

## Hurricane Milton Resources

**October 8, 2024**

*"Hurricane Milton, now a powerful Category 4 hurricane, is taking aim at Florida's west coast. Landfall is expected late Wednesday night, possibly as a Category 3 hurricane... Landfall is expected around 11 p.m. Wednesday and the Tampa Bay area is forecast to face a record-breaking storm surge of 10 to 15 feet."*

[Via AP News](#)

### National Resources

#### **National Weather Service**

Updated information on current weather conditions, hurricane warnings, and tropical storm watches can be found [here](#).

#### **National Hurricane Center and NOAA**

For the most up-to-date and accurate information on the path of the hurricane, visit the website [here](#).

#### **211 United Way**

2-1-1 operates nationwide and connects callers to human service information. This service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even during disasters. Information and resources may be provided for a variety of needs including shelter, cell phone power stations, rent/utility assistance, and disaster response programs. Dial 211 from your cellphone to speak with a trained information and referral specialist. Calls are routed to service centers based on your geographic location. You may also search online for resources or find the local number for your local 211 service center by visiting their [website](#).

#### **American Red Cross**

The American Red Cross is one member of the local, state, and federal disaster response community. During a disaster, the Red Cross provides shelter, food, emotional support, health services, clean-up supplies and comfort items. To find your local Red Cross, visit the American Red Cross website [here](#).

To find open shelters via the American Red Cross please visit their website [here](#).

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The Red Cross has information on their website about finding and contacting loved ones who have been impacted by a disaster event. Visit their website [here](#) and [here](#).

## Florida Resources

### **Office of the Governor of Florida**

Governor Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency ahead of the storm for 51 counties. The Governor provides information on current states of emergency and updates on response and recovery efforts. Visit the governor's website [here](#) for updates on executive orders and declarations.

### **Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)**

Information on tropical storms, hurricanes and disaster preparedness and recovery can be viewed at this agency's website [here](#). Additionally, the Division of Emergency Management for Florida will have information on county specific resources for evacuations, school closures, press releases and more.

- Counties have begun their response and recovery efforts. For updates on available county resources, visit [www.FloridaDisaster.org/Counties](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Counties) to select your county. Here you can find information on your county alert system, county evacuation protocols, sandbag sites, debris pickup, post-disaster relief, food sites and more.
- Evacuation Orders: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/evacuation-orders/> Mandatory evacuation orders have been issued in parts of counties along Florida's west coast and Florida's east coast, including in Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Volusia.
- The State is currently offering charter buses to help get Hillsborough residents to shelters. As of October 8<sup>th</sup>, buses will run from 7am to 7pm. Residents can call (800)-729-3413 for evacuation assistance. More information can be found [here](#).
- For assistance in finding shelters near you and transportation support call: (800) 729-3413 or visit the [link](#) for a list of current shelters.
- Follow FDEM on [X](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) for updates.

### **State Assistance Information Line (SAIL)**

The State Assistance Information Line (SAIL) is a toll-free hotline activated at the time of an emergency to provide an additional resource for those in Florida to receive accurate and up-to-date information regarding an emergency or disaster situation impacting the State of Florida. Residents needing resources before and after Hurricane Milton may call (800) 342-3557.

### **211 Florida**

2-1-1 Florida connects callers to health and human service information and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even during disasters. Information and resources may be provided for a variety of needs including shelter, cell phone power stations, basic needs, and disaster assistance. To find your local 211, visit the website [here](#) and enter your city, county, or zip code, or dial 2-1-1 to get connected.

### **American Red Cross**

The Red Cross provides emergency response services throughout the state of Florida. You can search for local shelters and get updated information on Hurricane Milton, by visiting the chapter websites listed below.

- **Central Florida:** Florida's Space Coast, Greater Orlando, Mid-Florida, Southwest Florida, and Tampa Bay
- **North Florida:** Northeast Florida, Capital Area, and Northwest Florida
- **South Florida:** Palm Beach, Martin, Broward Counties, Southern Gulf, Greater Miami, and the Keys

### **Essentials for Florida: Food and Water Distribution**

(This will be updated after the storm, when new information becomes available.)

### **Florida Alert:**

Sign up for statewide alerts and other public safety notification in your community. Visit the link [here](#) and enter your county or city in the search field.

### **Florida 511**

Florida 511 provides locally generated reports on traffic conditions on major evacuation routes, road and bridge closures, toll suspensions, and travel alerts in affected counties, cities, roadways, and agencies. During an emergency, real-time information on planned routes is provided. Florida drivers are encouraged to download the FL511 app or visit FL511.com for road/bridge closures and potential detours that may be activated. You may visit their website [here](#).

### **Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA)**

DOEA service providers around the state plan to complete check-ins and informational calls to their senior clients. Local Area Agencies on Aging are expected to be impacted by hurricanes or major natural disasters. Please call the Elder Helpline at **(800) 963-5337** for assistance.

### **Florida Department of Health (DOH)**

The DOH's Office of Communications is distributing information on social media platforms regarding [emergency health topics](#), including [flood water safety special needs shelters](#), [boil water notices](#) and more.

- If you are on FL ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) and have lost your medications due to a hurricane and your county health department is not open, call toll-free (844) 381-ADAP (2327).

### **Florida Department of Education (FDOE)**

The FDOE is contacting all school districts to assess needs in preparation for Hurricane Milton. For more information on school closures, visit [www.FLDOE.org/storminfo](http://www.FLDOE.org/storminfo)

### **Florida Commerce**

Florida Commerce is communicating and coordinating with private sector partners, encouraging them to review their emergency plans for their businesses and notify their employees in response to the weather event. Updates on business closures and business resources are consistently being updated at their website [here](#).

### **Florida Division of Consumer Services**

You can speak directly with individuals who can help you review your insurance policies to understand your coverage, help you file claims for damage and help in the event that you are having trouble communicating with your insurance company. Call (877) 693-5236, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST.

### **Activate Hope**

Activate Hope will connect Floridians with outside resources to provide food, household goods, home repairs, and more. Serving as the emergency response arm for the Hope Florida initiative, Activate Hope pulls together the private sector, nonprofits, and government resources to help Floridians get back on their feet following a natural disaster. Fill out the form for assistance [here](#) or call 833-438-4673. You may also visit Hope Florida's main site, [here](#).

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### **Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)**

The Florida Department of Children and Families transitions into response and recovery during hurricanes and tropical storms and is utilizing supports to ensure that Florida families have every available resource at their disposal. DCF will also provide updates regarding current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients who may need to replace food lost in the storm. The website will be updated as hurricane recovery begins. For updates, visit the website [here](#).

### **Crisis Clean Up**

Phone: (844) 965-1386

Disaster survivors in the state may call to register for assistance with debris removal.

### **Free WiFi Hotspots:**

40k+ Xfinity WiFi Hotspots provided by Comcast are available to customers and non-customers. Residents can find their nearest hotspot [here](#).

### **Florida Attorney General's Office**

The Florida Attorney General's Office has activated the Florida price gouging hotline to accept reports of extreme price increases on essential commodities. The hotline number is (866) 966-7226.

### **Visit Florida**

Visit Florida has activated Emergency Accommodation Modules on [Expedia](#) and [Priceline](#) to provide real-time hotel availability and lodging resources for impacted Floridians and visitors. Click [here](#) for current travel safety information from Visit Florida.

## **Additional Assistance and Donations**

### **Volunteering and Monetary Donations**

- **Volunteer Florida** is accepting donations for general disaster response/ recovery. Donations can be made [here](#).
- **Charity Navigator** organization reviews charities and assigns them a score based on the charity's financial health, accountability, and transparency. For more information, please visit their website [here](#).

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- **Salvation Army** is helping those affected by tropical storms and hurricanes by operating a command unit, refrigerated truck, a laundry unit, shower unit, bunkhouse, and Field Kitchens. Donations can be made [here](#).
- **American Red Cross** is accepting monetary donations [here](#). For those who want to donate by check or to a specific cause, there is a donation form that must be printed and sent to: American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839.
- **Catholic Charities of Central Florida** is accepting monetary donations [here](#).
- **Operation Blessing** has partnered with emergency management and local churches to bring food, clean water, medicine, and other vital supplies to meet the immediate needs of those impacted by tropical storms and disasters. Donations can be made [here](#).
- **Southern Baptist Convention of Virginia Disaster Relief** program provides prepared meals, debris removal, and rebuilding. To donate or volunteer, visit the website [here](#).
- **National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)** provides mass care, cleanup, repair/rebuild, pet sheltering, transportation, bulk supplies and distribution, volunteer management, and more. To donate or volunteer, visit the website [here](#).
- **World Central Kitchen** provides emergency food relief by serving freshly made meals to people affected by disaster. To donate or volunteer, visit the website [here](#).

### **Pet Relief Agencies**

- **Humane Society Disaster Relief:** This group evacuates animals from shelters before and after hurricanes and other natural disasters. Please click [here](#) to donate.
- **Florida SPCA:** The Florida SPCA is a No-Kill Organization and supports pets that are left behind during a disaster or homeless animals. You can click [here](#) to donate.

### **General Hurricane and Tropical Storm Resources**

#### **Gas Buddy**

Gas Buddy can help find a nearby gas station with available fuel and real-time gas prices. Visit the website [here](#) for more information.

#### **Pet-friendly Accommodations**

Pets Welcome has a hurricane resource [page](#) with pet-friendly lodging options that is updated in real-time and searchable by location.

#### **Airbnb**

Airbnb provides temporary housing options after a natural disaster occurs. Learn more by visiting their [website](#).

#### **Ready.Gov**

Ready.gov is a national public service campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare, respond and mitigate emergencies including natural and man-made disasters. For preparedness resources and information on staying safe during and after a hurricane or tropical storm, visit their website [here](#).

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

- Visit the FEMA website for information [here](#).
- Find open shelters near you by texting SHELTER and your zip code to 4FEMA (43362). Example: Shelter 01234 (Standard text message rates apply.)
- FEMA tips on how to find short-term and long-term housing after a disaster can be found [here](#).
- Information about pets may be found [here](#).

If and when an area has become eligible for disaster assistance, that information will become available on the disaster assistance site. You may enter your zip code to see if your area has been declared for individual disaster assistance. If it has, you may find your local DRC (Disaster Recovery Center), apply online for assistance, and find other local resources.

To Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance:

- Phone: 800-621-3362, TTY 800-462-7585
- Apply online [here](#)

#### **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

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For those with flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), FEMA has established hotlines to expedite claims processing and provide guidance on next steps. For more information about flood insurance claims, visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call the NFIP Helpline at 1-800-427-4661.

### **Rebuilding After a Hurricane or Tropical Storm**

- FEMA offers fact sheets on Hurricane safety and preparedness with information about rebuilding after a hurricane or tropical storm which can be found [here](#).
- Insurance information on recovering after a hurricane or tropical storm can be found on the Insurance Information Institute website [here](#).

### **CARe Inc.**

- CARe is short for Community Assisting Recovery. Their mission is to provide free comprehensive information about disaster recovery, including the insurance claim process, to disaster survivors so they may effectively reestablish their homes and communities. For information, visit their [website](#).

## **Mental Health Resources**

### **SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline**

This helpline, through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), can provide immediate crisis counseling to anyone who is experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster. The help line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (800) 985-5990 via talk or text. You can find more information online [here](#).

### **SAMHSA Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator**

Visit the website [here](#).

This line is available 24 hours/day and 7 days/week. The Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator provides information and a search tool for behavioral health and substance abuse/addiction services in the United States and U.S. Territories. You can access the free and confidential treatment provider search tool using the link listed above. After completing the search criteria, you can view a list of treatment providers and detailed information about each provider.

You may also call (800) 662-4357 to receive free and confidential information about mental health and substance abuse treatment services in your area.



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*This guide provides referrals to resources. It does not endorse or recommend the resource providers. While every effort is made to maintain current provider information, information may change without notice.*

## **Resources For Living**

The EAP is administered by Resources For Living, LLC. This material is for informational purposes only. Information is not a substitute for professional health care and is not meant to replace the advice of health care professionals. Contact a health care professional with any questions or concerns about specific health care needs.

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