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Gov. Scott Issues Updates on Tropical Depression Nate Response Efforts

NAPLES, Fla. –This morning, Governor Rick Scott received a full update on Tropical Depression Nate from the State Emergency Operations Center. Today, following a request from Governor Scott, the federal government issued an emergency declaration for Escambia County and Santa Rosa County, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide appropriate assistance for emergency measures related to Hurricane Nate.

The Governor will continue to be in constant communication with state and local emergency management officials, city and county leaders, and utility officials regarding ongoing response efforts. See below for more information on what the State of Florida is doing to support Tropical Depression Nate response efforts:

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS BY STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

WATCHES AND WARNINGS

- There are no coastal watches or warnings in effect.
- Residents should continue to monitor local weather updates for potential tornado or flood watches or warnings.

EVACUATIONS

- There are currently no evacuation orders in effect.

SHELTERS

- Two shelters are open in Escambia County. Updated shelter information can be found [here](#).
- The American Red Cross has completed all personnel and equipment movement into the panhandle and is ready to provide assistance to communities as needed
- One Mobile Animal Response Equipment (MARE) Unit has been deployed to Santa Rosa County for pet sheltering assistance.

- USDA Foods School Food Authorities (SFAs) have been authorized to release USDA Foods to support congregate feeding efforts carried out by the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army in counties impacted by the storm, as needed.
- Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Teams (FLIRRT) are on standby and ready to be deployed to assess food retail establishments that may be impacted.

MILITARY SUPPORT

- The Florida National Guard has 7,000 guard members available for deployment if needed.
- Naval Air Station Pensacola (NASP), Corry Station and Saufley Field have curtailed operations and closed the installations to all visitors and non-essential personnel. Normal operations will reopen Monday.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- FWC has completed assessments of essential roadways and debris removal and stands ready to assist with humanitarian needs.
- The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) continues to monitor traffic and weather conditions, coordinating with FDOT and local emergency operations centers as inclement weather passes through FL Panhandle.

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS

- FDOT District 3 crews have been deployed to impacted areas and are conducting damage surveys. Bridge inspections have been completed on major roadways and no major issues have been reported on state roadways as of this morning.
- FDOT has suspended interstate and highway construction in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties through Sunday, October 8 and will resume on Monday evening, October 9.
- FDOT will assist first responders with traffic control, detours or road closures, as necessary.
- For the latest closures and updates, travelers can access Florida's 511 service from cell phones, landlines and online at www.FL511.com.
- FDOT asset maintenance contractors have been contacted to support response activities.
- FDOT will continue to reach out to county emergency operations centers directly to coordinate any necessary response actions, including providing maintenance of traffic and other assistance.
- Closures
 - Pensacola: Port Closed
 - Panama City: Port Closed
 - Pensacola Airport: Closed

POWER AND UTILITIES

- The current power outage as of 12:00 p.m. is approximately 6,800 accounts, which is how utility companies measure each Florida home or business.
- Power companies are assessing damages and continuing with restoration efforts.
- More than 9000 restoration personnel are ready to assist Gulf Power and Duke Energy with continuing restoration efforts in the Florida panhandle.

FUEL

- The state has contacted fuel industry partners and continues to monitor for fuel assistance requests. At this time, there are no reported supply, distribution, or retail fuel shortages or issues.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL

- DOH operated three special needs shelters in the Panhandle.
- DOH and AHCA have requested hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities (ALFs) in regions 1 and 2 to report their facility status daily at 10AM and upon any status change through the FLHealthSTAT database.
- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities regional offices are conducting outreach calls to waiver support coordinators, providers, and individuals living independently to ensure clients are safe following the storm.

EDUCATION

- The University of West Florida will be closed from Saturday, October 7th through Monday, October 9th.

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

- Water Management Districts are monitoring waterways and water levels, preparing staff and vehicles, and are prepared to adjust flows as necessary.
- Lake Okeechobee is currently at 17.00 feet and is being continuously monitored by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, which manages Lake Okeechobee water levels. The Army Corps will continue releases from Lake Okeechobee until further notice.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

- The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) are working to provide updates to private sector partners. Information is available at www.flvbeoc.org.
- The state has activated the Private Sector Hotline at [850-410-1403](tel:850-410-1403), which is available for business inquiries about storm response and recovery activities.
- VISIT FLORIDA and Expedia will keep the www.expedia.com/florida site activated to provide available lodging information to evacuees and visitors.

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

- Florida Southern Baptists have two mobile kitchens on standby and twelve staging sites have been identified in three counties in the Panhandle.
- Feeding Florida is relocating assets and has food staged at Escambia and Big Bend of Tallahassee, including meals ready to eat, meal boxes, and snacks.
- Catholic Charities have prepositioned supplies throughout the Panhandle to mobilize if needed.

CONTACTS

- The State Assistance Information Line (SAIL) contact number is 1-800-342-3557.
- The State Emergency Operations Center Media Line: 850-921-0217.
- Follow @FLSERT or @FLGovScott on Twitter for live updates on Tropical Depression Nate.
- Visit <http://www.floridadisaster.org> to find information on shelters, road closures, and evacuation routes.

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