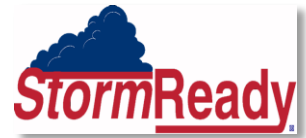




**Highlands County
Emergency Management
Emergency Operations Center
Advisory**



1. EOC Advisory #: 52	2. Incident Name: Hurricane Irma	3. Date: 10/12/2017	4. Time: 1000HRS
5. EOC Statement			

HIGHLANDS COUNTY EOC IS AT A LEVEL 2 ACTIVATION

FEMA DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER (DRC)

Please be patient as lines have remained long for this process.

The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) located at the Bert J Harris Agri-Civic Center, 4509 George Blvd, Sebring, FL 33875 in Conference Room 3.

Individuals in highlands County may also register for FEMA assistance 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.

BLUE ROOF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

You must apply in person.

This program will close on Friday, October 13, 2017.

Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are now available from **8 a.m. to 6 p.m.** at the Bert J Harris Agri-Civic Center, 4509 George Blvd, Sebring, FL 33875 in Conference Room 2.

DISASTER FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

OCTOBER 14 - OCTOBER 16

TIME: 7AM - 6PM

**LOCATION: Highlands News-Sun Center, 781 Magnolia Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870
THE HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN CENTER IS THE ONLY LOCATION FOR THIS PROGRAM.**



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



DCF in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture will implement the Food for Florida Disaster Food Assistance Program (D-SNAP) in Highlands County. You can apply ahead of time to reduce wait times once the program is onsite by visiting: www.myfloridafamilies.com/FFF

To qualify for the Food for Florida Disaster Food Assistance program, applicants must have lived or worked in one of the counties declared for FEMA Individual Assistance on September 5, and not be receiving food assistance through the regular Food Assistance Program. Additionally, eligible individuals and families must have suffered a disaster-related loss, such as damage to their homes or self-employment property, loss of food, reduction or loss of income, or have incurred other disaster related expenses. DCF will provide or mail Electronic Benefits Transfer cards to eligible individuals and families to use at authorized USDA food retailers. The program counts only income and expenses from September 5 through October 4, 2017.

Individuals are encouraged to apply online prior to visiting the Food for Florida (D-SNAP) site. Online registration is available on the Food for Florida website. Be sure to attend the Food for Florida (D-SNAP) site in your home or work county. Attending the designated site in your county can help reduce wait times and allow smoother and safer operations. There is no funding limitation for this program, therefore there is no urgency for individuals to travel to sites outside of their county of residence. In addition, one individual per household should visit the site when applying.

CRISIS CLEANUP HOTLINE

Please note that once you are registered with Crisis Cleanup it does not guarantee that you will receive service. Also, due to the impact of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma resources are taking longer to deploy and provide services. Please be patient.

You can call 1-800-451-1954 or 844-965-1386 to be placed on a list.

Information is protected so the public can not see names, addresses, and phone numbers. Only trusted relief agencies can access Crisis Cleanup's information that is collected.

If your case is in Crisis Cleanup, it is not a guarantee you'll be helped, but you won't be forgotten. You can ask for your Crisis Cleanup case number, which is a letter and a number, to check on your status at a later time.



Highlands County
Emergency Management
Emergency Operations Center
Advisory



INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

For Emergency Calls please dial 9-1-1.

For Storm Debris questions - 863-402-6877.

For Roadway concerns or issues - 863-402-6529.

Price Gouging Hotline – 1-866-966-7226

FEMA – 800-621-3362

GARBAGE AND DEBRIS

It is very important not to place debris in bags. Debris placed in bags will be collected by the regular hauler on your scheduled day/week for yard debris.

Landfill Tipping Fees

At the Sept 19 BOCC meeting the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners voted to extend the waiver of tipping fees for residential customers (not commercial) for storm debris classified as yard waste and for Construction and Demolition (C&D) material until October 17th, 2017. Any other waste classified as Class 1 garbage material will still be charged the normal tipping fees (\$45) per ton. Yard waste and C&D material brought in by commercial contractors or coming from commercial sites will be charged normal tipping fees (\$25/Ton)

Storm Debris Cleanup

Crews will be working County wide to pick up storm related debris from the public right-of-way. This includes the municipalities of Avon Park, Sebring, and Lake Placid. This material must be in the public right-of-way and must not have originated from commercial, industrial, or agricultural property. Debris from these areas should be brought to the Highlands County Landfill or other approved facility for disposal.

This cleanup effort will continue 7 days per week for the next 60-90 days until the right-of-way and public areas are cleaned up. They will be making approximately 3 passes through each area over this time but residents are encouraged to bring their storm related vegetative debris or C&D debris to the road right-of-way for pickup as early as possible. **There are no set schedules of when they will be in a particular area yet as we are still adding more crews daily to the effort.**

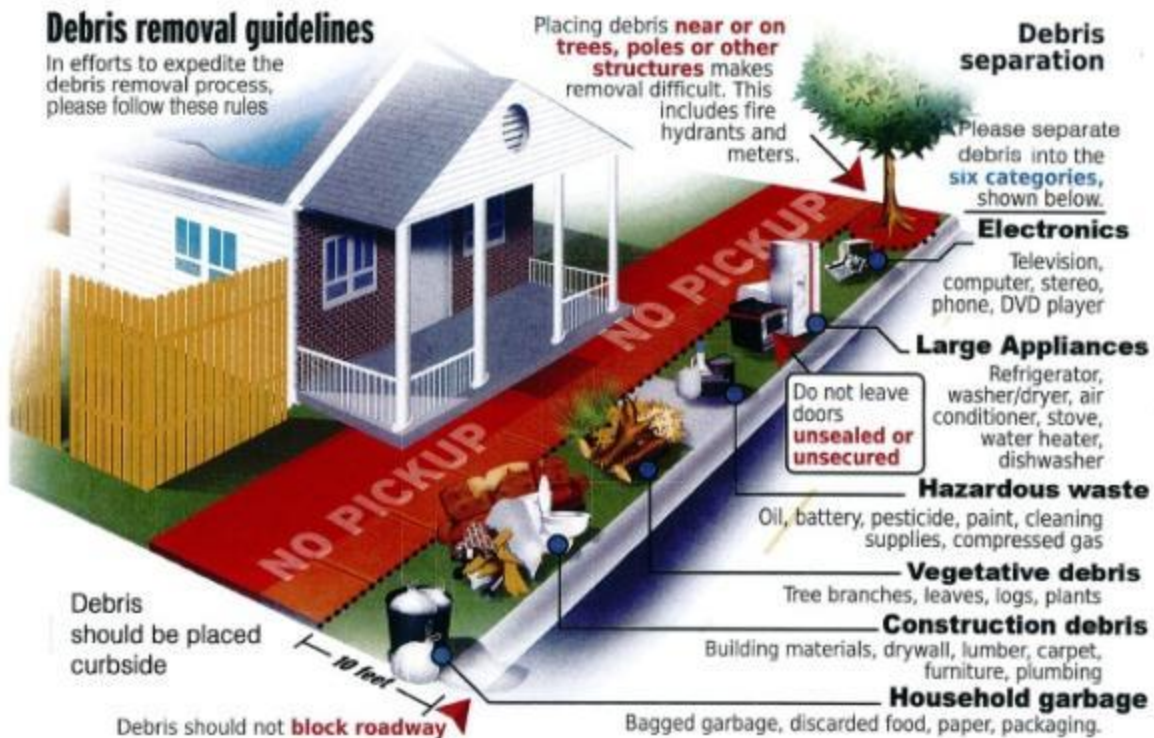
The debris must be placed in separate piles of natural vegetative material and C&D materials. Treated lumber such as that used on docks and fences are considered C&D and should not be mixed with the vegetative material. Vegetative material may not be placed in plastic bags for this pickup service. This material will be burned and no non-organic materials will be allowed in this material.



Highlands County
Emergency Management
Emergency Operations Center
Advisory



- Debris should be placed roadside, not in the roadways, ditches, or on sidewalks. Debris located within ditches or swales may cause drainage issues.
- Do not place storm debris over or near any structures or items that could be damaged by equipment (telephone boxes, power poles, mail boxes, storm drains, water meters, ect.). Also do not place piles under tree limbs or other vertical obstructions.
- Please avoid areas where collection activities are occurring. Equipment being used can be very dangerous and has many blind spots so stay away!



For questions concerning storm debris please call 863-402-6877.

HOUSING

Florida residents who have been displaced by Hurricane Irma may search for available housing using FloridaHousingSearch.org.

Property owners and managers, you can help by adding and/or updating listing of available units. Login now, or call toll-free 1-877-428-8844 for assistance.



Highlands County
Emergency Management
Emergency Operations Center
Advisory



SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DISASTER LOANS

To apply visit <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela> or call 1-800-659-2955.

Physical Disaster Loans:

To Individuals - low interest loans to allow for the repair or replacement of a primary residence and contents that are damaged or destroyed in a disaster. Limits to homeowners are up to \$200k for the home itself, and up to \$40k for contents (including cars). Limits for renters are up to \$40k for contents (including cars)

To Businesses – low interest loans of up to \$2 million to cover disaster losses due to disaster. Funds may not be used to upgrade or expand the business, except as may be required by building codes.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans:

To Small Businesses – Small businesses who cannot obtain credit elsewhere may apply for low interest loans available up to \$2 million in order for the business to be able to meet financial obligations that otherwise would ordinarily have been met had the disaster not taken place. This is designed to be working capital to allow the business to survive until normal operations resume.

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available to Florida businesses and residents whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted as a result of Hurricane Irma.

DUA is available from weeks of unemployment beginning September 10, 2017 until March 17, 2018, as long as the individual's unemployment continues to be a result of the disaster. To file a DUA claim go to <http://www.floridajobs.org/> or call 1-800-385-3920. Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to assist claimants. For DUA claims information, call 1-800-204-2418 and choose option 2 to speak to a customer service representative.