

## Building Inspectors Needed

Building inspectors are needed to determine the habitability of homes as power is being restored in impacted counties. Currently, there is a need for this service from Gulf and Gadsden counties. The State anticipates the need for additional home inspectors in other affected counties as response continues.

If you are able to provide assistance, please contact the Recovery Desk at 850-815-4910 or 850-815-4909.

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## Debris Removal

To reduce the administrative, operational and financial burdens on counties most impacted by the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Michael, FDOT will assist fiscally-constrained counties with all remaining debris removal and emergency road clearance.

In Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin and Wakulla counties, FDOT is offering, following the county's voluntary request, to take on responsibility for each county's existing pre-storm emergency debris removal contract at the existing approved contract rate. For more information, please [click here](#).

## Resources

[FAC Hurricane Information](#)  
[FloridaDisaster.org](#)  
[GetAPlan.com](#)

State Emergency Assistance  
Line: 1-800-342-3557

[Request for Emergency Declaration](#)  
[Executive Order 18-276](#)  
[Map: Hurricane Michael](#)  
[Power Outages](#)  
[Hurricane Michael Imagery](#)

### Conference Call Numbers:

11:15 AM / 5:15 PM EOC  
Briefing  
(888) 670-3525  
6185782491#

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## Information on County-to-County Mutual Assistance

We appreciate all the assistance being offered by counties across the state. In order to facilitate assistance, please make sure you are following the process outlined below.

For those counties requesting and providing county-to-county assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, the following process should be followed to ensure reimbursement:

- The requesting county should place a mission request in WebEOC for the specific assistance requested.
- One [Form B](#) to the [State-wide Mutual Agreement](#) specifying the type of aid should be completed between the two entities. Section I & III should be completed by the requester, and Section II should be completed by the entity providing assistance. A completed copy of Form B should be provided to Alonna Vinson at [alonna.vinson@em.myflorida.com](mailto:alonna.vinson@em.myflorida.com) and attached to the mission on WebEOC.

## FEMA Assistance

Please see below for status and eligibility information for FEMA programming available to Florida counties affected by Hurricane Michael. For Public Assistance, the federal cost share is 75%, while the state and local cost shares are 12.5%.

### Transitional Sheltering Assistance, Individual Assistance, Public Assistance (Categories A and B):

- Bay County

### Individual Assistance, Public Assistance (Categories A and B):

- Holmes County
- Washington County
- Jackson County
- Calhoun County
- Gulf County
- Gadsden County
- Liberty County
- Franklin County
- Wakulla County
- Taylor County

### Public Assistance (Categories A and B):

- Leon County
- Jefferson County
- Madison County
- Hamilton County
- Suwannee County

### Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- All counties in the State of Florida are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

For various guides and fact sheets regarding procurement, permanent work and private property debris removal related to Hurricane Michael, visit the [FAC Website](#).



# UPDATE YOUR MOBILE NUMBER

## Disaster Declarations

Following Governor Scott's request, President Donald Trump issued a Major Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Michael. See the declaration [HERE](#). On October 7<sup>th</sup>, Governor Scott declared a state of emergency in 26 Florida counties, and expanded it to include 35 counties total on October 8<sup>th</sup>. To see his Emergency Order, click [HERE](#).

Following a request by the Governor, the following counties have been approved for FEMA individual assistance:

- Bay
- Franklin
- Gulf
- Taylor
- Wakulla
- Calhoun
- Liberty
- Jackson
- Gadsden
- Holmes

- Washington

FEMA approved individual assistance for these counties. This means families in these counties will be eligible for individual FEMA assistance.

Governor Scott's request for Transitional Sheltering Assistance has been approved for Bay County, meaning that FEMA will be providing more options for places for families to stay, including hotel rooms. They'll begin accepting applications tomorrow and more information will be announced as soon as possible.

## NACo Resources

As Hurricane Michael has passed, NACo is providing a suite of county-specific natural disaster resources through the NACo Disaster Resilience Toolkit for Counties, available as part of the IBTS Online Help and Advice for Natural Disasters (OnHAND) website.

<https://ibtsonhand.org/naco/>

## Food and Water

The state is working to ensure adequate food resources are available for Florida residents impacted by Hurricane Michael, prioritizing based upon need. Specific activities include the following:

- Law enforcement escorts have been arranged to expedite food and water resources.
- Food and water commodities are being airdropped into the hardest hit counties.
- Approximately 3 million meals ready to eat are prepared and being distributed.
- Approximately 2 million gallons of water are prepared and being distributed.
- Approximately 2 million pounds of ice is prepared and being distributed.
- Emergency Supply Distribution Centers, or Points of Distribution (POD), are places where the public can pick up emergency supplies following a disaster. These sites have food, water, or other critical supplies. Click [HERE](#) for a complete map of POD locations.

## Fuel

- There are no reported widespread fuel shortages.
- Florida SERT made first responder fueling depots available to utility crews across the Panhandle. This helps ensure that utility restoration trucks have the fuel they need so they can restore power faster.
- Approximately 700,000 gallons of fuel is staged to be distributed at 13 fueling stations to support restoration efforts.
- There are currently 82 fueling trucks being used to distribute fuel.

## Communications

- Verizon reports it has been working around the clock on network restoration.
- Verizon has an emergency communications center set up at their Panama City store, located at 411A E. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., open from 10am-5pm.
- Verizon's Big Red Command Trailer has multiple workstations and satellite connectivity and is supporting the Bay County Emergency Operations Center.
- AT&T reports it has been working around the clock, deploying portable cell sites and recovery equipment. AT&T continues to deploy assets and is currently supporting affected areas, including but not limited to Mexico Beach, Apalachicola, Panama City, Blountstown, Port St Joe, Southport, Tyndall Air Force Base and Cypress.

- AT&T has deployed:
  - 32 COWS (Cell on Wheels) and COLTs (Cell on Light Trucks)
  - Seven Emergency Communications Vehicles (ECVs) and Emergency Communications Portables (ECPs)
  - One Hazmat and Mobile Command Center
- More than 2,000 personnel are working to restore cell service and communications in the impacted areas.
- Communications support packages have been dispatched through the Commercial Service Providers and Florida National Guard to Holmes, Liberty, Jackson, Gadsden, Calhoun, Gulf, Franklin, and Washington counties.
- At the direction of Governor Scott, Florida Highway Patrol escorted cellular service provider crews to the affected areas. See the video [HERE](#).
- See more detailed communications efforts [HERE](#).

## Power Restoration

- Prior to Hurricane Michael's impact, Governor Scott called on every local government to immediately confirm their mutual aid agreements between investor-owned utilities, municipals and co-ops are in place and effective so there is no delay in power restoration for Floridians. These agreements allow municipal utilities to receive aid from investor-owned utilities and co-ops as they work to restore power to customers. Without these agreements in place ahead of time, power restoration will be delayed. To view the full list of Florida utilities with agreements in place, click [HERE](#).
- Florida SERT made first responder fueling depots available to utility crews across the Panhandle. This helps ensure that utility restoration trucks have the fuel they need so they can restore power faster.
- Following Governor Scott's offer to each utility in Florida additional push crews to augment the ability of power restoration workers, five utilities have drawn down push crews. Push crews will go in advance of utility crews and clear their paths so the utilities can focus solely on getting power restored.
- Governor Scott directed the Florida Department of Transportation to organize, lead and mobilize push crews to expedite power restoration.
- Approximately 600 generators have been mobilized to impacted counties to bring traffic lights online, which will alleviate the need for law enforcement to direct traffic.
- Governor Scott also requested assistance from Manny Miranda, Florida Power and Light's Senior Vice President of Power Delivery, to advise and assist the state's power restoration efforts. Manny will be traveling to Tallahassee where he will serve as a liaison between the state and FEMA to help provide technical support and assistance.
- The current power outage as of 12 p.m. is 159,700.

## Shelters

- Currently 18 shelters are open with a population of 1,656.
- Visit <https://www.floridadisaster.org/shelter-status/> to find information on shelters in your area. This site is being updated as shelters open throughout the day.
- The Department of Management Services is overseeing the development of a base camp for up to 1,000 first responders and utility workers on the grounds of the Tallahassee Regional Airport along Springhill Road. The camp will include multiple large air-conditioned tents for long-term housing of workers.

## Military Support

- At Governor Scott's direction, the Florida National Guard has authorized the activation of up to 4,000 Soldiers and Airmen to assist with response efforts.

- Through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), the Florida National Guard has coordinated for extra aviation assets from other states. Currently on site in Florida, there are five extra CH-47 Chinook helicopters from the Mississippi, New York, Ohio and Minnesota National Guards to augment our aviation capabilities, as well as six UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the Louisiana, New York, Arkansas and Kansas National Guards.
- The Florida National Guard currently has a total of 3,499 Soldiers and Airmen on orders, along with 66 counterparts from Title 10 and other National Guard states. Joint Task Force-Florida has been tasked with a total of 262 missions including (but not limited to) the following:
  - Conducting 4 search and rescue missions in Bay and Gulf Counties
  - Conducting 7 route clearance missions in Bay and Calhoun counties
  - Conducting 7 security missions in Bay, Liberty, Gulf and Wakulla counties
  - Communications support packages have been dispatched to Gulf, Calhoun, Bay, Franklin, Washington, Liberty and Jackson counties.
  - Guardsmen are currently staffing a total of 12 shelter missions in the following counties - Bay (8), Calhoun (2), Gulf (1) and Holmes (1)
  - Currently staffing 11 county Emergency Operations Centers
  - Supporting 29 Points of Distribution (PODs) throughout 10 counties (Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla and Washington)
  - Operating at the State Logistics Readiness Center (SLRC) in Orlando and various Logistics Staging Areas (LSAs) to ensure that we are able to get supplies quickly to those who need them
  - Our aviation assets are actively conducting missions sets including reconnaissance, search and rescue, Governor support, and an air bridge operation to deliver life-saving supplies to affected areas
  - The 202nd RED HORSE Squadron - a civil engineering unit - has cleared 107 city blocks throughout the affected area

## Law Enforcement

- More than 1,630 law enforcement officers have been deployed to impacted areas in the Panhandle and Big Bend. These officers have completed 126 missions.
- FWC has set up three command posts; one in Marianna, one in Carrabelle and one in Blountstown.
- FWC officers continue performing search and rescue, welfare checks, reconnaissance, public safety missions and assisting with debris removal. This includes two initial waves of officers and support staff. They are providing aid to areas of greatest need in Franklin, Gulf, Calhoun, Liberty, Bay and Jackson counties.
- A third wave of approximately 60 additional officers is currently on standby for deployment to replace the first wave.
- 15 members of FWC's Special Operations Group continue working with the National Guard and Florida Fire Service USAR teams to create highly specialized urban search and rescue units.
- The Florida Highway Patrol has activated Alpha / Bravo for field troops throughout the state. This activation will result in regular days off being cancelled and 24-Hour enhanced coverage.
- The Florida Highway Patrol has 632 state troopers assigned to the Panhandle and Big Bend area of Florida to assist with response and recovery. The Florida Highway Patrol is assisting with emergency management missions throughout the Florida Panhandle.
  - The Florida Highway Patrol is providing security escorts to utility crews, Florida National Guard route clearance teams, communication support responders, as well as numerous other emergency service response units.
  - The Florida Highway Patrol is assisting FDC with perimeter security at affected institutions and escorting FDC buses to secure facilities.
  - The Florida Highway Patrol is providing security escorts to essential commodity



- convoys into Bay County.
- The Florida Highway Patrol is supplementing local law enforcement agency efforts with increased patrol of damaged areas.
- The Florida Highway Patrol is providing traffic control and security at points of deliveries (PODs) for essential commodities.
- The Florida Highway Patrol is assigning 10 state troopers to work with the Panama City Police Department to assist with Law Enforcement Operations.
- The Florida Highway Patrol currently has 24/7 representation within the State Emergency Operations Center coordinating preparation, response and recovery efforts. The Florida Highway Patrol is also staffing numerous County Emergency Operations Centers.
- The Florida Highway Patrol will maintain high visibility on Interstate-10 and other roadways to assist motorists, clear roadways and will routinely check rest areas to assist residents and visitors.
- The Florida Highway Patrol has deployed multiple MRAP's (high clearance recovery vehicles) to perform search and rescue missions and clear roadways in effected areas.
- The Florida Highway Patrol has deployed an aircraft with live streaming capabilities to assess response and recovery needs.
- The Florida Highway Patrol has deployed two small unmanned aerial vehicles with livestreaming capabilities to assess road and bridge response and recovery needs, as well as search and rescue missions.
- DHSMV's Florida Licensing on Wheels (FLOW) mobiles are on standby to deploy three units to Bay County to assist customers impacted by the storm.
- FDLE's Mutual Aid Team is coordinating more than 350 law enforcement missions assisting local agencies after the storm with search and rescue, patrols and traffic enforcement. FDLE is also coordinating escorts of utility companies, food, water, and other critical commodities.
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- FDLE and other statewide law enforcement partners are working at SEOC and in the Pensacola and Tallahassee regions.
- 12 FDLE deployment teams are assisting law enforcement.
- Regional FDLE law enforcement coordination teams (RLECTS) are coordinating with urban search and rescue teams to get into impacted areas.

## Safety and Security

There are more than 1,700 search and rescue personnel deploying to the impacted areas. Including:

- 4 water tender strike teams, fire engine water tankers
- 10 EOC fire liaisons to support EOC's impacted areas
- 20 Urban Search and Rescue teams; to include 7 swift water rescue teams with more than 900 personnel
- 12 fire engine strike teams with 60 fire engines and 300 firefighters
- A Florida Fire Forest Service Incident Management Gold Team;
- 2 TERT (Dispatchers) teams with 9 personnel
- 1 EVT (Vehicle Maintenance) team with 3 people
- 1 Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAV) team of 6 members;
- More than 400 ambulances with more than 700 staff; and
- Four Disaster Medical Assistance teams have been deployed.

## Transportation & Public Works

- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is coordinating with utility companies and search and rescue companies to prioritize cut/toss debris clearance routes.

- 49 Emergency Road Access teams were deployed to ensure access to critical coastal communities
- Portable generators were distributed to provide standby power to critical roadway intersections
- Inspection teams were deployed to review roads and bridges to ensure safety for travel, particularly along US 98. All bridges have been inspected.
- 75 High Water Vehicles, swift water vehicles and air assets are being deployed to provide contingency options for reaching critical areas.
- Governor Scott directed FDOT to suspend tolls effective immediately in the Northwest Florida region. Tolls are suspended at the following facilities: Mid-Bay Bridge and Spence Parkway (Okaloosa County), Garcon Point Bridge (Santa Rosa County), Bob Sikes Toll Bridge (Escambia County), and Orchard Pond Parkway (Leon County).
- FDOT has suspended all construction operations from the roadways in the counties under the state of emergency.
- FDOT is coordinating with the Florida Highway Patrol to reopen bridges and roadways when clear and safe to travel.
- FDOT issued an Emergency Road Use Permit letter to relieve size and weight restrictions for vehicles responding to Hurricane Michael.
- FDOT issued Weigh Station Bypass letter to allow emergency response vehicles such as utility vehicles and bucket trucks to bypass all FDOT weigh stations.
- FDOT is coordinating with Florida's seaports and airports on the status of their operations.
- FDOT is coordinating with utility companies to coordinate post storm clean-up activities.
- FDOT is coordinating with the Florida Highway Patrol on bridge and roadway closures and detours.
- FDOT crews, in coordination with law enforcement, continue to inspect and assess state bridges and roadways.
- FL 511 includes a listing of closed state roadways and bridges at [fl511.com](http://fl511.com). This listing continues to be updated as additional state roads are inspected, opened, or closed and includes updated detour routes.
- US 98 is closed to traffic from the Dupont Bridge in Bay County to the Wakulla County line for road inspection and emergency repairs except for first responders and power/rescue efforts.

## Public Health and Medical

- The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is in contact with healthcare facilities to ensure they have the resources they need.
- Facilities report their evacuation status to the Agency through the Emergency Status System. An updated evacuation report can be found on the AHCA twitter page: [https://twitter.com/AHCA\\_FL](https://twitter.com/AHCA_FL)
- AHCA has activated the Emergency Status System (ESS) for health care facilities in the panhandle to continue to report their ongoing status including generators and utility company information, emergency contacts, and bed availability.
- All nursing homes and assisted living facilities are required to keep residents in a safe environment in an emergency to ensure the protection of resident health, safety, welfare, and comfort.
  - Facilities are required to have a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan approved and on file with the local emergency management agencies.
  - Nursing facilities all have back-up power that can power medical equipment and refrigeration for medicine and food.
  - Additionally, facilities are required to have an emergency power plan in place to ensure that resident occupied area temperatures do not exceed 81 degrees. These plans include onsite generators, delivered generators, or shifting populations to locations that can maintain comfortable temperatures.
  - As part of licensure, facilities are responsible for the health and safety of their

- patients.
- The State is here to serve as a resource to connect facilities to the local emergency management officials to make sure needs are being met.
- The Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) continues communication with directors and emergency coordinators at the affected Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and is working with our partners to resolve unmet need as they are identified.
- DOEA has deployed staff from their Pensacola and Tallahassee CARES Bureau offices to assist at Special Needs Shelters both in Tallahassee and other storm-affected counties. Most CARES staff are RNs, and they are helping with special needs and discharge planning of seniors and others at the Special Needs Shelters.
- DOEA's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program has been working to check on the welfare of all residents of long-term care facilities in the affected region and offer any needed assistance. Many were evacuated in advance of the storm.
- DOEA is also prepping for the Disaster Recover Center Staffing needs and stand ready to deploy and assist.
- US HHS declared a public health emergency in Florida following the storm, which will allow more people to continue to get treatment under Medicaid and Medicare.
- The Florida Department of Health (DOH) is actively communicating with ESF-8 leadership in the counties within the area of operations and supporting county health department (CHD) operations.
- AHCA in coordination with FDOH is in contact with hospitals and other health care facilities within the area of operations to determine operational status and resource needs.
- DOH is monitoring and supporting Special Needs Shelter operations through census reporting and resource support as requested by local emergency operations. 175 nurses and non-clinical support staff have been deployed to augment local special needs shelter staff. Special Needs Shelter populations are decreasing slightly in the affected areas due to a return to normal operations.
- 390 ambulances and 5 multi-patient Ambu Buses and 125 paratransit vehicles are in the area of operations to assist with rescue operations, health care facility evaluations, local EMS augmentation and patient movement.
- 125 FEMA paratransit vehicles are in the area of operations assisting with patient movement.
- A hospital augmentation team from the International Medical Corp has been activated including 50 nurses, two hospital emergency department teams and one hospital augmentation team is supporting one area hospital. Four Disaster Medical Assistance Teams are supporting four area hospitals.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced steps taken to support Florida in response to Hurricane Michael, including:
  - Temporarily waiving or modifying certain Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP requirements,
  - Making special enrollment periods available for certain individuals seeking health plans offered through the Florida Health Insurance Exchange,
  - Helping patients obtain access to life-saving services such as dialysis.
- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) continues to work with waiver support coordinators and providers to ensure the health and safety of the customers the agency serves. Residents of a group home in Bay County have been evacuated to an ADT program in Pensacola.
- APD crews are addressing needs at Sunland Center. Tacachale in Gainesville provided significant aid to Sunland, including staff, generators, chain saws, fuel, small air conditioning units, a large mobile air conditioning unit, tarps, ice, coolers, a Bobcat for debris removal, lumber, nails, extension cords, and more.
- APD's William J. Rish Recreational Park in Gulf County remains closed.
- APD made Hawkins Park in Santa Rosa County available to utility trucks as a staging area if needed.
- Restoration efforts are underway at the Clifford C. Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home in Panama City. Residents are doing well and continuing to receive medical care. All utilities



are operational thanks to a number of operational onsite and portable generators. Diesel fuel delivery made this morning. The facility is awaiting main utility power restoration from Gulf Power. Blue tarp installation continues on the roof. Inside, clean up continues from storm-generated water leaks. Large-scale tree and debris removal was performed today. Director of FDVA's Veterans' Homes Program and key staff are onsite to assist with recovery efforts.

- The following national VA hotlines are available to assist Veterans:
  - Veteran Disaster Hotline: 1-800-507-4571 (24/7 operations)
  - Pharmacy Customer Care: 1-855-574-7288 (8:00 am – 4:30 pm EST)
  - Veterans Benefits Administration Hotline: 1-800-827-1000
  - Vet Center/Counseling: 1-877-WAR-VETS
- The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) is working with courts in Florida Panhandle counties to sign blanket travel approvals for all foster parents who evacuated or whose homes were impacted by Hurricane Michael.
- DCF has ordered an early release of food assistance benefits for those Florida residents in the 35 counties included in the emergency order who would have received normal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits between now and October 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - DCF also waived restrictions on purchasing hot prepared food with SNAP benefits through October 31 statewide to assist customers who evacuated to another area or suffered storm damage to their home.
- DCF is providing additional SNAP benefits for customers in Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla and Washington counties. These benefits will be loaded onto EBT cards by close of business Wednesday. For more information, click [HERE](#).
- A team from FEMA including experts from Homeland Security, the EPA, the Department of Defense, Health and Human Services, and the Army Corps of Engineers is now in Florida and providing federal assistance.

## Environmental Protection

- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has conducted post-storm assessments on high priority facilities. Two emergency final orders have been issued to ensure recovery efforts are not hampered or delayed.
- At DEP's request, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has waived certain federal requirements related to fuel use and distribution so Florida's recovery efforts are not hampered by supply disruptions.
- DEP has activated and continues to closely monitoring StormTracker, a reporting tool for water and waste water facilities to provide updates on their operational status.
- DEP has completed 43 requests and is assisting with 28 additional requests for assistance submitted through Florida's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (FlaWARN), and has made outreach calls to 2,648 facilities to assess needs.
- Hazardous Area Response Teams (HART) completed hazardous waste facility assessments and are currently conducting coastal fuel storage facility assessments and abandoned container identification in the impacted area.
- Beach Surveys have been completed in Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa counties, as well as portions of Gulf County.
- Drinking water and wastewater crews completed on site spot assessments and are conducting field work in the impacted areas.
- DEP is working closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to coordinate disaster debris management.
- The U.S. Coast Guard, in collaboration with EPA, has completed fly overs to assess coastal areas.
- An [online tool](#) for the public to report the location of storm debris in waterways has been deployed; and 293 reports of debris have been received.
- 235 Disaster Debris Management Sites have been pre-authorized for the counties

addressed by the Governor's Executive Order.

- Florida State Parks strike teams are on site to clear debris and assist individuals in impacted state parks. More than 40 state parks have re-opened. Current Florida State Park closures can be found at <https://www.floridastateparks.org/StormUpdates>
- DEP's Florida Park Service has opened areas to dry camp for self-contained rigs – usually parking lots without utility connections - at some state parks for evacuees on a first come, first served basis with waived overnight fees. A list of open parks and contact information to check for availability can be found at <https://www.floridastateparks.org/get-involved/storm-assistance>.

## Business and Industry

- The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has launched the Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to provide short-term, interest-free loans to affected businesses at [www.floridadisasterloan.org](http://www.floridadisasterloan.org).
- Disaster cleanup and other related job openings are now available at <http://disasterrecovery.employflorida.com> for businesses to post job openings and for individuals to find job opportunities.
- DEO has opened the Business Damage Assessment Survey for businesses impacted by Hurricane Michael. Businesses with damage should complete the survey at <https://www.floridadisaster.biz/BusinessDamageAssessments>
- Businesses can also visit [FloridaDisaster.biz](http://FloridaDisaster.biz) to view tips for assessing storm damage and to register to receive updates on storm recovery.
- To help residents and emergency personnel stay connected following the storm, Comcast is opening its network of more than 8,000 Xfinity WiFi hotspots throughout the Florida Panhandle, including Tallahassee, Panama City, Panama City Beach and surrounding areas and the Dothan, Alabama area, to anyone to use for free, including non-Xfinity customers.
- The state has opened the Private Sector Hotline at (850) 815-4925. The hotline is available for business inquiries about the storm, preparedness information and post-impact information.
- VISIT Florida has activated the Expedia/VISIT Florida Hotel Accommodation Web Portal to support evacuation orders. Visit [www.expedia.com/florida](http://www.expedia.com/florida) to find available hotel rooms.
- Airbnb Open Homes is now active in Alabama, Florida and Georgia in response to Hurricane Michael. Visit [www.airbnb.com/HurricaneMichael](http://www.airbnb.com/HurricaneMichael) for open homes.
- The Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association provided thousands of meals to first responders, volunteers and residents in Calhoun, Gadsden, Leon, Liberty and Jackson counties, and well as clean linens to a shelter in Panama City.
- The Florida Retail Federation and the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association continue to share disaster recovery information with their business affiliates.
- The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) offers a Hurricane Guide with information about recovery, and helpful hurricane-related resources. DBPR has shared the Guide on social media and it is available at [http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/documents/HurricaneGuide\\_web.pdf](http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/documents/HurricaneGuide_web.pdf)

## Education

- The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is focused on restoring critical education-related infrastructure, monitoring for unmet needs and assisting districts and state colleges in securing necessary supplies.
- Many schools in impacted areas, as well as Chipola College and Gulf Coast State College, are without power. FDOE is coordinating with the associated utility companies to ensure power is restored to these essential buildings as quickly and safely as possible.
- FDOE is identifying vendors available to provide assistance and connecting them with

impacted school districts and state colleges.

- The following school districts have announced closures:
  - Bay will be closed until further notice. Phone service has been restored and the district is in the process of conducting damage assessment. Lucille Moore Elementary, Bozeman High School, Rosenwald High School and Port St. Joe Elementary School are serving as FEMA distribution sites for food, water, or other supplies. Rutherford High School is serving as a general shelter, and Dean Bozeman High School is serving as a special needs shelter.
  - Calhoun will be closed until further notice. Calhoun County has experienced widespread power loss, and damage is still being assessed. Blountstown High School is serving as a general shelter.
  - Franklin will be closed until further notice. A preliminary damage assessment to all Franklin County schools and the district office is complete. Roads are impassable in many areas of the county, the majority of the county is without power, and some areas are still without water. Apalachicola High School is serving as a FEMA distribution site for food, water, or other supplies.
  - Gadsden will be closed until further notice. The district is still out of power, but is working to remove debris and prepare schools to reopen. FEMA is at Gadsden High School today, October 15, for disaster assistance registration. Greensboro Elementary is a distribution site food, water, or other supplies. Gadsden County High School is serving as a general shelter.
  - Gulf will be closed until further notice. Port St. Joe Elementary School is serving as a general shelter and point of distribution.
  - All schools in Holmes County have power.
  - Jackson will be closed until further notice. Marianna High School is serving as a special needs shelter for Gulf, and Calhoun. Damage assessments on schools have been completed, and contractors have begun work on impacted buildings.
  - Liberty will be closed until further notice. W R Tolar School and Hosford School are serving as general shelters.
  - Washington will be closed until further notice. Chipley High School and Vernon High School are serving as FEMA distribution sites for food, water, or other supplies. Roulhac Middle School is serving as a general shelter, and WAVE School is serving as a special needs shelter. Additionally, schools are housing more than 600 first responders.
- The following state colleges and universities have announced closures:
  - Chipola College will be closed through Friday (10/19).
  - Florida State University's Panama City Campus will be closed until further notice.
  - Gulf Coast State College will be closed until further notice. For up-to-date information on Gulf Coast State College's status, please visit <http://www.gulfcoast.edu/>.
- The Division of Blind Services (DBS) and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) offices listed below are closed until further notice. In the meantime, DBS clients are being directed to the Pensacola office (600 University Office Boulevard), and VR staff has provided clients in impacted areas alternative contact information to receive services.
  - Bay (DVR & DBS): 2505 West 15th Street, Panama City
  - Gadsden (DVR): 305 West Crawford Street, Quincy
  - Jackson (DVR): 4743B Highway 90 East, Marianna
- Many district schools are still operating shelters; for a list of Florida shelters, visit <https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/shelters/>.
- FDOE will be posting up-to-date information regarding closures and meeting cancellations at [www.fldoe.org/hurricaneinfo](http://www.fldoe.org/hurricaneinfo).

## Insurance and Financial Services

- At the Direction of Governor Scott, Insurance Commissioner David 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
- Freezes efforts to increase rates on policyholders for 90 days
- OIR has ordered property insurers to submit claims information from Hurricane Michael on a daily basis for the next two weeks. Additional data calls will be scheduled in the near future.
- Insurance Commissioner David Altmaier and CFO Jimmy Patronis conducted a conference call with representatives of various insurance companies that have policies in force within the regions forecasted to be impacted by Hurricane Michael to ensure those companies:
  - Have resources positioned and available to respond to consumers' needs
  - Assess damage and pay claims quickly
  - Report any challenges or issues as quickly as possible
  - Report claims to the OIR on time and in accordance with the reporting schedule that will be issued later today
- OIR's Incident Management Team remains fully activated and will have representatives at the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee. OIR team members will be actively working throughout the recovery phase with consumer advocates, industry stakeholders and entities licensed under OIR's regulatory authority.
- In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order, OIR has notified all health insurers, managed care organizations and other health entities of their statutory obligation to allow for early prescription refills during a state of emergency.
- The Florida Department of Management Services, Division of State Group Insurance, has arranged for early prescription renewals for members of the state group insurance program.
- The Florida Department of Financial Services' Division of Consumer Services has resources for consumers seeking assistance with the claims-filing process or to file insurance complaints [HERE](#).
- CFO Jimmy Patronis activated his Disaster Fraud Action Strike Team (DFAST) to get ahead of and stop post-storm fraud.
- CFO Jimmy Patronis' Division of Consumer Services has resources for consumers assistance with the claims-filing process or to file insurance complaints [HERE](#).

## State Office Closures

- DMS will stay in contact with all state offices and has asked them to report closures in WebEOC.
- Open Enrollment will begin Monday at 8 a.m. ET as scheduled. State employees can log in at that time to People First to begin making benefit choices. Due to storm response logistics, the benefit fair scheduled Monday at the Betty Easley Center is cancelled. All others are still on.

## FAC Office Available for Work

**FAC OFFICE IS AVAILABLE - The FAC office is your office**

The FAC office is online and at your disposal should you need space to work from in the days and weeks to come. Please contact FAC Executive Director, Ginger Delegal, at (850) 294-9295 to coordinate.

# Volunteer Efforts

- Volunteer Florida's Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) has deployed to Bay County, where they will be assisting with shelter operations in order to relived Florida National Gard to respond to other assignments.
- Today, another CERT team will begin preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) in Leon County. Other CERT teams throughout the state are on standby, prepared to mobilize upon Volunteer Florida's direction.
- As the state's lead agency for coordinating volunteers and donations before, during and after disasters, Volunteer Florida has established resources for individuals and groups who would like to support Floridians affected by Hurricane Michael.
- Tarps from FEMA were sent to logistical staging areas (LSAs), and Volunteer Florida is coordinating with partners to have them there to help with tarping.
  - These include Team Rubicon, AmeriCorps, All Hands and Hearts – Smart Response, Operation Blessing, Florida Baptist Disaster Relief, International Orthodox Christian Church, NECHAMA – Jewish Response to Disaster and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
- Volunteer Florida's 38 Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) partners, including Habitat for Humanity and Team Rubicon, are still engaged in response and recovery activities.
- A 100-person team of AmeriCorps members will arrive in Tallahassee on Wednesday to be briefed before deploying to affected areas throughout the Panhandle.
- Volunteer Florida has joined a task-force to help establish comfort centers at shelters throughout the panhandle. This will include bringing games and other activities to the shelters to entertain children and help them feel safe during the displacement period.
- Volunteer Florida also continues to share updates about volunteer registration and donating to the Florida Disaster Fund via the Volunteer Florida website.
- Governor Rick Scott activated the [Florida Disaster Fund](#) to support individuals who are impacted by Hurricane Michael. 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.
- The Salvation Army is working with state and local emergency management throughout the Florida Panhandle.
- The Salvation Army has 43 mobile feeding kitchens committed to serve in locations throughout Panama City, Tallahassee and surrounding areas. Each unit can serve 500-1,500 meals per day.
- 31 Salvation Army mobile feeding units (canteens) have been deployed to Panama City and the surrounding area, including: Panama City Beach, Callaway, Lynn Haven, Mexico Beach, Wewahitchka, and Apalachicola. The Panama City Incident Command has been established at: 1824 W 15th St., 32401.
- In partnership with The Salvation Army, Operation BBQ Relief is serving meals at 7160 US 98, Panama City Beach, 32407, and providing meals for distribution through mobile feeding kitchens.
- The Salvation Army has deployed a personnel support unit to Panama City as well as shower trailer to support staff and volunteers that are providing services.
- 11 Salvation Army mobile feeding units are serving meals throughout impacted areas in Leon County, Wakulla County, Franklin County, and Gadsden County. These mobile feeding units are supported by a partnership between The Salvation Army and Operation BBQ Relief based in Tallahassee.
- As of October 13, The Salvation Army has provided 24,649 meals, 25,024 drinks, 20,113 snacks, and 6,197 hours of service.
- Red Cross has 690 disaster relief workers in the affected counties with an additional 200 on the way.



# Hurricane Relief Efforts

Beside assistance from your emergency management departments, work with your communities to coordinate donation drop off centers at fire house, county offices, or houses of workshop for supplies to be deliver to those directly impacted by Hurricane Michael. They are in need of: non-perishable packaged or canned goods, disinfectants, flashlights, batteries, first aid kits, snack foods, or paper products.

These donated goods or financial donations should be coordinated through Volunteer Florida.

For commodity donations, email: [HurricaneMichael@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:HurricaneMichael@volunteerflorida.org)

For donations: [volunteerflorida.org](http://volunteerflorida.org)

## State Emergency Operation Center/Contacts

- The State Emergency Operations Center remains activated at a level one, which is a full-scale, 24-hours-a-day activation.
  - 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 Michael.
  - Visit <http://www.floridadisaster.org/info> to find information on shelters, road closures, and evacuation routes.
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- El número de contacto de la Línea de Información de Asistencia Estatal (SAIL) es 1-800-342-3557.
  - La línea de Prensa del Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia Estatal es: 850-921-0217
  - Siga a @FLSert o @FLGovScott en Twitter para obtener actualizaciones en vivo sobre el Huracán Michael.
  - Visite <http://www.floridadisaster.org/info> para encontrar información sobre refugios, cierres de carreteras y rutas de evacuación.
  - Para español, busque el ícono de Google en la parte superior de la página, haga clic en el menú desplegable y seleccione español.

## All Call for Local Heroes

We want to highlight local heroes! Send us your photos and videos of your county in action before, during and after the storm. Please send to [jlaxner@flcounties.com](mailto:jlaxner@flcounties.com).

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Florida Association of Counties

100 S. Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32301

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