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Gov. Scott Issues Updates on Continued Hurricane Irma Response Efforts

MARATHON, Fla. – Today, Governor Scott met with HHS Secretary Tom Price and state and local officials in Monroe County to discuss recovery efforts after Hurricane Irma. The Governor will continue to remain in constant communication with state and local emergency management officials, city and county leaders, law enforcement and National Guard leaders, and utility officials as Hurricane Irma response continues.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS BY STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

WATCHES AND WARNINGS

- Flood warnings are in effect across the state. To see the most current advisories in your county, click [HERE](#).

POWER AND UTILITIES

- The current power outage as of 12:00 p.m. is more than 391,000 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 6.3 million accounts, which is how utility companies measure each Florida home or business. 94 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.
- Do not try to handle downed power lines. Contact your local utility company to report it.
- Tampa Electric
 - Tampa Electric has restored power to the 730,000 customers affected by the storm.
- Florida Power and Light
 - In total, 4.4 million customers were impacted by the storm. Power has been restored to 4,215,190 customers.
- Duke Energy
 - More than 1.3 million customers were impacted by the storm. Power has already been restored to more than 1.2 million customers.
- Gulf Power
 - Gulf Power has restored power to the 13,000 customers affected by the storm.

- Florida Electric Cooperatives Assoc.
 - More than 760,000 customers were impacted by the storm. Power has already been restored to more than 748,000 customers.
- Municipal Utilities
 - More than 800,000 customers were impacted by the storm. Power has already been restored to more than 782,000 customers.

FUEL

- Governor Scott is taking aggressive efforts to expedite refueling statewide. For more information, please click [HERE](#).
- Port Everglades, Port Canaveral, Port of Jacksonville, and Port of Tampa are actively accepting fuel. The Florida Highway Patrol has troopers dedicated to escorting fuel resupply trucks as needed.
- Since September 6th, Governor Scott has taken the following actions to expedite fuel delivery to gas stations:
 - Directed the Florida Highway Patrol to escort fuel resupply trucks to gas stations;
 - Directed law enforcement to provide escorts to fuel station employees in evacuation zones so stations could stay open as long as possible before landfall to serve Floridians;
 - Waived the import taxes on fuel entering the state;
 - Waived weight and driver restrictions for highways so water, food, fuel and emergency supplies could be quickly brought to Florida and moved throughout the state;
 - Governor Scott and executive office staff have held daily calls with all fuel supply stakeholders, including Florida Ports;
 - Vice President Pence announced that the federal government has waived the Jones Act upon Governor Scott's request which waives additional rules and regulations to allow more fuel to get to Florida fast. This waiver ensures that all options are available to distribute fuel to Florida. The last Jones Act waiver was issued in December 2012, for petroleum products to be delivered for relief assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy;
 - Following the Governor's request, 12 states joined Florida in waiving weight and driver restrictions to move goods more quickly into the state, including fuel; and
 - Following the Governor's request, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved an emergency fuel waiver which allows more fuel to quickly enter the state. For more information, please click [HERE](#)

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- FWC has more than 40 additional officers, including Special Operations Group (SOG), in Monroe County. These officers are working with National Guard members and an Urban Search and Rescue team to continue rescue operations, welfare checks, security patrols, road debris clearance, and humanitarian efforts such as handing out cases of water and meals ready to eat (MRE's) to families in need.
- More than 20 FWC officers are providing public safety patrols in response to Santa Fe River flooding in Colombia, Alachua, Gilchrist and Suwannee Counties.
- As a result of the Governor's Executive Order, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) is waiving certain driver license and motor vehicle service fees for individuals impacted by Hurricane Irma.
- FHP continues to provide multiple escorts to the Keys ensure the quick delivery of relief supplies, such as food to local supermarkets, portable toilets, water and resources with the Red Cross. Troopers are assisting utility crews in Collier, Desoto and Lee Counties with security escorts to expedite work restoring power to residents.
- FHP has assigned troopers to assist Monroe County with traffic and crashes.

- FHP has assigned six troopers to report to Key West Police Department to assist with area law enforcement.
- DHSMV has deployed six Florida Licensing on Wheels (FLOW) Mobiles in Naples, Immokalee, Lehigh Acres, Fort Myers and North Fort Myers to provide credentialing services to customers impacted by Irma.

MILITARY SUPPORT

- There are 1,200 Florida National Guard members activated and continuing to assist with recovery efforts across the state.
- Florida Guardsmen are actively operating at Points of Distribution (PODs) throughout Florida to ensure supplies are being quickly provided to those who need them.

SHELTERS

- 45 shelters are open throughout Florida with a total population of more than 3,000 individuals. 12 special needs shelters are open with a total population of 617 individuals. This number is being updated throughout the day. Visit 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. FEMA is also hosting shelter information on its mobile app which can be found at fema.gov/mobile-app.

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS

- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) announced I-75 remains open, as flood waters have been receding on the Santa Fe River.
- U.S. 27, U.S. 41 and State Road 47 at the Santa Fe River are now open.
- Unprecedented river flooding is causing closures and extensive rerouting of traffic nearby roadways. See closures below:
 - SR 31: Flooding in DeSoto on SR-31 south at CR 760A, all lanes blocked. Flooding in Charlotte on SR-31 north beyond Cook Brown Rd, all lanes blocked. Use I-75 and Highway 17 as detour routes.
- Bridge inspections and debris clearance are ongoing throughout the state.
- FDOT debris removal crews have cleared US 1 and has completed bridge inspection on 26 off-system bridges in Monroe County. FDOT is closely coordinating support of debris removal in off-system roads in Monroe County. Local officials will determine when it's safe to reenter Monroe County.
- Governor 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.
- Governor Scott directed the FDOT to suspend tolls across the entire State of Florida in preparation for Hurricane Irma. Tolls will continue to remain suspended as recovery efforts continue.

RECOVERY BRANCH

- An aggressive recovery effort is ongoing, working with FEMA to identify and activate federal grant programs that can benefit Floridians and their communities.
- President Donald Trump's Administration expanded Major Disaster Declaration for Florida requested by Governor Scott includes individual assistance for Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lafayette,

Lake, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Union, and Volusia counties.

- Emergency Protective Measures (Category A and Category B) funded through the Federal Public Assistance Program is available for all 67 counties.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is encouraging individuals and families to be alert for false rumors, scams, identity theft, and fraud. For resources on how to protect yourself and your loved ones from disaster fraud, visit <https://www.fema.gov/hurricane-irma-rumor-control> or call the @FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721.
- Residents who sustained losses in the declared counties can apply for assistance by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov. Residents who suffered damages from the storm may register now, and if their county is later included in the declaration, the application will be processed automatically.
- Residents are also encouraged to download the FEMA App to begin the registration process. Simply click on Disaster Resources.
- If you do not have access to the internet, you may register by calling 1-800-621-3362 (FEMA) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY); if you use 711 Relay or Video Relay Service call 1-800-621-3362.
- The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.
- The first FEMA Disaster Recovery Center has opened in St. Augustine, and more will open in affected communities where survivors can apply for assistance and meet face-to-face with recovery specialists.
 - To find the nearest Disaster Recovery Center visit www.fema.gov/DRC, use the [FEMA App](#) or text DRC and your Zip Code to 43362 (4FEMA).
- FEMA's Operation Blue Roof Program is now available to eligible homeowners impacted by Hurricane Irma. Operation Blue Roof provides a temporary covering of blue plastic sheeting to help reduce further damage to property until permanent repairs can be made. For more information, click [HERE](#).
- Outreach teams from FEMA are canvassing Florida communities affected by Hurricane Irma. The teams are working in federally designated counties to help residents register for disaster assistance and to quickly identify and address immediate and emerging needs. The teams can also provide application updates and referrals to additional community resources for remaining needs. For more information, click [HERE](#).

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL

- Governor Rick Scott is directing Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) Secretary Justin Senior and Florida Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Jeffery Bragg to issue emergency rules to keep Floridians safe in health care facilities during emergencies. Pursuant to the emergency action, within the next 60 days, all assisted living facilities (ALFs) and nursing homes must obtain ample resources, including a generator and the appropriate amount of fuel, to sustain operations and maintain comfortable temperatures for at least 96-hours following a power outage. This is based on standards already in place at all hospitals in Florida. For more information, click [HERE](#)
- The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration and the Florida Department of Health is conducting frequent and vigorous outreach to facilities every day, which includes daily calls with hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. In-person wellness checks are being conducted for facilities when contact cannot be made or any facility that reports distress. See full release [HERE](#).
 - **Assisted Living Facilities:** 118 are utilizing generators, 2,485 have power, 165 have reported as being closed, 195 have reported post-storm evacuations;

- **Nursing Homes:** 25 are utilizing generators, 646 have power, 7 have reported being closed, 27 have reported post-storm evacuations
- **Hospitals:** 1 is utilizing generators, 304 have power, 8 have reported being closed, 8 have reported post-storm evacuations
- See the Governor's statement regarding the tragedy in Broward [HERE](#).
- 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 ensure utility companies restore power to these facilities as quickly as possible.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has activated a program called the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Definitive Care Reimbursement Program to help hospitals and medical facilities providing care to patients affected by Hurricane Irma, more information [HERE](#).
- Up-to-date information on boil water notices is available online [HERE](#).
- Disaster Medical Assistance Teams have been deployed to provide healthcare services to communities in need.
- 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 is urging residents to avoid flood waters. Flood water may contain waste from sewage systems and septic tanks, agricultural and industrial waste and other bacteria. There may also be unseen hazards under the water in areas that received storm surge or freshwater flooding. Flood waters can also mask debris, downed power lines and other hazards.
- 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.
- APD has created a Recovery Toolkit with vital resources for customers, waiver support coordinators, and providers recovering from Hurricane Irma. It is posted on the home page of apdcare.org.
- DCF requested and FNS granted a mass replacement for 40 percent of SNAP benefits to customers approved as of September 10 in affected counties. For more information, visit the [ACCESS Florida webpage](#). DCF is processing the replacement and benefits should be available on EBT cards by September 22.
- DCF requested and FNS granted a waiver of the reporting requirement so that households in counties affected by Hurricane Irma have until September 29 to report SNAP food loss and request replacement of benefits.

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. For more information, visit 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 or text SUNSHINE 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](tel:7549005949) to request a ride. If you are associated with a hospital, shelter, or local government, please email 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.

- Uber is donating \$400,000 of rides, food and relief to families and communities affected as well as first responders. Uber is helping provide free rides across the state to Floridians in need. Call the toll-free number 844-800-9425 to request a ride. Local governments, nonprofits, and organizations with an immediate need can email IrmaRelief@uber.com.
- 15 AmeriCorps members with Volunteer Florida grantee City of Orlando deployed to the Orange County EOC to assist 350 students in need
- 14 AmeriCorps member with Volunteer Florida grantee Polk Reads deployed to the Polk County Volunteer Reception Center to serve Floridians in Central Florida
- In Central Florida, AmeriCorps members from the Heart of Florida United Way volunteered at the 211 Crisis Hotline, answering over 300 calls
- Volunteer Florida Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) of the Villages have served over 300 people in two shelters. In conjunction with the Villages Public Safety Department, 26 CERT members checked on more than 356 homes on 15 streets.
- In Collier County, CERT teams walked door to door and passed out water and tarps and did wellness checks. They are also assisting with POD (Point of Distribution) in an effort to get essentials items into the community.
- In what is the largest response in the history of the Florida Division, the Salvation Army currently has field kitchens located in Ft. Myers, Naples, Miami, northeast Florida, Sebring and Marathon with the capacity to produce 10,000-20,000 meals each. Additionally, 61 Mobile Canteens with the capacity to prepare 1,500 meals a day are currently serving hot meals across the state.
- To date, The Salvation Army Florida Division has prepared and distributed 482,000 meals, drinks, and snacks, and have made 5,000 emotional and spiritual comfort contacts with the support of more than 8,000 volunteer hours.
- To date, more than 34,392 meals have been delivered through the Red Cross.
- 160 Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles are surveying impacted areas in the Keys distributing food to community members.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

- Please visit www.fldoe.org/irma/ to view all school closures.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- 76 Florida State Parks have reopened for day-use only, 91 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>.
- At DEP's request, crews from Tennessee, South Carolina and North Carolina, as well as Miami Dade and Jupiter, have been deployed and are currently working on repairs along the 117-mile main line from Key Largo to Key West.
- DEP continues to coordinate with the EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard to assess facilities and respond to pollution incidents and other storm impacts. More than 450 assessments and inspections have been completed.
- DEP staff have completed initial inspections to document damage to structures and the beach-dune system in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Brevard, St. Lucie, parts of St. Johns, Indian River, Palm Beach, Broward, Dade, Volusia, Flagler, Broward, Miami-Dade, and parts of Sarasota counties. DEP's Beaches Program staff have completed more detailed engineering surveys and damage assessments in the northeast region, and are now in the field in the central, southeast and southwest regions.
- DEP continues to coordinate with US Army Corps of Engineers, FDOT, US Coast Guard, FWC, and FEMA on debris removal statewide. DEP contractors have mobilized to the St. Johns River region. Debris can be reported [here](#).

- Dune and beach fortification activities in St. Johns and Flagler counties that had begun in the week prior to Hurricane Irma have resumed. Fortification efforts in Volusia County were completed. To date, more than 30,000 cubic yards of sand have been placed in these areas.
- 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 expanded that order again to benefit beach fortification and repair efforts.

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

- All South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) pump stations continue 24/7 pumping operations, except for the Okeechobee Field Station area, which has resumed normal operations. Generator and fuel tank level inspections ongoing at all structures, and debris removal operations continue.
- Water managers are continuing to use the S-65A navigation lock at Lake Kissimmee to increase flows to help further lower water levels in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes.
- All structures upstream of Lake Kissimmee are discharging at maximum rates; all SFWMD boat locks on the river remain closed to public recreation to facilitate these operations.
- Water levels in the Big Cypress Basin system in Collier County continue to recede.
- The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) continues to operate water control structures.
- The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is assisting Indian River County lower water levels to mitigate flooding at Blue Cypress Lake.
- The SJRWMD continues to manage flood control structures at the Ocklawaha Basin to protect private residences. This includes closure of the Apopka Dam.
- SJRWMD is assisting the Florida Department of Environmental Protection with debris removal within district boundaries.

BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, & ECONOMIC STABILIZATION

- 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. For more information contact the Florida Small Business Development Center Network (FSBDCN) at 850-898-3489 or email 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 or call 1-800-385-3920.
- The Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center business damage assessment surveying tool has been activated for businesses to report damages resulting from Hurricane Irma. Businesses are encouraged to visit <http://fivbeoc.org/index.php>. Click on Hurricane Irma.
- A private sector hotline is available at (850) 410-1403 to respond to calls from businesses and private sector support organizations.

- The state is working to identify the “open/close” status of businesses. This information is being posted to the SERT Hurricane Irma web page: <http://www.floridadisaster.org/info/> .
- Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association is encouraging lodging operators’ enrollment in the FEMA Transitional Shelter Assistance Program for displaced persons. All lodging operators are encouraged to sign-up at <http://ela.corplodging.com>.
- DEO has received approval by the United States Department of Labor to implement the Disaster Dislocated Worker Program to assist with cleanup and in providing humanitarian assistance.
- DEO and FSBDCN are working with the Small Business Administration (SBA) in the opening of Business Recovery Centers (BRCs). SBA announced the opening of two BRCs in Duval County and Pinellas County on September 18, 2017 to help businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma.
 - The BRC in Duval County will be located at Beaver Street Enterprise Center, 728 Blanche Street, Bldg. 2, Jacksonville, FL
 - the BRC in Pinellas County will be located at EPiCenter-Pinellas County Economic Development Center, 13805 58th Street North, Clearwater, FL.

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.
- Citizens Property Insurance Corporation has opened three Catastrophe Response Centers have across Southern Florida. At these centers, policy holders can file claims, confirm coverage and receive advance payments for additional living expenses when appropriate. For more information, click [HERE](#).

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