



The Briefing – Friday Afternoon September 30 –2022

The last Briefing was Friday Morning – September 30 - 2022

How are you?

- *Our office has been reaching out to folks around the state to find out how you doing? If you are inclined to send a short message on your status we would appreciate hearing from you.*
- *We are also engaging in discussions as to the best way for counties to share resources. At this time, communities that have resources that they can send to impacted areas should work through the Local Emergency Operations Center and they will work through established procedures with the State EOC and Local EOC's to determine where the resources can best be utilized.*

Hurricane Updates and Resources

Florida Division of Emergency Management at floridadisaster.org
National Hurricane Center at nhc.noaa.gov

Resources for Individuals:

- **FEMA** -FEMA's role is to help communities prepare for and recover from disasters. Find information specific to Hurricane Ian on FEMA's website [HERE](#), by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-FEMA (800-621-3362), or registering online at DisasterAssistance.gov.
- **National Flood Insurance Program** -FEMA's **National Flood Insurance Program** (NFIP) policyholders are encouraged to apply for FEMA disaster assistance in addition to their flood insurance claim. Policyholders impacted by Hurricane Ian are encouraged to contact their insurance agents as soon as possible for more information about filing a claim. Get more details about filing a claim [HERE](#), or reach NFIP assistance directly [HERE](#), or by calling 1-877-336-2627. *Once starting a claim, FEMA suggests documenting all damage, including photos and videos, recording serial numbers and securing receipts. FEMA also recommends policyholders should take steps to stop the spread of mold if safe to do so.*
- **Citizens Property Insurance** -**Citizens Property Insurance** is urging policyholders to contact them as soon as possible in the wake of Hurricane Ian. Citizens representatives can be reached online [HERE](#), or by calling 1-866-411-2742. Additionally, Citizens is warning policyholders to be wary of unlicensed contractors and "deals that sound too good to be true." Policyholders are discouraged from signing anything before consulting with an insurance agent. Citizens policyholders can report suspected fraud online [HERE](#), or by calling 1-855-748-9596.
- **U.S. Housing and Urban Development** -The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) also offers disaster recovery assistance following Presidentially-declared disasters. Read more from HUD [HERE](#).

Resources for Businesses:

- **U.S. Small Business Administration** -Following a Presidential Disaster Declaration, the **U.S. Small Business Administration** (SBA) provides low-interest disaster loans to help businesses and homeowners recover from declared disasters.
- **Florida Department of Economic Opportunity** -The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity’s website **floridadisaster.biz** provides information about preparing, responding to and recovering from a disaster. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) activated the **Business Damage Assessment Survey** in response to Hurricane Ian. Survey responses will allow the state to expedite Hurricane Ian recovery efforts by gathering data and assessing the needs of affected businesses.

Additional Resources:

- **Food and Water:** Floridians in need of food and water can find a nearby point of distribution location **HERE**. Storms can affect public water treatment plants, water lines and private wells—citizens affected by the storms must err on the side of caution until their water is tested. Learn about Boil Water Notices from the Florida Department of Health **HERE**.
- **Medications:** Early prescription refills are permitted during a state-declared State of Emergency. Learn more from the Florida Department of Health **HERE**.
- **National Disaster Distress Hotline:** Health and Human Services and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has a National Disaster Distress Hotline (800-985-5990), video conference is available for the deaf or hard of hearing **HERE**.
- **Shelter:** Shelters are currently open and available, and locations can be found **HERE**, or through the American Red Cross **HERE**, or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
- **Mental Health Resources:** If you are in need of support through any disaster, crisis or circumstance, please reach out. Florida 211 connects individuals to local helpline call centers that have crisis counselors for disaster recovery and can provide information on access to local resources such as housing, food and health care. **Connect by phone 24/7 by dialing: 2-1-1.** Also, the American Red Cross **Disaster Distress Helpline** is a national helpline that provides crisis support services for individuals in emotional distress that are impacted by disaster. **Connect by phone 24/7 by calling or texting 1-800-985-5990.**
- **Price Gouging Hotline:** Florida Attorney General Moody’s **Price Gouging Hotline** remains open for Floridians statewide to report instances of severe price increases on essential commodities needed to prepare for the storm. Florida’s price gouging law only applies to commodities and services essential to preparing for, or recovering from, a storm during a declared state of emergency. If you feel you have been a victim of price gouging, report online **HERE**, by calling 1-866-9NO-SCAM, or by downloading the NO SCAM app.
- **Report on people that Sheltered in Place:** Provide critical information to first responders regarding individuals who have made the decision to shelter in place. This information can help first responders address the needs of impacted households as quickly as possible. Learn more **HERE**.

Website Links

[Small County Coalition Website](#)

[Small School District Council Consortium Website](#)