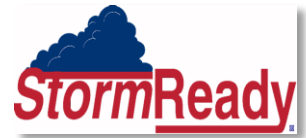




**Highlands County
Emergency Management
Emergency Operations Center
Advisory**



1. EOC Advisory #: 26	2. Incident Name: Hurricane Irma	3. Date: 09/15/2017	4. Time: 1000 HRS
5. EOC Statement			

HIGHLANDS COUNTY EOC IS AT A LEVEL 1 ACTIVATION

POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION

There will be a Point of Distribution site managed by Highlands County BCC employees with the assistance of the Florida National Guard, opening today September 15, 2017, to provide Water and Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm. We will provide 2 case of water and 1 case of MRE's per vehicle.

Highlands County Health Department (parking lot)
7205 South George Blvd
Sebring, FL 33875

Old Winn-Dixie Parking Lot
70 Plaza Avenue
Lake Placid, FL 33852

South Florida State College
600 West College Drive
Avon Park, FL. 33825

FEMA INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

Individuals in highlands County are now eligible for FEMA assistance please apply at <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>

Register with FEMA as soon as possible. If you preregistered with FEMA, you do not have to apply again. If you have phone and/or internet access, you may register:

- Online at DisasterAssistance.gov, or
- On the FEMA Mobile App, or by
- Calling 800-621-3362 (FEMA). Applicants who use 711 or Video Relay Service may also call 800-621-3362. People who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call 800-462-7585.
- The toll-free numbers are open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET, seven days a week.
- Multilingual operators are available. Press 2 for Spanish and press 3 for other languages.



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The County has also set 2 locations to facilitate the application process:

Firemen's Field (Fairgrounds)
681 Magnolia Ave.
Sebring, FL. 33870
8:30am until 5:00pm. (9-15-17 and 9-16-17)

Sebring Public Library
319 W. Center Ave.,
Sebring, FL 33870
Phone: (863) 402-6716

Hours:
Friday and Saturday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Tuesday to Thursday 10:30 am - 6:30 pm
Closed Sunday and Monday.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

For informational updates text "HCIRMA" to 888777.

For information please call 863-385-1112.

Current shelter population is 127.

We now have 14527 customers with power. There is no power to approximately 75% of county residents.

The Board of County Commissioners extended the emergency declaration for another week, they have also waived landfill tipping fees for yard debris until Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

There is a curfew in place from midnight until 7:00 am.

GARBAGE AND DEBRIS

Garbage collection is on its regular pick-up schedule. Please have carts to the roadside by 7:00 am.

Recyclables will not be picked up this week, service will resume next week.

Storm debris cleanup will begin Saturday, 9-15-17 in some of the hardest hit areas. Cleanup crews will be working 7 days per week to remove storm debris from the public rights-of-ways.



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Make sure to separate vegetative debris from construction debris and place piles away from any obstructions such as phone boxes, mail boxes telephone poles, etc. as the contractors will be using mechanical equipment to load the material. There are no requirements for bundling or size limitations.

It is very important not to place debris in bags.

ROAD CLOSURES

We have many roads closed because of water and many closed because of downed power lines. Crews are diligently working on repairs.

SAFETY INFORMATION

All Emergency calls dial 9-1-1

Please handle all non-working traffic lights as a four way stop.

Precautionary boil water notice for the City of Sebring and the Town of Lake Placid is in place.

There are many trees and power lines down, as well as debris on the road.

Using a Generator at Home

The primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire. Follow the directions supplied with the generator. (Learn more about carbon monoxide poisoning.)

To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry and do not use in rain or wet conditions. Operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure, such as under a tarp held up on poles. Do not touch the generator with wet hands.

Be sure to turn the generator off and let it cool down before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

Store fuel for the generator in an approved safety can. Use the type of fuel recommended in the instructions or on the label on the generator.

Local laws may restrict the amount of fuel you may store, or the storage location. Ask your local fire department.



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Plug appliances directly into the generator, or use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Check that the entire cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet. Known as "backfeeding," this practice puts utility workers, your neighbors and your household at risk of electrocution.

Remember, even a properly connected portable generator can become overloaded, resulting in overheating or generator failure. Be sure to read the instructions.

If necessary, stagger the operating times for various equipment to prevent overloads.

Prevent Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area.

Keep these devices outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.

Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO buildup in the home. Although CO can't be seen or smelled, it can rapidly lead to full incapacitation and death. Even if you cannot smell exhaust fumes, you may still be exposed to CO. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air RIGHT AWAY - DO NOT DELAY.

Install CO alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide.

Test the batteries frequently and replace when needed.

If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door.

Call for help from the fresh air location and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you

Store the fuel outside of living areas in a locked shed or other protected area. To guard against accidental fire, do not store it near a fuel-burning appliance, such as a natural gas water heater in a garage.



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GOVERNMENT AND OFFICE CLOSURES

School Closures

Highlands County Schools will be closed Monday, September 18, 2017 and Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

Government Office Closures

Board of County Commissioners offices will open Today, September 15, 2017

Supervisor of Elections Offices will reopen Today, September 15, 2017

Tax Collector Offices will reopen Today, September 15, 2017 Only the Sebring Office.

Clerk of Courts / Court House will reopen Monday, September 18, 2017

Property Appraiser Office will open Monday, September 18, 2017