety-net programs to help producers recover from eligible losses, including the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#), the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#), [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](#) (EFRP) and the [Tree Assistance Program](#). The FSA [Emergency Conservation Program](#) provides funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. Producers located in counties that received a primary or contiguous disaster designation are eligible for low-interest [emergency loans](#) to help them recover from production and physical losses. Compensation also is available to producers who purchased coverage through the [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#), which protects non-insurable crops against natural disasters that result in lower yields, crop losses or prevented planting. USDA encourages farmers and ranchers to contact their local FSA office to learn what documents can help the local office expedite assistance, such as farm records, receipts and pictures of damages or losses.
- Producers with coverage through the Risk Management Agency administered federal crop insurance program should contact their crop insurance agent. Those who purchased crop insurance will be paid for covered losses. Producers should report crop damage within 72 hours of damage discovery and follow up in writing within 15 days.
- **Community Recovery Resources**: For declared natural disasters that lead to imminent threats to life and property, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can assist local government sponsors with the cost of implementing recovery efforts like debris removal and streambank stabilization to address natural resource concerns and hazards through the [Emergency Watershed Protection Program](#). NRCS staff is coordinating with state partners to complete damage assessments in preparation for sponsor assistance requests. NRCS can also help producers with damaged agricultural lands caused by natural disasters such as floods. The NRCS [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) provides financial assistance to repair and prevent excessive soil erosion that can result from high rainfall events and flooding. Conservation practices supported through EQIP protect the

land and aid in recovery, can build the natural resource base and might help mitigate loss in future events.

- USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture provides support for disaster education through the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). EDEN is a collaborative multi-state effort with land-grant universities and Cooperative Extension Services across the country, using research-based education and resources to improve the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters. EDEN's goal is to improve the nation's ability to mitigate, prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from disasters., EDEN equips county-based Extension educators to share research-based resources in local disaster management and recovery efforts. The EDEN website offers a searchable database of Extension professionals, resources, member universities and disaster agency websites, education materials to help people handle a wide range of hazards and food and agricultural defense educational resources.

## **ADDITIONAL STATE REPORTS**

### **POWER AND UTILITIES**

- The current power outage as of 6 p.m. is more than 2.2 million accounts. For a full breakdown, click [HERE](#). Since the height of power outages, 6.7 million on Monday, power has been restored to more than 4.5 million accounts, which is how utility companies measure each Florida home or business. In less than three days, more than 65 percent of all outages have been restored by more than 30,000 restoration personnel across Florida – the largest power restoration undertaking in history for a single state.
- Florida Power and Light
  - In total, 4.4 million customers were impacted by the storm. Power has already been restored to more than 3.1 million customers.
  - FPL expects power restoration to be completed for the East Coast the night of Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - FPL has mobilized the largest restoration workforce ever assembled with more than 18,000 out-of-state restoration personnel working around the clock.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL**

- Disaster Medical Assistance Teams have been deployed to provide healthcare services to communities in need.
- The state is holding daily calls with assisted living facilities and nursing homes to ensure they have everything they need to serve those in their care. The state is aggressively working to restore power to these facilities.
- Department of Health (DOH) Environmental Health staff are conducting assessments throughout the state and epidemiology staff are monitoring emergency department surveillance to identify carbon monoxide poisonings relating to generator use.
- DOH staff continues to provide staffing for special needs shelters and deploy other assets to aid in county recovery efforts. Ambulance strike teams have also been deployed to aid with movements.

- OneBlood is urging all those who are able to visit a local blood center and donate blood to do so. They have an urgent need for platelets and O negative blood.
- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities' regional offices are communicating with providers, waiver support coordinators, and APD customers to ensure they are safe and the status of their homes.
- The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) operates six skilled nursing facilities and one assisted living facility. All state veterans' homes are currently operational. One veterans home is currently operating on generator power.
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operates a number of Florida-based medical centers, outpatient clinics and Vet Centers in the storm path. For specific information on all VA closures in Florida, please click [HERE](#) or visit <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/hurricane-irma/>
- The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) is working with federal officials as emergency assessments are completed for Disaster SNAP (also known as Food for Florida). DCF proactively submitted an initial request to the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to activate Disaster SNAP in counties approved for FEMA for Individual Assistance. While Disaster SNAP is not currently active in Florida, DCF is communicating with the federal government to activate this program in eligible counties as soon as possible.
- DCF sent a mass replacement request to FNS to provide a portion of SNAP benefit replacements to customers who lost food as a result of Hurricane Irma. Customers may submit forms for individual replacement of benefits and the requests will be reviewed as soon as possible.

## **VOLUNTEER EFFORTS**

- Volunteer Florida and the Department of Management Services are seeking state employee volunteers to transport food to affected areas in Southwest and Northeast Florida beginning Friday, Sept. 15. DMS is also working with rental car companies to secure cargo vans and box trucks for this effort and both agencies are coordinating with the American Red Cross to deliver supplies to shelters and staging areas. For more information, visit [www.dms.myflorida.com](http://www.dms.myflorida.com) and click "Hurricane Irma: Volunteer to Help."
- Governor Rick Scott activated the Florida Disaster Fund to support individuals who are impacted by Tropical Storm Irma. The Florida Disaster Fund helps provide financial support to Florida's communities in times of disaster. To make a contribution, please visit [www.FloridaDisasterFund.org](http://www.FloridaDisasterFund.org) or text DISASTER to 20222 to make a one-time donation of \$10. Volunteer Florida has also engaged with Facebook to activate a donation portal online.
- In response to Hurricane Irma, Lyft is donating \$100,000 to a "Relief Rides" program helping those in need get to/from hospitals and shelters after the hurricane, as well as partnering with Team Rubicon to help their volunteers. Call (754) 900-5949 to request a ride. If you are associated with a hospital, shelter, or local government, please email [florida@lyft.com](mailto:florida@lyft.com) so that Lyft can get you access to a pre-funded account to help those in need. Click [here](#) for information on how partners can use Lyft's Concierge Service to request rides for those in need and who may not have access to a smartphone. If

you are an individual in need of a ride, please use the code HELPFLOIDA. For information on specific locations for Relief Rides please click here.

- Volunteer Florida is working with Uber to transport food to people in shelter. Uber is donating \$400,000 of rides, food and relief to families and communities affected as well as first responders. Uber will also provide free rides to and from shelters for residents of Hillsborough and other impacted areas, including Duval County and Lee County. In partnership with Volunteer Florida, Uber will provide free rides to help move volunteers to shelters in impacted areas. Local governments, nonprofits, and organizations with an immediate need can visit [IrmaRelief@uber.com](mailto:IrmaRelief@uber.com).
- Volunteer Florida is working with Johnson & Johnson, which is donating baby supplies and personal hygiene items to victims, Americares, which is donating pharmaceutical supplies to special needs shelters, Poland Water, which is donating 100 box cars of bottled water, American Logistics Network to stand up a multiple agency warehouse, and multiple volunteer partners.
- A Red Cross advance team is in the Florida Keys evaluating and assessing the most expeditious manner to provide services and emergency supplies there.
- The American Red Cross has accepted 1,000 meals offered through Volunteer Florida from Boar's Head Provisions. Local arrangements are being made to deliver these meals to areas of need in Duval County.
- Volunteer Florida's Community Emergency Response (CERT) Teams are assisting special needs residents with transportation, managing shelters, feeding first responders and local EOC staff, assisting citizens with reports of unmet needs, staffing county staging areas, and staffing call centers in Taylor County, Nassau County, Pasco County, Seminole County, Collier County, Broward County, Charlotte County Franklin County, Escambia County, and Lee County.
- Volunteer Florida's AmeriCorps teams, including Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County, Teach for America Jacksonville, Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie County, Northwest Florida State College, Heart of Florida United Way, Metropolitan Ministries, Florida State Parks, City Year Jacksonville, the Arc Jacksonville, Polk Education Foundation and the City of Orlando are continuing to provide disaster response services to Floridians in need. AmeriCorps members have served in special needs shelters, answered local citizen information lines, supported crisis hotlines, worked to clean up schools, and provided clean up at activities in 24 Florida state parks. These services are anticipated to support over 2,600 individuals.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

- 50 Florida State Parks have reopened for day-use only, 117 parks remain closed to ensure visitor safety. Park service staff have formed teams to respond to impacted parks and re-open them as quickly as possible. A full list of closures can be found at <https://floridastateparks.org/content/storm-information>.
- DEP staff requested an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) for 10 crews to assist the 117-mile main line repairs need from Key Largo to Key West. Currently, Tennessee and South Carolina are working to deploy teams tomorrow morning, to be escorted by law enforcement once in

Florida. To supplement work until the teams arrive, Miami-Dade water and sewer department is assembling two teams to start work, and they will continue assisting in wastewater capacity once the EMAC teams arrive.

- DEP is coordinating with our contractors to complete post-storm inspections of the active state-led cleanup sites. 15 post-storm site inspections were completed yesterday, another 19 are expected to be completed today.
- DEP is mobilizing Beach Response Teams and participating with assistance of USACE in efforts to expedite recovery of Florida beaches. DEP staff have completed initial inspections to document damage to structures and the beach-dune system in Nassau, Duval, Brevard, Martin, Pinellas, Manatee, Indian River, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, Broward, Franklin and Gulf counties. They will continue surveys in St. John, Flagler, Volusia, Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties. DEP's Beaches Program staff began conducting more detailed engineering surveys and damage assessments today in Collier, Sarasota and Charlotte counties.
- DEP continues to coordinate with US Army Corps of Engineers, FDOT, US Coast Guard, FWC, and FEMA on debris removal statewide. DEP contractors are mobilizing to county-identified debris sites. Debris can be reported here.
- DEP has mobilized 12 Hazardous Assessment and Response Teams in coordination with the EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard to assess hazardous waste facilities and respond to pollution incidents and other storm impacts. The 40 members of these teams have deployed to Duval and Hillsborough counties tomorrow to begin assessments, and are identifying additional sites north of Lake Okeechobee for assessment. 207 assessments have been completed.
- Technical specialists from EPA's water division have deployed to Florida to assist DEP staff with wastewater and drinking water system recovery.
- DEP has established a mutual aid system to coordinate responses between utilities, the department, and other responders. This system is active and continues to coordinate and respond to the needs of drinking and waste water facilities throughout Florida. This includes ensuring generators for lift stations, wastewater plants and other vital infrastructure operations, providing pumps for flood control measures and deploying crews to assist with drinking and wastewater facility repairs.
- DEP has issued an emergency order to ensure recovery efforts are not hampered or delayed. DEP has expanded that order for power plants to cover the entire state to assist any facility recovering from the storm and a new order to waive certain rules for fuel facilities impacted by the storm statewide. Both orders apply only to impacted facilities and have provisions to guard the environment while assisting in quick recovery of critical infrastructure.
- DEP is working with FWC, EPA, and the U.S. Coast Guard to mitigate pollutants from submerged vessels.

#### **WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS**

- The South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) pumping operations into C-4 Detention Area in Miami-Dade County have been successful and have concluded as canal levels in Sweetwater and West Miami have receded. Discharges to tide continue.

- SFWMD started pumping into the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area in northern St. Lucie County to help lower water levels in the creek yesterday.
- Water control structures in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes area are open. Water managers will be increasing discharges from the lakes into the Kissimmee River.
- All SFWMD diesel pumps South Dade Conveyance System in the system are pumping, and gated structures are fully open to help reduce water levels.
- Pumps along the southern rim of Lake Okeechobee continue pumping water into the lake to address flooding, which has affected families and businesses in Glades communities.
- Installation of three 42-inch temporary pumps begins today to assist with lowering canal levels in the Big Cypress Basin
- SFWMD continues to assist Orlando International Airport with operations to lower its water levels.
- The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) continues to operate water control structures. All structures without power are being monitored and are discharging as needed. These structures can be manually operated if needed.
- SWFWMD continues to operate the Lower Hillsborough River Flood Detention Area, diverting all flows from the Hillsborough River to the Tampa Bypass Canal.
- The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) has completed three missions to assist local governments and counties with flood control efforts.
- SJRWMD Response teams continue working on additional missions in Flagler, St. Johns and Seminole counties to mitigate flooding at the request of the local governments.
- Three SJRWMD damage assessment teams deployed and completed their mission in Duval county Wednesday to assess damage caused by Hurricane Irma to help with recovery efforts.
- The Suwannee River Water Management District continues to coordinate with the Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Highway Patrol and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to manage conditions around the Santa Fe River and roadways to ensure public safety.

SOURCE:

<http://www.flgov.com/2017/09/14/gov-scott-issues-updates-on-continued-hurricane-irma-response-efforts-5/>

<https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases>

