



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland
Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Congressional Affairs Division
Telephone: 202-646-4500

Congressional Affairs Advisory

**Safety Should Be Top Priority For Survivors, Only Return Home
When Safe**

October 15, 2018

Top Safety Messages for the Public

- **Stay safe.** Return home only if you are told it is safe by local officials. As you clear debris please look carefully around the debris for any visible cables. If you see any cables, wait for professional help. Power cables can kill easily.
- **Be strong.** Focus on your specific needs and take care of one another. Shelters are providing information, charging stations, and connection to assistance from federal, state, and voluntary agencies. They also have communications support so you can contact loved ones and let them know you're safe.
- **Start cleaning up.** Photograph/video damages before you start cleaning up. Contact your insurance company to file a claim.
- **Never forget – CASH IS BEST!** It's critical that the right resources get where they're needed most. A financial contribution to one of the over 80 voluntary and faith-based organizations operating in the impacted area will speed recovery and help survivors.



Federal & State Assistance to Impacted Areas

19 Disaster Support Assistance Teams deployed to provide support to Florida shelters mobilized to the affected area. More than 28,000 individuals and households in Florida have contacted FEMA for help and information, including for disaster assistance and referrals to federal, state, and voluntary agency sources of disaster assistance.

Sixteen different states are supporting more than 35 operational missions through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact with more than 460 people deployed.

Safety and Security

FEMA US&R

To date, FEMA search and rescue teams completed 110 evacuations, 61 assists, 15,287 shelter in place checks, 1,055 animal assists, and 16,827 structural assessments.

U. S. Coast Guard (USCG)

USCG completed 355 assistances/rescues and one animal rescue in Florida.

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) has provided personnel and equipment from the U.S. Department of Defense to assist in response efforts. DoD moved personnel and cargo in the affected areas, is providing rotary wing aircraft, swift water boats and rescue personnel. DoD assets mobilized for assignment include; 19 rotary wing assets, six fixed wing, 17 swift water vessels, and up to 80 high-water-vehicles.

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

NOAA law enforcement has provided a quick response team to the Atlanta staging area to support force protection and site security for search and rescue missions.

National Guard Bureau

Florida has resourced more than 50 missions for National Guardsmen that include search & rescue, liaison, engineer, route clearance and POD support for 30 locations as well as 12 shelter support missions.



Food, Water, Sheltering Status

The American Red Cross has mobilized more than 1,200 trained disaster workers to support relief efforts across the three states and is

working with partners serving tens of thousands of hot meals each day.

The Salvation Army mobilized 48 mobile feeding units with a combined service capacity of 72,000 daily meals. Additionally, the Salvation Army is supporting various shelters throughout the impacted area. Salvation Army has mobilized 21 mobile feeding units (canteens) in Georgia with the capacity to serve 30,000 meals per day.

Florida Baptist activated four kitchens with total capacity of 170,000 meals per day. In Florida, 21 mobile feeding units (canteens) on standby to provide a combined total meal capacity of 40,500 per day. Operation Barbeque Relief began meal delivery in Panama City this weekend with two field kitchens, with a total meal capacity of 30,000 meals per day. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief opened a kitchen with 20,000 meals per day capacity.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted aerial assessments to assess the need for a temporary roof mission in Florida.

USDA launched a disaster assistance website Farmers.gov that helps producers identify personalized results of which USDA disaster assistance programs can help them recover after a natural disaster.

At the state's request, FEMA has released almost 3 million meals and more than 3.5 million liters of water to Florida to supplement local resources.

In Georgia, to fill state requests, FEMA has transferred more than 1.5 million meals to the state.

Health and Medical Support

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

[U.S. Health and Human](#)

What is EPAP?

The Emergency Prescription Assistance Program or EPAP, was created to help people in a disaster who don't have health insurance so they have access to:

- Prescription medicine
- Medical equipment
- Medical Supplies
- Vaccinations

To get help, call the EPAP enrollment hotline at 1-855-793-7470

[Services](#) (HHS) has eight Disaster Assistance Medical Teams (DMATs) are engaged across Blountstown, Fort Walton Beach, Panama City, and Tallahassee.

HHS has 308 ground ambulances and 125 para-transit members to support patient transport in Florida. Five mobile medical strike teams are engaged across Florida in medical missions and 911 services. To assist four largest hospitals in meeting local needs for emergency medical services, the HHS National Disaster Medical System set up temporary medical bases of operation at Bay Medical Center - Sacred Heart Health System, Calhoun Liberty Hospital in Blountstown, Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center in Panama City, and Fort Walton Beach Medical Center in Fort Walton Beach. HHS Disaster Medical Assistance Team personnel are augmenting local emergency department staff at those hospitals.

A behavioral health team of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers is providing disaster behavioral health support for hospital staff, emergency responders and community members in severely impacted areas. The HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration made the Disaster Distress Helpline available to assist residents in the impacted area in coping with the stress caused by Michael. To connect with a trained crisis counselor, call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 (for Spanish, press 2 or text Hablanos to 66746).



Energy
(Power and Fuel)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) District Emergency Operations Centers are activated in Alabama,

Florida and Georgia. 90 USACE personnel are on the ground to assess and install generators as requested by Florida; 85 generators are onsite across Florida and Georgia.

U.S. Department of Energy

The Department of Energy (DOE) responders deployed to the Regional Response Coordination Center, the Florida and Georgia State Emergency Operations Centers. Industry activated its mutual assistance network, and more than 35,000 workers from 26 states, including the six impacted, have begun work to restore power. DOE is closely monitoring the availability of fuel and temporary power needs across the Southeast.

Private Sector Energy Partners

Electric utility fleets are moving from the following states to support power restoration efforts: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Illinois, Louisiana and Pennsylvania, as well as the six impacted states.

Communications

Thirteen FEMA [Mobile Emergency Response Support](#) units are supporting secure and non-secure voice, video and information services to support emergency response communications needs throughout affected areas.

The [Federal Communications](#)

[Commission](#) created a [dedicated webpage](#) for information about Hurricane Michael, including tips for communicating during an emergency.



Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) [interactive web mapping application](#) provides real-time situational awareness of transportation infrastructure and road closures in the affected area. The DOT Routing Assistance Hotline to support the movement of federal, state and local personnel, equipment and goods during the response to Hurricane Michael. State road maintenance crews throughout the affected regions are partnering with utility, medical and search and rescue teams to clear critical access routes.

Hazardous Waste

The Environmental Protection Agency identified priority oil and chemical facilities and sites that might require assessment.

Disaster Declarations

Major Disaster Declarations

- On Oct. 14, President Trump declared a Major Disaster for the state of **Georgia** as a result of Hurricane Michael. This declaration makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Baker, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Miller, and Seminole counties. Federal funding is also available to the state, tribal and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work damaged by Hurricane Michael in Baker, Bleckley, Burke, Calhoun, Colquitt, Crisp, Decatur, Dodge, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Emanuel, Grady, Houston, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Laurens, Lee, Macon, Miller, Mitchell, Pulaski, Seminole, Sumter, Terrell, Thomas, Treutlen, Turner, Wilcox, and Worth Counties for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B),

including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance. This is in addition to the Oct. 9 [emergency declaration](#) for 107 counties.

- Individuals and business owners who sustained losses in the designated area can visit [disasterassistance.gov](#) to check eligibility for federal, state, local, and voluntary organizations in their community that best meet their specific needs.
- Survivors without internet access can check their eligibility for disaster assistance by calling 1-800-621-3362 (Multilingual operators are available press 2 for Spanish).
- Disaster assistance applicants who use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service, call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

On Oct. 11, President Trump declared a [Major Disaster](#) for the state of **Florida** as a result of Hurricane Michael. This declaration makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Taylor, Wakulla, and Washington counties. Federal funding is also available to the state, tribal and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work damaged by Hurricane Michael in Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla, Washington counties. This is in addition to the Oct. 9 [emergency declaration](#) for 35 counties.

- Individuals and business owners who sustained losses in the designated area can visit [disasterassistance.gov](#) to check eligibility for federal, state, local, and voluntary organizations in their community that best meet their specific needs.
- Survivors without internet access can check their eligibility for disaster assistance by calling 1-800-621-3362 (Multilingual operators are available press 2 for Spanish).
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Emergency Disaster Declarations

- At Gov. Ivey's request, President Trump declared an emergency declaration Oct. 12 for [Alabama](#) which provides funding to supplement state, tribal and local response efforts ahead of Hurricane Michael.



Additional Resources

For more information on Hurricane Michael, please visit www.fema.gov/hurricane-michael.

Please see attached Lifeline Potential Impacts and Actions.

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA's Congressional Affairs Division at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov.

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Please help support FEMA's mission of "Helping people before, during and after disasters."

Download the FEMA App to locate and get directions to open shelters across the state, and receive weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.

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at www.fema.gov/blog, [www.twitter.com/fema](https://twitter.com/fema), www.facebook.com/fema and www.youtube.com/fema. Also, follow Administrator Brock Long's activities at https://twitter.com/fema_brock. The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.

The 2018-2022 Strategic Plan creates a shared vision for the field of emergency management and sets an ambitious, yet achievable, path forward to unify and further professionalize emergency management across the country. We invite all of our stakeholders and partners to also adopt these priorities and join us in building a stronger Agency and a more prepared and resilient Nation.



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