



Highlands County
Emergency Management
Emergency Operations Center
Advisory



1. EOC Advisory #: 41	2. Incident Name: Hurricane Irma	3. Date: 09/22/2017	4. Time: 0800HRS
5. EOC Statement			

HIGHLANDS COUNTY EOC IS AT A LEVEL 2 ACTIVATION

BLUE ROOF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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. **You must apply in person.**

For more information on the program visit <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2004/10/02/operation-blue-roof>

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 4 locations to facilitate the application process:

Mobile Site
4509 S. George Blvd.
Sebring, FL 33870

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

Lake Placid Library
205 W. Interlake Blvd.
Lake Placid, FL 33852
Phone: (863) 699-3705

Avon Park Library
100 N Museum Ave
Avon Park, FL 33825
Phone: 863-452-3803

Hours:
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Please be patient as lines have remained long for this process. Remember that you can complete this process by phone or the website as well.

Once you have registered, you have 12 months to let FEMA know if your insurance coverage was not enough and you want to be considered for help.

If you have registered with other organizations, you still need to register with FEMA if you want to be considered for FEMA assistance.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

For Emergency Calls please dial 9-1-1.

Current shelter population is 21.

There is **no power** to approximately 2% 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 26, 2017.



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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 has begun 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.

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.

Debris placed in bags will be collected by the regular hauler on your scheduled day/week for yard debris.

ROAD CLOSURES

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

ALERT TO PRIVATE WELL OWNERS

The Florida Department of Health in Highlands County advises residents living in homes with private wells affected by flood waters to take precautions against disease-causing organisms that may make their water unsafe to drink. **Do not use water from your well until any flood waters around it have receded and your water has been tested.**

To know if your water is safe, **have your water tested by a certified laboratory** for coliform bacteria. To find a certified laboratory, visit the following website: <https://fideploc.dep.state.fl.us/aams/index.asp>), or contact the environmental health office in Sebring at 863-402-6550.

You will need to pick up a water testing kit and instructions at the environmental health office at 501 South Commerce Avenue in Sebring. During this emergency, no fee will be charged for testing.

For further information, go to <http://www.floridahealth.gov/> or contact the Environmental Health Division in Sebring at 863-402-6550.