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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Gov. Scott Issues Updates on Continued Hurricane Nate Preparedness Efforts**

**NAPLES, Fla.** –This evening, Governor Rick Scott received a full update on Hurricane Nate from the State Emergency Operations Center. Governor Scott also requested that President Donald Trump declare a pre-landfall emergency for the State of Florida to prepare and respond to Hurricane Nate. A pre-landfall declaration will provide important resources and assistance from the federal government and would free up funding sources for emergency protective measures.

The Governor will continue to be in constant communication with state and local emergency management officials, city and county leaders, and utility officials who are also working to ensure the state is prepared to respond to any potential impacts from Hurricane Nate. Thursday, Governor Scott declared a state of emergency in 29 counties within the State of Florida in response to Hurricane Nate.

See below for more information on what the State of Florida is doing to support Hurricane Nate preparedness efforts:

### **EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS BY STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

#### **WATCHES AND WARNINGS**

- Hurricane Watch is in effect for:
  - East of the Alabama/Florida border to the Okaloosa/Walton County Line
- Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for:
  - East of the Alabama/Florida border to Indian Pass Florida
- Storm Surge Warning in effect for:
  - East of the Alabama/Florida border to Okaloosa/Walton County border

#### **EVACUATIONS**

- Escambia County has ordered evacuations for Zones A and B in preparation for potentially dangerous storm surge.

- Santa Rosa County has recommended evacuations for Zone A in preparation for potentially dangerous storm surge. This affects all mobile homes, campgrounds, RV parks, and those living in low-lying areas.
- Click [HERE](#) to find your evacuation zone.
- These evacuations affect roughly 100,000 people.

## **SHELTERS**

- Nine shelters are open in the Florida Panhandle – in Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties. Updated shelter information can be found [here](#).
- The American Red Cross is positioning movements and activities for staff, equipment and Emergency Response Vehicles to support local communities in the North Florida area, if needed.
- The state is working to inventory food and water resources in state contracted warehouses (SCWs) and is preparing to coordinate with the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army on potential feeding needs. Salvation Army has 32 canteens and two field kitchens on standby in Florida.

## **MILITARY SUPPORT**

- Right now, approximately 120 National guard members are actively preparing for disaster operations and support of local Emergency Operations Centers.
- 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**

- The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) continues to monitor traffic and is coordinating with FDOT and local emergency operations centers.
- The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is monitoring the storm and ready to respond as needed with a variety of specialized equipment, including shallow draft bots, ATVs, airboats, and four-wheel drive vehicles.

## **TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS**

- Ports update:
  - Pensacola: Port Closed
  - Panama City: Port Closed
- Pensacola Airport will close and cease all operations at 6 PM today.
- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is monitoring the storm and holding teleconferences with the regional FDOT district offices to ensure local communities are prepared.
- 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, to allow for the possible increase in traffic as motorists evacuate and return home from/to the Florida Panhandle coastline area.
- FDOT will assist first responders with traffic control, detours or road closures, as long as weather permits.
- For the latest closures and updates, travelers can access Florida's 511 service from cell phones, landlines and online at [www.FL511.com](http://www.FL511.com).
- FDOT district office is staging emergency crews and road and bridge inspectors in Pensacola and other areas in Western Panhandle to survey and clear roads as soon as it is safe to do so.

- FDOT is also actively monitoring for roadway flooding in areas already impacted by Hurricane Irma and stands ready to respond as needed.
- 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. Traffic counters are activated from the Florida Alabama line to Tallahassee.

## **POWER AND UTILITIES**

- Utilities have initiated mutual aid personnel to assist in potential recovery efforts with more than 900 restoration personnel ready to assist.
- The state has contacted utilities to put them on notice to start reporting outage and restoration information if needed.
- The state is monitoring the power grid for sufficient power in the state.
- The state is monitoring the natural gas infrastructure for any damages that can cause a loss of service to power plants.

## **FUEL**

- The state is contacting fuel industry partners, such as the Florida Petroleum Council, Florida Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, to prepare for potential storm impacts.
- The state is currently monitoring for fuel assistance requests. At this time, there are no reported supply, distribution, or retail fuel shortages or issues.
- The state has also contacted emergency fuel and equipment provider for status of emergency fuel supply and equipment.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL**

- DOH is standing by to assist with potential needs of healthcare facilities and special needs shelters.
- 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 Public Service Commission (PSC) is working with Health and Medical Services to identify all nursing homes and ALFs that could be affected by possible electric outages.
- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities regional offices have contacted waiver support coordinators, providers, and individuals living in independently to ensure customers are prepared.

## **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**

- VISIT FLORIDA and Expedia will keep the [www.expedia.com/florida](http://www.expedia.com/florida) site activated to provide available lodging information to evacuees and visitors.

- 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](http://www.flvbeoc.org).
- The state has activated the Private Sector Hotline at 850-410-1403, which is available for business inquiries about storm preparedness and response.

## **VOLUNTEER EFFORTS**

- Volunteer Florida is hosting teleconferences with the Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster and emergency management partners to ensure local communities are prepared for the storm.
- Florida Southern Baptists have two mobile kitchens on standby and are researching other state partners for additional resources. 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.

## **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 Hurricane Nate.
- Visit <http://www.floridadisaster.org> to find information on shelters, road closures, and evacuation routes.

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