

*Standards
for
Hurricane
Evacuation
Shelter
Selection*



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Least-Risk Decision Making

Safety is the primary consideration for the American Red Cross in selecting hurricane evacuation shelters. When anticipated demands for hurricane evacuation shelter spaces exceed existing capacity as defined by the preceding standards, there may be a need to utilize less preferred facilities. It is critical that shelter selection decisions be made carefully and in consultation with local emergency management and public safety officials. This process should include the following considerations:

- No hurricane evacuation shelter should be located in an evacuation zone for obvious safety reasons. All hurricane evacuation shelters should be located outside of Category 4 storm surge inundation zones. Certain exceptions may be necessary, but only if there is a high degree of confidence that the level of wind, rain, and surge activities will not surpass established shelter safety margins.
- When a potential hurricane evacuation shelter is located in a flood zone, it is important to consider its viability. By comparing elevations of sites with FIRMs, one can determine if the shelter and a major means of egress are in any danger of flooding. Zone AH (within the 100-year flood plain and puddling of 1-3 feet expected) necessitates a closer look at the use of a particular facility as a sheltering location. Zones B, C, and D may allow some flexibility. It is essential that elevations be carefully checked to avoid unnecessary problems.
- In the absence of certification or review by a structural engineer, any building selected for use as a hurricane evacuation shelter must be in compliance with all local building and fire codes. Certain exceptions may be necessary, but only after evaluation of each facility, using the aforementioned building safety criteria.
- The Red Cross uses the planning guideline of 40-square feet of space per shelter resident. During hurricane conditions, on a short-term basis, shelter space requirements may be reduced. Ideally, this requirement should be determined using no less than 15 square feet per person. Adequate space must be set aside for registration, health services, and safety and fire considerations. Disaster Health Services areas should still be planned using a 40-square feet per person calculation. On a long-term recovery basis, shelter space requirements should follow guidelines established in ARC 3041, *Mass Care: Preparedness and Operations*.

Hurricane Evacuation Shelter Selection Process

General procedures for investigating the suitability of a building or facility for use as a hurricane evacuation shelter are as follows:

- Identify viable sites. Evacuation and transportation route models must be considered.
- Complete a risk assessment on each viable site. Gather all pertinent data from SLOSH and/or SPLASH (storm surge), FIRM (flood hazard) models; determine the facility base elevation; and obtain hazardous materials information and previous studies concerning each building's suitability.
- Have a structural engineer evaluate the facility and rate its ability to withstand wind loads according to ASCE 7-98 or ANSI A58 (1982) structural design criteria.
- Inspect the facility and complete a *Red Cross Facility Survey* (ARC Form 6564) and a *Self-Inspection Work Sheet/Off Premises Liability Checklist*, in accordance with ARC 3041. Note all potential liabilities and the type of construction. Consider the facility as a whole. One weak section may seriously jeopardize the integrity of the building.

Increasing Shelter Inventory

An annual review of all approved hurricane evacuation shelters is required. Facility improvements, additions, or deterioration may change the suitability of a selected facility as a hurricane evacuation shelter. Facility enhancements may also enable previously unacceptable facilities to be used as hurricane evacuation shelters.

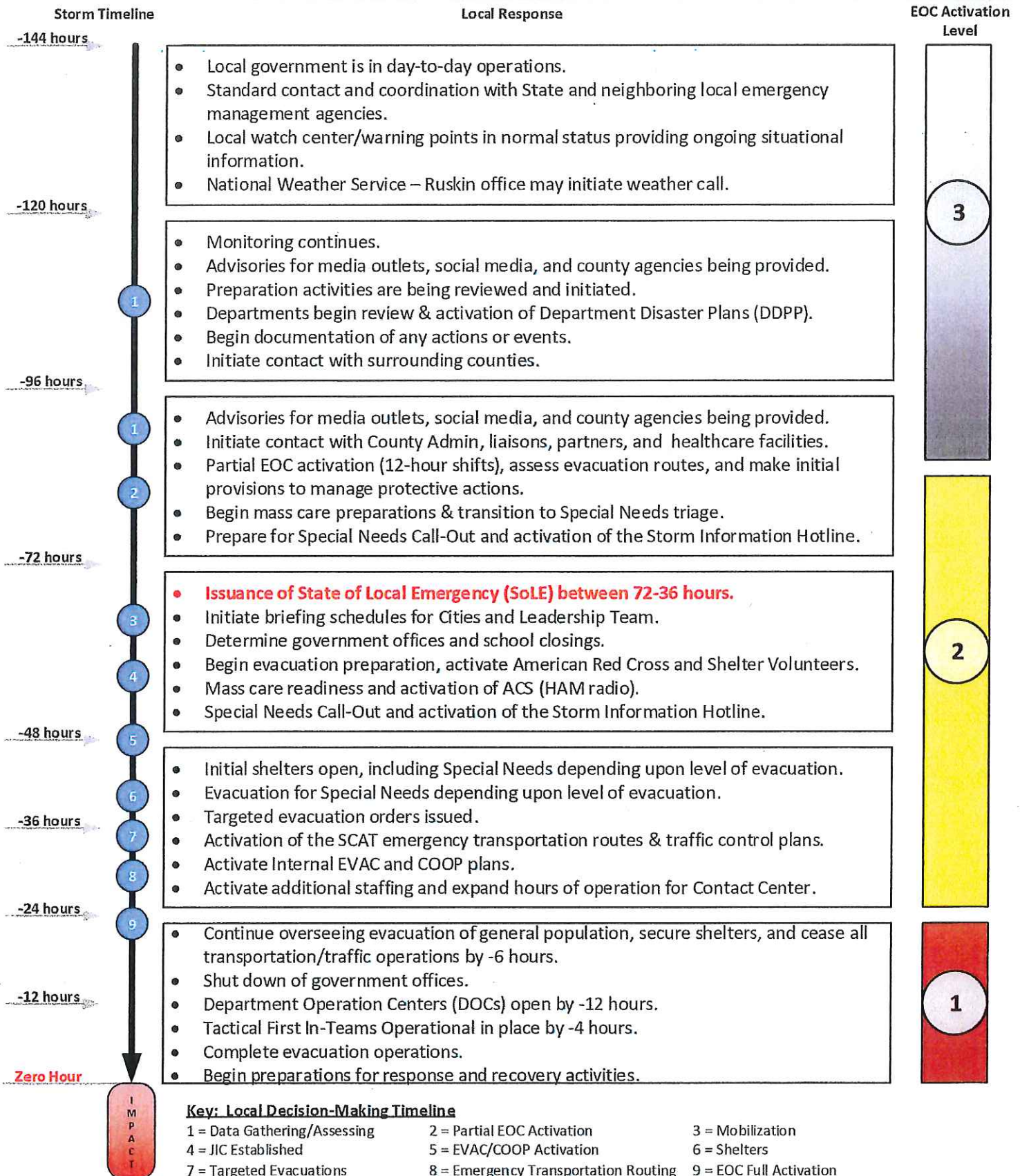
Work with officials, facility managers, and school districts on mitigation opportunities. Continue to advocate that the building program for new public buildings, such as schools, should include provisions to make them more resilient to possible wind damage. Suggest minor modifications of municipal, community, or school buildings, such as the addition of hurricane shutters, while buildings are being planned. Such modifications will make them useful as hurricane evacuation shelters.

Finally, add any new shelters to chapter shelter system and disaster response plans. Share shelter information with local emergency planning partners and the state lead chapter for Disaster Services for inclusion in state disaster response plans.



Tropical Cyclone Decision Making Timeline for Senior Officials

8/25/2015



Hurricane Irma Timeline:

- **Monday, September 4, 2017 (144 Hours):**
 - FDEM Initiated preliminary briefing at 11:15 am regarding Hurricane Irma
 - National Weather Service (NWS Ruskin) provided email briefing regarding storm (12:00 pm)
 - Contact, notification, and coordination began with partners regarding Hurricane Irma throughout afternoon and evening
 - Sarasota County departments notified of potential storm with direction to initiate Department Disaster Plans (DDPP) at the 120 hour mark starting 07:00, September 5, 2017
- **Tuesday, September 5, 2017 (120 Hours):**
 - Daily Conference calls with State continues at 11:15 & 5:15 (continued throughout event)
 - Sarasota County Command & General Staff Meeting held at EOC at 11:00
 - Sarasota County departments begin completion of DDPP at 120 – 96 hour mark. Continuous throughout incident with daily status reports of benchmarks to EOC
 - Dissemination of information/advisories for Hurricane Irma begins through all media outlets including social media
 - NWS Ruskin continues email briefings
 - Situation Reports provided and coordination continued with cities and partners
 - EM notifies health care facilities and ALFs with guidance on approaching storm
 - Began regional coordination call with neighboring counties: 4:00 pm
- **Wednesday, September 6, 2017 (96 Hours):**
 - Emergency Operations Center moved to Level 2 Activation
 - NWS Ruskin moved to daily webinars 1:00 & 7:00 pm
 - Command & General Staff Planning Meeting 09:00 (Continuous throughout incident)
 - Daily Executive Policy Group Meetings initiated (12:00)
 - City, County, Constitutional Leadership Conf. Calls initiated (1:00)
 - Sandbag Operations initiated for residents. Supported request to provide sandbags to various cities and partners
 - Initial decisions on government hours of operations prior to landfall. School closures announced for Friday, September 8, 2017.
 - Initial press conference with County Administrator, Sheriff, School Dist. Superintendent, and EM Chief. (Discussed school closures, preparations, and advisories)
 - Initiated emergency contracts for shelter operations
 - Code Red notification to PSN registrants advising storm approach and expectations for shelter activation/callout
 - Contact Center operations extended to 8:00 pm. Continuous throughout incident
- **Thursday, September 7, 2017 (72 hours):**
 - Incident Actions Plans initiated for EOC operations
 - Executive Policy Group Meeting (10:00) Continuous through incident
 - City, County, Constitutional Leadership Conf. Call (City Managers & leadership at EOC) (11:00) Continuous throughout incident

- City of Venice makes decision to open and manage shelter at Venice Community Center. County Emergency Management advises dangers based upon potential impact. Requests any shelter resource needs be placed in Web EOC.
- County initiates Declaration of State of Emergency (coordinated with Cities as possible)
- Press conference County Administrator, City Managers, Sheriff, School Superintendent, and EM Chief (Discuss storm track, initiation of SOE, and protective actions)
- EM and School District provide Just In Time Training for all shelter managers and school principals to ensure team preparedness for shelter operations
- EM and Health Department provide Just In Time Training for all PSN phone bank operators in advance of activation
- Initiated Shelter Operations through request from State to support potential evacuees from South Florida. Opened Brookside Middle School.
- Initiated contract for IMT support in Planning Section to augment needed staffing
- EOC to Level I activation supporting shelter operations and storm prep. (Continuous throughout incident)
- **Friday, September 8, 2017 (48 hours):**
 - Initial Voluntary Evacuation for Zone A, barrier islands, low lying areas, and manufactured homes initiated at 8:00am
 - PSN Phone Bank and callouts begun at 08:00 for transportation to start 9/9/17
 - 3 shelters opened at 10:00 am:
 - Booker High
 - Woodland Middle
 - Atwater Elementary
 - HAM Radio operations initiated at EOC and shelters
 - Initiated Disaster Catering contract through Emergency Procurement to begin Saturday afternoon throughout lockdown and after impact
 - Initiated Debris Management Plan and implemented debris management contracts
 - Mandatory Evacuation Orders initiated for Zone A, barrier islands, low lying areas, and manufactured homes at 12:00 with barrier island evacuations to be complete by 8:00 pm. Saturday, September 10, 2017.
 - Press Conference held to announce evacuations, shelter openings, updated storm track, and protective actions
 - Initiated SCAT Emergency Transit Routing to support move of residents to shelters
 - Request by Charlotte County to support PSN sheltering within 24 hours
- **Saturday, September 9, 2017 (24 hours):**
 - PSN Transit Operations initiated at 08:00
 - PSN Shelters Opened
 - Tatum Ridge Elementary
 - Cranberry Elementary
 - LaMarque Elementary

- 4 Additional General Population Shelters opened at 10:00 am:
 - Southside
 - Philippi Shores
 - North Port High School
 - Heron Creek Middle School
- Executive Policy Group discussed initiating Curfew at 8:00 pm. for barrier islands following the completion of evacuation.
- County, City, Constitutional Leadership meeting also discussed Curfews. Final policy decision was to NOT implement curfew until after the storm and known impacts. Bridges to barrier islands guarded by law enforcement until winds exceeded 45 mph
- 2 additional shelters opened based upon demand for additional space:
 - Riverview High School
 - Gulf Gate Elementary
 - Total population of all shelters to include PSN at impact is almost 20,000
- Voluntary Evacuation ordered for Zone B at 12:00 pm.
- Department Operating Centers (DOC) set-up and ready for activation by 8:00 pm.
- Tactical First-In Teams in place and ready for deployment post storm by 8:00 pm
- Multiple resource requests placed in EM Constellation for USAR teams, and strike teams for post storm response. Base of Operations identified and approved by the State for resource processing post storm
- EOC placed on Lockdown at 12:00 based upon potential impacts early in am. All day shift personnel required to be in EOC by lockdown.
- **Sunday, September 10, 2017, (Impact, approximately 4:00 pm)**
 - Additional Executive Policy Group Meeting added 10:00 am and 9:00 pm.
 - Additional County, City, Constitutional Leadership Meeting added 11:00 am & 9:30 pm.
 - Presidential Pre-landfall Disaster Declaration made for Florida to include Sarasota County
 - Executive Policy Group reviewed and implemented policy as needed for Post Storm Actions to include:
 - Re-Entry action plan
 - TFIT Response plan
 - First-Push for primary roads
 - Debris plan and resource needs
 - Shelter Demobilization plan
 - Damage Assessment plan
 - All emergency response operations suspended at approximately 4:00 pm as winds exceeded 45 mph.
- **Monday, September 11, 2017 (Move to Post Impact)**
 - Winds subside to below 45 mph at approximately 1:30 am.
 - Decision made to deploy TFIT Teams and Emergency Response prior to sunrise and response begins at 1:30 am
 - All 911 emergency call requests in queue are answered by 3:00 am.

- TFIT teams push through primary roadways by sunrise to include initial review of barrier islands.
- EOC provides process to all shelter managers on demobilization process at 6:00 am.
- Southern barrier islands from Manasota to Siesta by 8:30 am.
- Longboat Key remains closed to reentry until approximately 4:00 pm.
- Shelters are cleared for citizens to leave and demob by 8:30 am.
- Extensive communications push begins on safety information related to storm damage and response by County
- FPL estimates 218,000 customers without power. Restoration begins for Critical Infrastructure
- Damage Assessment Teams deployed to assess all Critical Infrastructure
- County Departments implement internal damage assessment processes
- Damage Assessment begins for initial windshield assessments across county
- County, City, Constitutional Leadership Meetings held with additional decisions made on government hours of operations for remainder of week.
- County government identifies move to open government on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 as possible based upon power
- Ashbritt Debris Contractor identifies that they do not have capacity to provide support to County for debris hauling.
- Crowder Gulf identifies capacity issues but begins process to bring subcontractors into the County.

Florida Statute 252.38 Emergency management powers of political subdivisions.

252.38 - Safeguarding the life and property of its citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state.

(1) COUNTIES.—

(a) In order to provide effective and orderly governmental control and coordination of emergency operations in emergencies within the scope of ss. 252.31-252.90, each county within this state shall be within the jurisdiction of, and served by, the division. Except as otherwise provided in ss. 252.31-252.90, each local emergency management agency shall have jurisdiction over and serve an entire county. Unless part of an interjurisdictional emergency management agreement entered into pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) which is recognized by the Governor by executive order or rule, each county must establish and maintain such an emergency management agency and shall develop a county emergency management plan and program that is coordinated and consistent with the state comprehensive emergency management plan and program. Counties that are part of an interjurisdictional emergency management agreement entered into pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) which is recognized by the Governor by executive order or rule shall cooperatively develop an emergency management plan and program that is coordinated and consistent with the state comprehensive emergency management plan and program.

(b) Each county emergency management agency created and established pursuant to ss. 252.31-252.90 shall have a director. The director must meet the minimum training and education qualifications established in a job description approved by the county. The director shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners or the chief administrative officer of the county, as described in chapter 125 or the county charter, if applicable, to serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority, in conformance with applicable resolutions, ordinances, and laws. A county constitutional officer, or an employee of a county constitutional officer, may be appointed as director following prior notification to the division. Each board of county commissioners shall promptly inform the division of the appointment of the director and other personnel. Each director has direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and operation of the county emergency management agency. The director shall coordinate emergency management activities, services, and programs within the county and shall serve as liaison to the division and other local emergency management agencies and organizations.

Florida Statute 252.38 Emergency management powers of political subdivisions.

(c) Each county emergency management agency shall perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of the county within which it is organized and, in addition, shall conduct such activities outside its territorial limits as are required pursuant to ss. 252.31-252.90 and in accordance with state and county emergency management plans and mutual aid agreements. Counties shall serve as liaison for and coordinator of municipalities' requests for state and federal assistance during post disaster emergency operations.

(d) During a declared state or local emergency and upon the request of the director of a local emergency management agency, the district school board or school boards in the affected area shall participate in emergency management by providing facilities and necessary personnel to staff such facilities. Each school board providing transportation assistance in an emergency evacuation shall coordinate the use of its vehicles and personnel with the local emergency management agency.

(e) County emergency management agencies may charge and collect fees for the review of emergency management plans on behalf of external agencies and institutions. Fees must be reasonable and may not exceed the cost of providing a review of emergency management plans in accordance with fee schedules established by the division.

(2) MUNICIPALITIES.—Legally constituted municipalities are authorized and encouraged to create municipal emergency management programs. Municipal emergency management programs shall coordinate their activities with those of the county emergency management agency. Municipalities without emergency management programs shall be served by their respective county agencies. If a municipality elects to establish an emergency management program, it must comply with all laws, rules, and requirements applicable to county emergency management agencies. Each municipal emergency management plan must be consistent with and subject to the applicable county emergency management plan. In addition, each municipality must coordinate requests for state or federal emergency response assistance with its county. This requirement does not apply to requests for reimbursement under federal public disaster assistance programs.

(3) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POWERS; POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—

(a) In carrying out the provisions of ss. 252.31-252.90, each political subdivision shall have the power and authority:

Florida Statute 252.38 Emergency management powers of political subdivisions.

1. To appropriate and expend funds; make contracts; obtain and distribute equipment, materials, and supplies for emergency management purposes; provide for the health and safety of persons and property, including emergency assistance to the victims of any emergency; and direct and coordinate the development of emergency management plans and programs in accordance with the policies and plans set by the federal and state emergency management agencies.
2. To appoint, employ, remove, or provide, with or without compensation, coordinators, rescue teams, fire and police personnel, and other emergency management workers.
3. To establish, as necessary, a primary and one or more secondary emergency operating centers to provide continuity of government and direction and control of emergency operations.
4. To assign and make available for duty the offices and agencies of the political subdivision, including the employees, property, or equipment thereof relating to firefighting, engineering, rescue, health, medical and related services, police, transportation, construction, and similar items or services for emergency operation purposes, as the primary emergency management forces of the political subdivision for employment within or outside the political limits of the subdivision.
5. To request state assistance or invoke emergency-related mutual-aid assistance by declaring a state of local emergency in the event of an emergency affecting only one political subdivision. The duration of each state of emergency declared locally is limited to 7 days; it may be extended, as necessary, in 7-day increments. Further, the political subdivision has the power and authority to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the political subdivision by law pertaining to:
 - a. Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.
 - b. Entering into contracts.
 - c. Incurring obligations.
 - d. Employment of permanent and temporary workers.
 - e. Utilization of volunteer workers.
 - f. Rental of equipment.
 - g. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities.

Florida Statute 252.38 Emergency management powers of political subdivisions.

h. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

(b) Upon the request of two or more adjoining counties, or if the Governor finds that two or more adjoining counties would be better served by an interjurisdictional arrangement than by maintaining separate emergency management agencies and services, the Governor may delineate by executive order or rule an interjurisdictional area adequate to plan for, prevent, mitigate, or respond to emergencies in such area and may direct steps to be taken as necessary, including the creation of an interjurisdictional relationship, a joint emergency plan, a provision for mutual aid, or an area organization for emergency planning and services. A finding of the Governor pursuant to this paragraph shall be based on one or more factors related to the difficulty of maintaining an efficient and effective emergency prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery system on a unijurisdictional basis, such as:

1. Small or sparse population.
2. Limitations on public financial resources severe enough to make maintenance of a separate emergency management agency and services unreasonably burdensome.
3. Unusual vulnerability to emergencies as evidenced by a past history of emergencies, topographical features, drainage characteristics, emergency potential, and presence of emergency-prone facilities or operations.
4. The interrelated character of the counties in a multicounty area.
5. Other relevant conditions or circumstances.

FASTFACTS | Hurricane Irma

After Action Review



APPROXIMATELY 300,000 CUBIC YARDS of vegetative storm debris was collected after the storm. That's 40 times the size of the Goodyear Blimp.

2,500
Cubic Yards

2,500 cubic yards of **DEBRIS WERE COLLECTED IN TWO DAYS** immediately after the storm, which is the average amount collected in a week.

MORE THAN 78 TRUCKS helped clear vegetative storm debris daily.



The hauling capacity for the trucks collecting storm debris ranged from **14 CUBIC YARDS TO 87 CUBIC YARDS** (depending on the size of the vehicle).

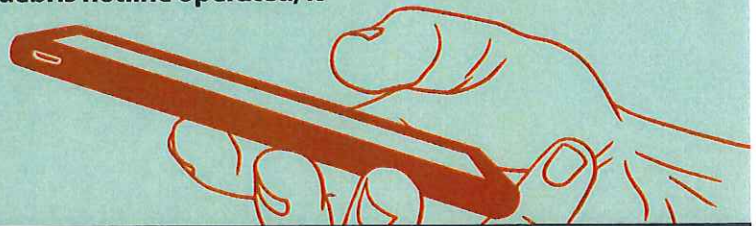


The county collected **9,825 LOADS OF DEBRIS.**

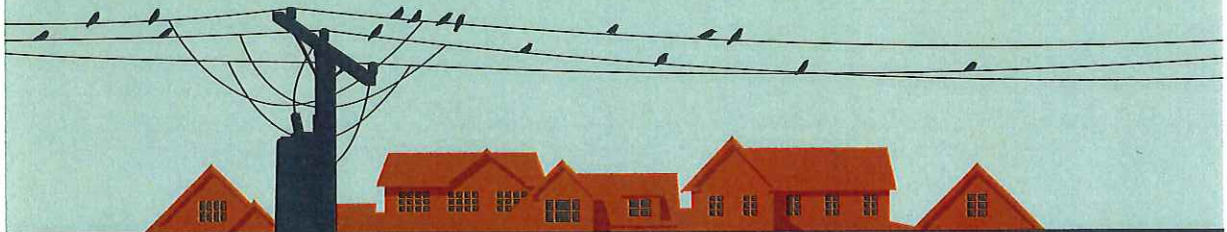


For the **85 DAYS** the storm debris hotline operated, it received 5,554 calls.

5,554



169 RESIDENTS took advantage of Sunday landfill hours between Sept. 17 and Oct. 1.



218,840 – the number of properties that lost power after the storm.

452 properties experienced some level of **DAMAGE FROM HURRICANE IRMA.**

452



But wait, there's more:

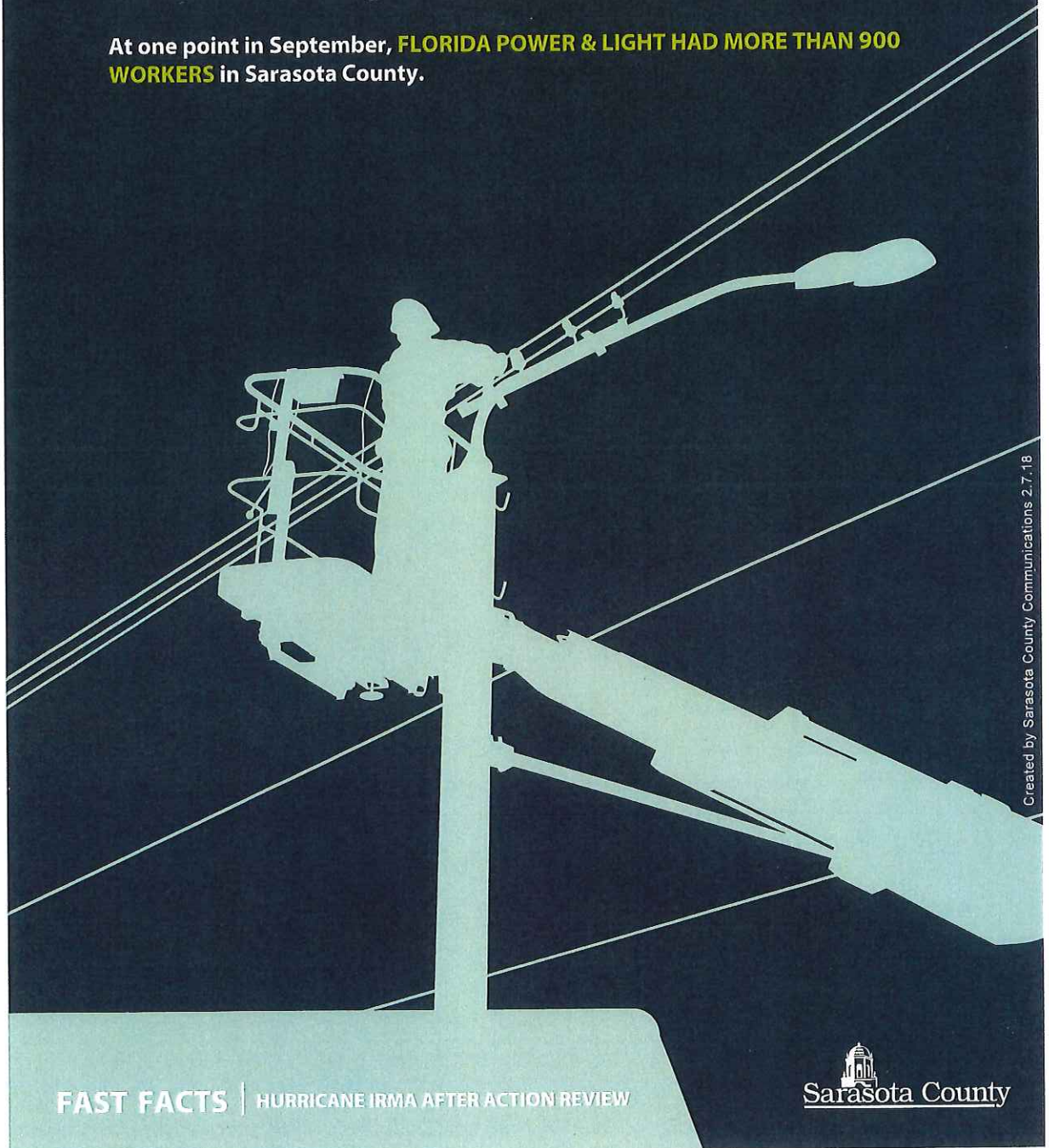
Guess how many cubic yards of storm debris the local municipalities collected...

- Town of Longboat Key: **10,920**
- City of Venice: **1,120**
- City of Sarasota: **64,000**
- City of North Port: **51,471**

Sarasota County has **847 LINEAR MILES OF PRIVATE ROADWAYS** that require Right of Entry forms be signed for **EVERY STORM** debris collection.

Emergency Services processed **MORE THAN 9,200 FEMA DAILY LOGS** for Hurricane Irma, recording a total of **64,167 TOTAL HOURS WORKED**.

At one point in September, **FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT HAD MORE THAN 900 WORKERS** in Sarasota County.



Created by Sarasota County Communications 2.7.18

W. Craig Fugate

Former Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency



W. Craig Fugate served as President Barack Obama's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator from 2009-17.

Fugate led FEMA through multiple record-breaking disaster years and oversaw the federal government's response to major events such as the Joplin and Moore tornadoes, Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Matthew, and the 2016 Louisiana flooding.

During his tenure, Fugate focused not only on restoring FEMA's response capabilities but on promoting emergency management as a community and shared responsibility. Fugate instituted a permanent effort to build the nation's capacity to stabilize a catastrophic event within 72 hours. He drove completion of presidential policy on national preparedness and implemented the National Preparedness System to build unity of effort to address the nation's most significant risks.

Under Fugate's leadership, FEMA fostered a balanced, community-oriented approach to emergency management that builds sustainable and resilient communities before and after disaster strikes. Fugate oversaw a dramatic increase in online registration for federal disaster assistance through a streamlined, single front-door portal. He also directed the creation of a FEMA app that enables FEMA response efforts through public reporting functionality, supports individuals and families with preparedness tips and hazard alerts, and helps survivors access FEMA assistance when disaster strikes.

From 2001-09, he served as Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's emergency management director. In 2004, Fugate managed the largest federal disaster response in Florida history as four major hurricanes - Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne - impacted the state in quick succession. In 2005, Florida was again impacted by major disasters when three more hurricanes - Dennis, Katrina, and Wilma - made landfall in the state.

Under Fugate's stewardship, Florida's emergency management program became the first statewide program in the nation to receive full accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

In 2016, Fugate received the National Emergency Management Association's Lacy E. Suiter Award for lifetime achievements and contributions in the field of emergency management.

Fugate and his wife Sheree hail from Gainesville, Fla.

Jonathan Lord

Emergency Management Chief

Emergency Management, Flagler County

Jonathan Lord joined Flagler County in January 2018 as Emergency Management Chief, following two and a half years as the Deputy Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. He has worked in the public safety field since 1993, serving in progressively responsible emergency management roles within Florida starting in 2004.

Lord's experience in emergency management includes a variety of roles at the county level, including serving as the Division/Deputy Director of the Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management. During his time in state and local emergency management, he served in various leadership roles, including Deputy State Coordinating Officer for Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, and Irma; Deputy Incident Commander for the EOC Activations for the 2010 Haitian Earthquake Repatriation; 2010 NFL Pro Bowl and Super Bowl; 2011 Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Emily; 2012 Tropical Storm Isaac; and serving as with Planning Section Chief or Public Safety Branch Director for eight additional tropical weather events going back to 2004.



Prior to entering the emergency management field full-time, Lord worked in the emergency medical services and public health field, including serving as the State Health Department (ESF-8) Representative in the New Jersey State Emergency Operations Center during the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Lord currently serves as an Executive Committee / Board Member of the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association and has served on various working groups at the local, state, and national level; including the DHS/FEMA NIMS Integration Center's Strategic Resources Group and Miami Urban Area Strategic Initiative Working Group.

Lord holds a Bachelor of Science from Drexel University and is a certified Florida Professional Emergency Manager (FPEM).



Alan Harris

Chief Administrator / Emergency Manager

Office of Emergency Management, Seminole County

Alan Harris has worked in emergency services for over 18 years. He began his career while completing his degree from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla.

Harris's first position in emergency services was for the Gainesville Fire Rescue Association, a student group at the University of Florida. One year later, he was recruited for work with the Alachua County Fire Rescue Department. While in Alachua County, Harris developed the public information/outreach division, restructured the reserve/volunteer core and developed the first EMS bike team. Harris responded to multiple emergencies including the 1998 wildfires, the worst wildfire outbreak in Florida history. He was deployed to Flagler County during that year, the only county in Florida to be completely evacuated during a disaster.

In 1999, Harris moved to Orlando and started work for the Altamonte Springs Fire Department. In 2002, he served as a member of the public affairs team for the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. That same year he was deployed to the Mallory Swamp Fire, the largest wildfire in Florida history. In October 2002, Seminole County merged with the Altamonte Springs Fire Department.

Harris currently serves as the Chief Administrator / Emergency Manager for Seminole County Office of Emergency Management. His first night on the job in emergency management was Aug. 13, 2004, the day Hurricane Charley hit the state of Florida. During the 2004 hurricane season, Harris served as Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Manager for Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Jeanne, and was deployed to Pensacola to assist the Escambia County EOC after Hurricane Ivan. He has managed incidents including the Tropical Storm Fay 2008 (the worst flood in recorded history in Central Florida), Suwannee River Flood 2009, Operation Haiti Relief 2010 (the largest repatriation in the United States history), Trayvon Martin civil unrest events of 2012, State of Florida vs George Zimmerman nationally recognized trial, Pulse Nightclub Mass Casualty Incident in 2016 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

Harris is a co-chair on the Regional Domestic Security Task Force, Regional Chair of the Executive Group for the Urban Area Security Initiative, Area Governor for the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association, Emergency Management Chair for the State Executive Group on Homeland Security, and Coordinator of the Central Florida Type-3 Incident Management Team. In 2012, he was selected as Intelligence Liaison of the Year for the disruption of three domestic security events. In 2013, Harris was recognized as the Emergency Manager of the Year for the State of Florida.

He teaches numerous Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Homeland Security courses.

Harris has achieved the Professional Emergency Manager certification by the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association and was awarded the Certified Emergency Manager designation by the International Association of Emergency Managers.



Manuel Soto

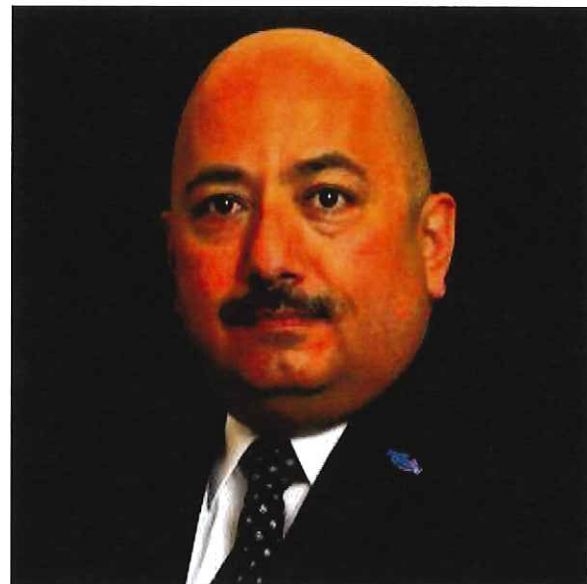
Emergency Manager

Office of Emergency Management, City of Orlando

Manuel Soto is the Emergency Manager of the City of Orlando Office of Emergency Management (OEM). He coordinates the city's Emergency Management programs and is responsible for oversight of the city's efforts to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made disasters.

During his tenure, Soto has successfully coordinated the city's response to several federally-declared disasters. Most recently, he managed the Emergency Operations Center during Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Matthew and the Pulse shooting incident.

Under his leadership, the City of Orlando has achieved full accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), one of only seven cities in the nation and the first municipal government in the state of Florida to receive this distinction.



Soto also served in the U.S. Army active and reserves component. He was an Infantry Officer and a Communications Officer in the U.S. Army. During his various worldwide deployments, he specialized in tactical command and control communication systems and emergency contingency planning.

Soto also enjoys being active in the world of academia. He has worked as an adjunct instructor with the University of Central Florida School of Public Administration for 13 years, teaching emergency management. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education and Social Science from Inter-American University of Puerto Rico and a Master of Public Administration degree from Troy State University in Alabama.

He is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) since 2002 with the International Association of Emergency Management.

He is married to Daly with two marvelous children, Christine and Robert.

