



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 14, 2017
5:00 p.m.

Division of Emergency Management
Pasco Emergency Operations Center
Public Information Office
8744 Government Drive, Building A
Phone: 727.847.2411
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Pasco County EOC UPDATE (Thursday, 9/14/17)

~~Here are the latest updates from Pasco County~~

PASCO COUNTY, FL ---- Pasco County “Hurricane Irma” recovery operations continue to support citizens in Pasco County.

NEW Information: (As of 5:00 p.m., September 14, 2017)

- **Individual and Household Assistance Available:** After working closely with FEMA, Rep. Gus Bilirakis announced that Pasco County has been added to the list of counties that will receive Individual Assistance (IA) from FEMA. Residents can now make claims for individual assistance through FEMA by visiting www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling 1.800.621.3362.
- **Businesses Affected by Irma:** The Florida Bridge Loan has been activated, as well as some federal programs to assist businesses who have experienced losses during Irma. Please visit www.pascocountyfl.net and click on the icon “Businesses Affected by Hurricane Irma” for more information.
- **SunWest Park:** Sunwest Park’s beaches, aqua park, kayaks and paddle board rentals are expected to open Saturday, September 16, 2017. The cable system at SunWest Park is expected to open Monday, September 18, 2017.
- **Recharge Your Devices:** For residents still without electricity, the Pasco County Libraries are reminding citizens that most of their libraries are now open. They invite residents to come in and relax, cool off in the AC, use their free WiFi, and charge their portable devices. Please note that the South Holiday branch remains closed until power is restored.
- **Generator Safety:** Residents using generators are reminded to use caution when operating them. While generators can make recovery from a storm more comfortable,

they can cause injury or death if not used properly. For a list of safety tips when using a portable generator, click here: <http://bit.ly/2f9HC9o>

- **Water Use Limits:** Due to continued wide-scale power outages, people who live in the following Pasco County locations please continue to limit your water use to reduce demands on sewer systems until further notice: 1. Asturia 2. Beacon Square 3. Beacon Woods 4. Colonial Hills 5. Embassy Hills 6. Forest Hills 7. Gardens of Beacon Square 8. Grey Hawk 9. Holiday Lake Estate 10. Key Vista 11. Sand Bay 12. Tanglewood Terrace 13. Timber Oaks Parker Point 14. Wyndham Lakes.
- **Unlicensed Contractors:** Residents are reminded to beware of unlicensed contractors. A video was created with tips on the importance of hiring licensed contractors. In Florida, it is a criminal offense to engage in contracting work or to act in the capacity of a contractor without a valid contractor's license. Unlicensed contracting is a serious crime carrying misdemeanor or felony penalties, depending on the number of prior convictions. The full video can be seen on our YouTube or Facebook page, or by clicking the following link: https://youtu.be/s3xnv6gq_ig

Previously Released Information:

- **Pasco County River Flood Warning:** Flood warnings are still in effect for Anclote River, Cypress Creek, & Withlacoochee River.
 - Voluntary evacuations surrounding the Anclote River remain in effect.
- **Pasco County Government Offices:** Government offices will be open regular business hours unless otherwise noted below:
 - **Pasco County Elderly Nutrition:** Elderly Nutrition has resumed normal operations with the exception to the following Senior Centers which remain closed until their power has been restored:
 - Land O' Lakes Senior Center
 - Southgate Senior Center
 - Zephyrhills Senior Center St. Elizabeth's Episcopal ChurchAll seniors with questions are requested to contact your local area Senior Center or our main offices at 727.834.3340.
 - **Pasco County Library Cooperative:** All libraries have resumed normal operations with the exception of the South Holiday branch which is still without power.
- **Pasco County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources:** All parks are open for the enjoyment of our citizens, **except** for the following until further notice:
 - Anclote River Park
 - Crews Lake Park
 - Eagle Point Park
 - Elsie Logan Memorial Park
 - J Ben Harrill Recreation Complex
 - JB Starkey Wilderness Park
 - Key Vista Nature Park
 - Pasco Palms Preserve
 - Robert K. Rees Park
 - Upper Pithlachascotee River Preserve
 - WH Jack Mitchell Park
 - Withlacoochee River Park

- **Pasco County Government:** As staff continues to work with Hurricane Irma recovery, some public hearings, meetings, and workshops are being continued or cancelled. For a full listing please view: <http://bit.ly/2wnjB1p>
- **Pasco County School District:** Pasco School District is expected to resume normal operations on Monday, September 18, 2017. For more information, visit: www.pasco.k12.fl.us
- **Pasco-Hernando State College:** Expected to reopen all campuses on Monday, September 18, 2017. Administrators, faculty, and staff should report to work on Friday, September 15, 2017. Anyone experiencing difficulties returning to work or class should contact their supervisors or instructors.
- **Precautionary Boil Water Notices:**
 - Crystal Springs (Zephyrhills) – due to a generator being down.
 - Linda Lakes (Lutz)
 - Angus Valley, Wesley Chapel
 - Pasadena Shores, Dade City
 - Forest Hills, Holiday
- **Jasmine Lakes Water Plant:** The water plant is now fully operational.
- To stay up to date on the latest weather warnings, visit the [National Weather Service](#) and download the [MyPasco App](#) for alerts.
- For the latest storm updates more information is available at: www.pascocountyfl.net, and by downloading the MyPasco App which is available for download here: <http://fl-pascocounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=2248>.
- **What to do with debris?** Pasco County Utilities, Solid Waste, and Resource Recovery Department, will begin debris removal starting the week of Monday, September 18, 2017. Residential fees for Hurricane Irma related debris are waived, and residents can bring debris to the East Pasco Transfer Station at 9626 Handcart Road, Dade City or the Resource Recovery Facility at 14606 Hays Rd., Spring Hill. The East Pasco Transfer Station can only accept yard debris no larger than 3 inches in diameter and 3 feet in length. All debris that is larger can be taken to the landfill located at 14606 Hays Road. For full details on how to prepare for debris removal please view: <http://bit.ly/2fg88e3>
- **What to do with sandbags?** Sandbag stations are now open and will be open daily from 8 a.m. until midnight to help residents protect their property from potential flooding in river communities throughout the county. Locations to pick-up and disposal of sandbags no longer needed, visit: <http://bit.ly/2xieOIM>
- Citizens or businesses who need help or have questions can call the Pasco County Customer Service line at 727.847.2411. If you have an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

Citizens are encouraged to use social media to post flooding or other storm-related photos and information using the following hashtags: #pascocounty #irma #pascostorm