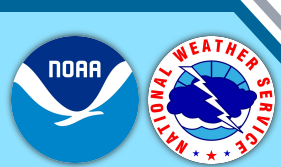


WELCOME

Florida Tropical Training Week 2026

**PRESENTED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICES
SERVING THE STATE OF FLORIDA**



TRAINING TIMELINE

DAY 1
(Monday)

**Getting
Ready**

DAY 2
(Tuesday)

**Hunker
Down**

DAY 3
(Wednesday)

**Post-Storm
Safety**

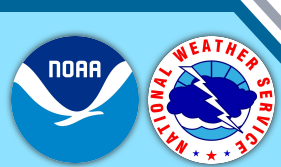
DAY 4
(Thursday)

**Lessons
Learned &
Panel
Discussion**

Training Website:

weather.gov/jax/FTTW2026





TODAY'S PRESENTERS

11 AM



**Mark
Wool**
NWS
Tallahassee
Florida

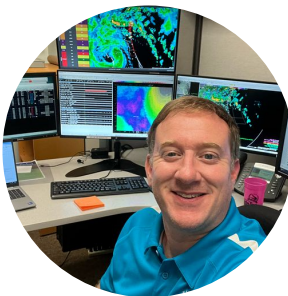


**Kirsten
Chaney**
NWS
Jacksonville
Florida

1 PM



**Mark
Wool**
NWS
Tampa Bay
Florida

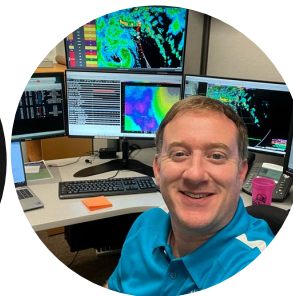


**Ben
Nelson**
NWS
Jacksonville
Florida

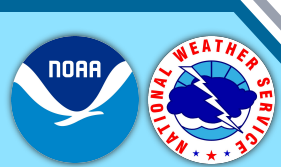
7 PM



**Michael
Vuotto**
NWS
Key West
Florida



**Ben
Nelson**
NWS
Jacksonville
Florida



CHAT ASSISTANTS



Cameron Young
NWS
Tallahassee, FL



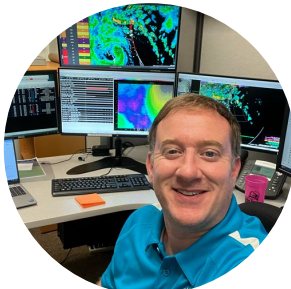
Morgan Barry
NWS
Mobile, AL



Tony Hurt
NWS
Tampa, FL



Megan Tollefsen
NWS
Melbourne, FL



Ben Nelson
NWS
Jacksonville, FL



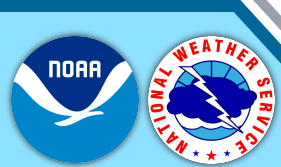
Michael Vuotto
NWS
Key West, FL



Paige Klingler
NWS
Jacksonville, FL



Kirsten Chaney
NWS
Jacksonville, FL

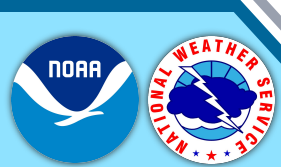


POST STORM SAFETY

The background image shows a road scene after a storm. Several orange and white striped traffic barrels are placed along the side of the road. There is a large pile of debris, including what looks like a fallen tree or large branches, on the right side of the road. The ground is sandy and uneven.

**Hazards continue
after the storm!**

***Don't venture out
until it's safe to do so.***



POST STORM SAFETY

What Can You Do NOW?

Seasonal
Readiness

Monitoring
the Tropics
Days 6-7

Gearing Up
for Impacts
Days 3-5

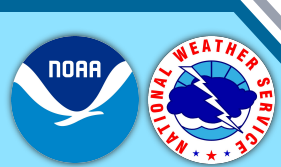
Hunker Down
<48 hrs to
Impact

Post-Storm
Safety

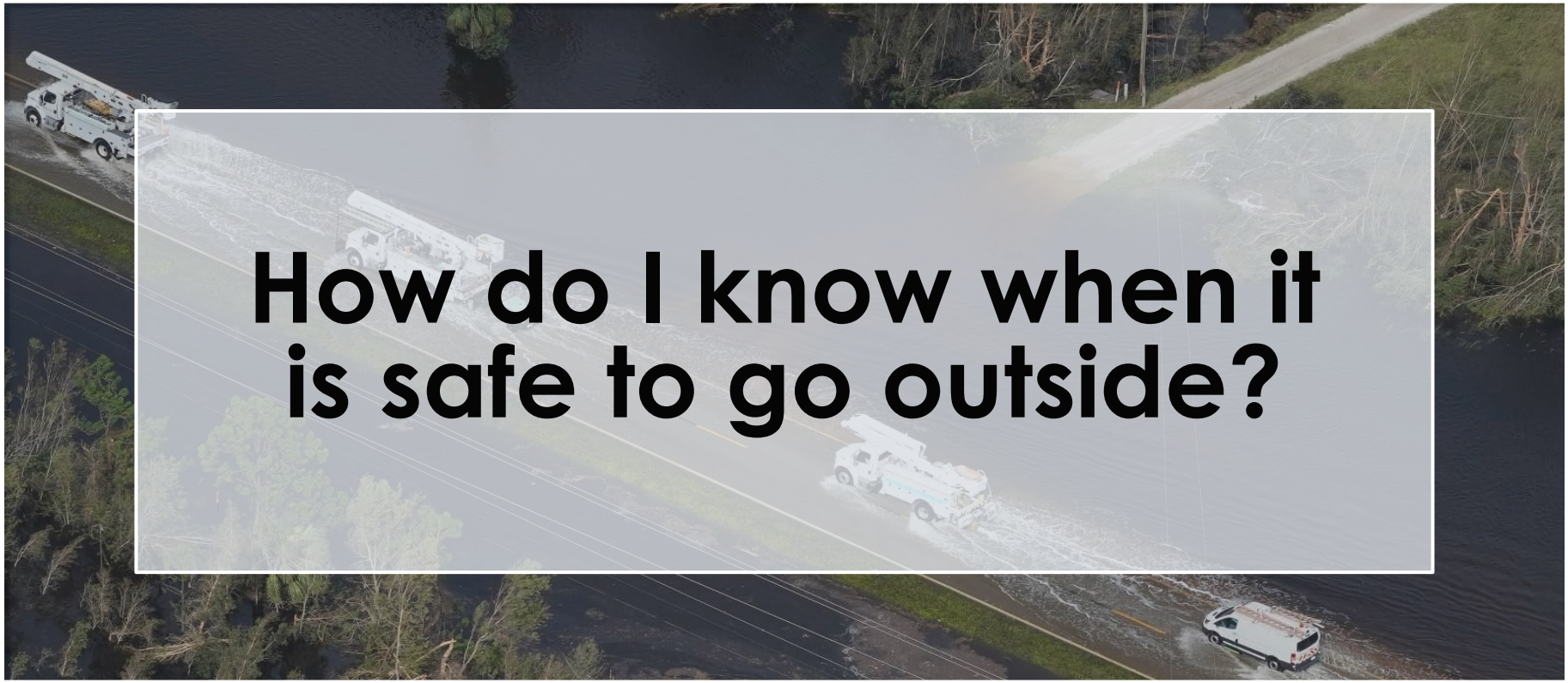
When is it safe to venture out?

Reminders on what to do and not to do

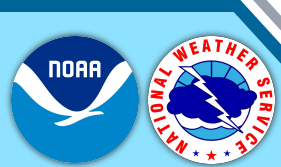
Weather-related safety considerations



POST STORM SAFETY

An aerial photograph showing a flooded road. Three white emergency vehicles, likely utility trucks, are driving through the water, creating large splashes. The road is surrounded by trees and a body of water.

**How do I know when it
is safe to go outside?**

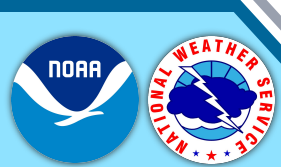


POLL QUESTION

At what point would you feel it's safe to venture outside?

- a. During the eye
- b. When the rain ends
- c. When the wind dies down
- d. When flooding subsides



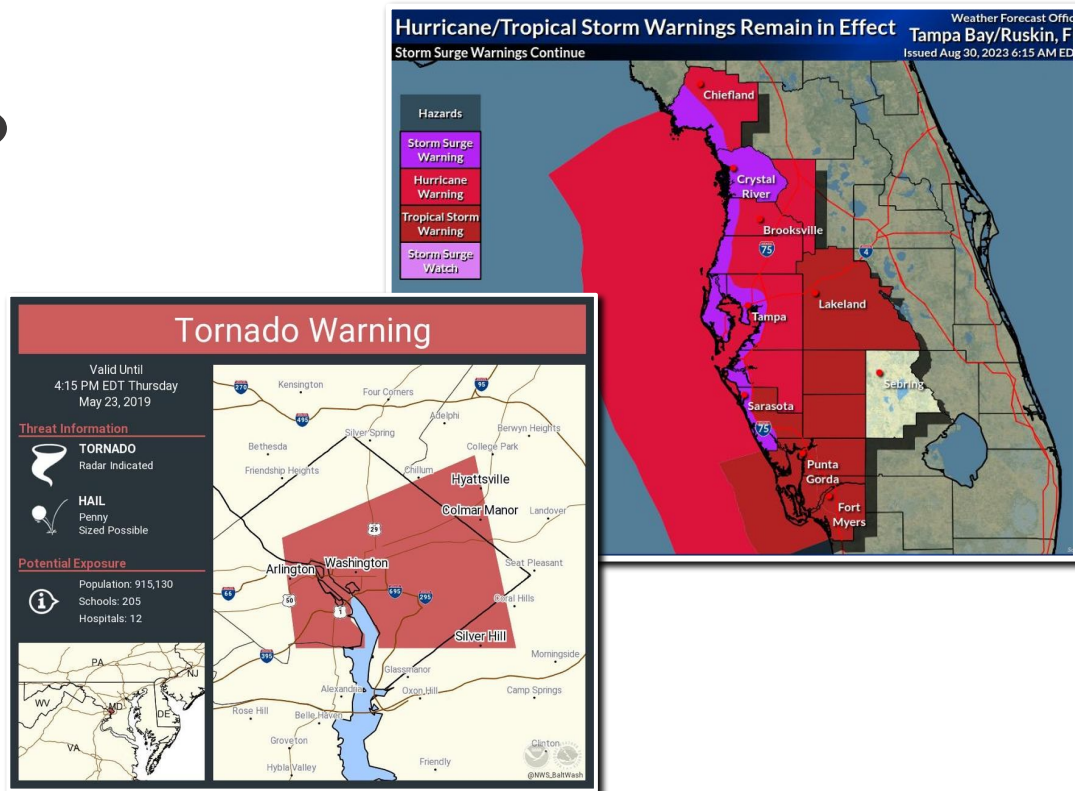


EVALUATING DAMAGE

1. Are any type of warnings still active?

- Is there an active Tornado or Flash Flood Warning in effect? If so, continue to shelter in place.
- Have the Hurricane and/or Tropical Storm Warnings been cleared for your area?

HINT: Check your local NWS website!



EVALUATING DAMAGE

2. Has law enforcement given the “All Clear”?

- First responders may be conducting search & rescue operations; you do not want to hinder their work!
- Consider downed power lines, roads washed out, etc. Your normal routes may be inaccessible. Bridges may be closed while post storm assessments are completed.

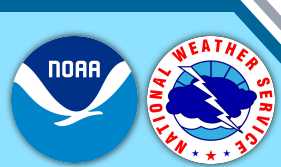


EVALUATING DAMAGE

Don't be a "Social Media-rogist"

- After a storm is NOT the time to go viral! -- *don't be a Social Media star*
- Stay off the roads -
-- *let first responders do their jobs*
- Venturing out puts you & others in danger
-- *it is NOT worth the likes & views!*





POST STORM SAFETY

THE STORM MAY BE
GONE...

... but **WATER** and **WIND**
hazards may continue!

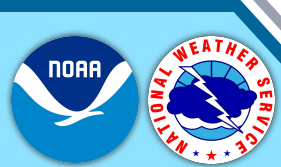


FLOODING



**WIND
DAMAGE**





WATER HAZARDS

- Inland & river flooding
- Compromised bridges or causeways
- Isolated communities
- Submerged hazards
- Contaminated water

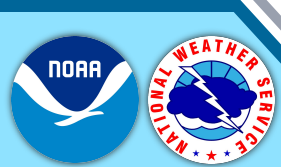


WATER HAZARDS

Long term flooding in Florida

- Floodwaters will not recede immediately
- Be prepared to be self-sufficient for 1 week or more (especially if you are in a flood hazard zone)
- Rescuers may not be able to get to you for some time





RIVER HAZARDS

- Rivers may not crest for days after landfall, causing additional evacuations
- May not fall below flood stage for weeks/months
- Inaccessible & compromised roads & bridges; need assessment before re-opening
- **Extended duration of community isolation**



River Levels



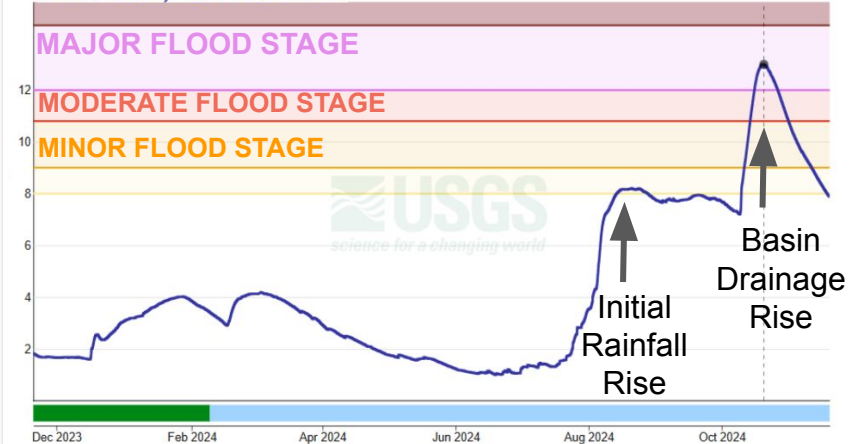
water.noaa.gov

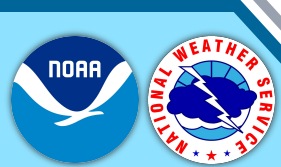
Withlacoochee River at Croom, FL - 02312500

November 20, 2023 - November 19, 2024

Gage height, feet

12.99 ft - Oct 20, 2024 07:00:00 AM EDT





WIND HAZARDS

- Structures weakened by wind & storm surge are now **MORE** vulnerable
- Wind can cause further structure damage including exterior walls and roofing, even if only a light breeze
- Compromised trees or limbs may fall, blocking roadways & downing power lines
- Loose objects, like storm debris, could be blown about

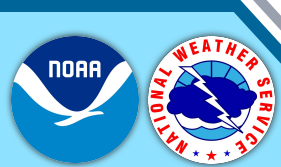


WIND HAZARDS

ADDITIONAL VULNERABILITY

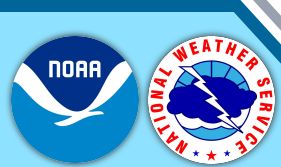
- Temporary Housing
- Manufactured homes more vulnerable to severe weather (Ex: strong thunderstorm winds)
- Roof tarps vulnerable to wind gusts 30 - 40 mph





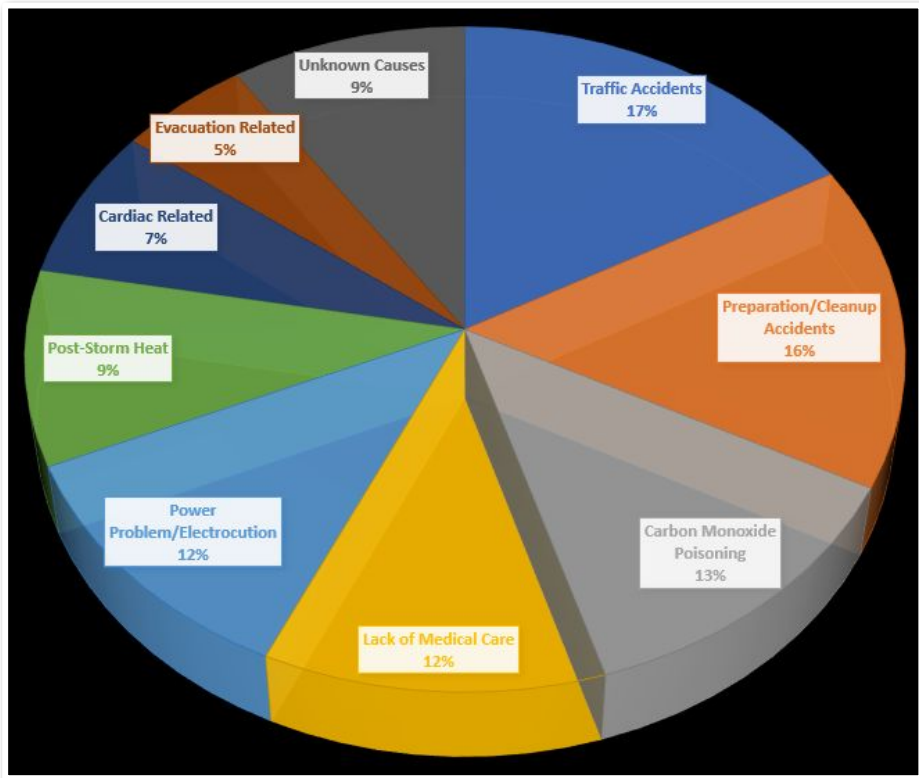
POST-STORM SAFETY REMINDERS





INDIRECT FATALITIES

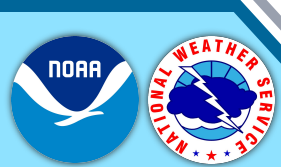
Indirect Hurricane Fatalities
2013-2023



Did You Know...

Over the past 10 years, there has been nearly an equal number of **Indirect** fatalities as **Direct** fatalities from US tropical cyclones.

- **DIRECT:**
Death from storm surge & flooding rain (example: drowning)
- **INDIRECT:**
Death that would have not occurred if storm hadn't occurred (example: Carbon Monoxide poisoning due to improper generator use, due to a power outage caused by storm wind damage)



POWER OUTAGES



Use flashlights, not candles

This will avoid risk of fire. Turn on flashlights before entering buildings, to avoid producing a spark that could ignite leaking gas.



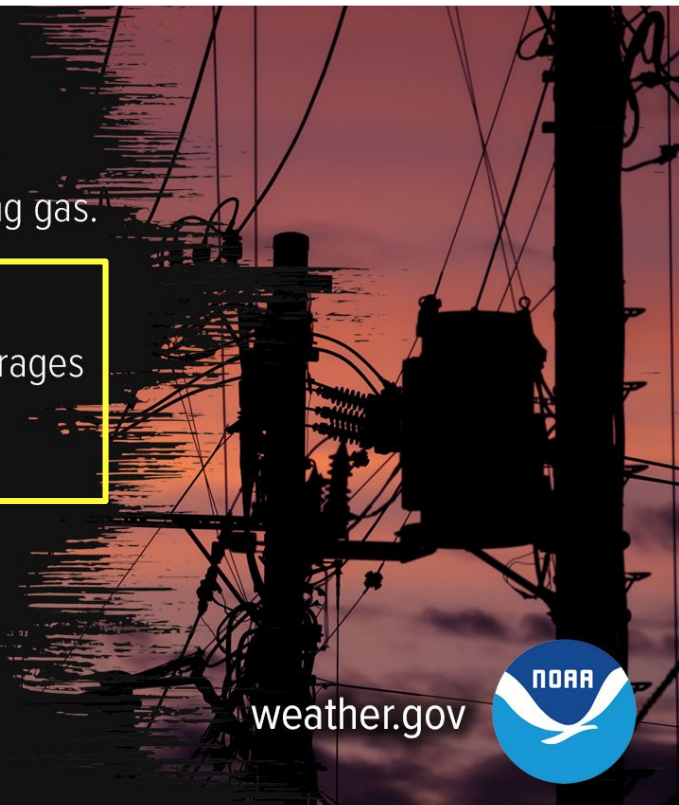
Practice portable generator safety

Use outdoors, at least 20 feet away from doors/windows/garages to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Properly ground, and don't overload.



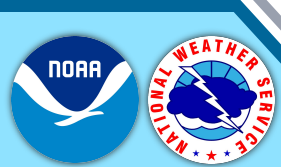
Be careful with food and water

Food in the fridge can start to spoil after as little as 4 hours. Drink bottled/boiled water only, as purification systems may not be working. Use camp stoves/grills outdoors only.

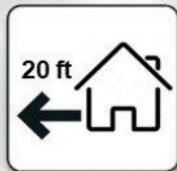


weather.gov

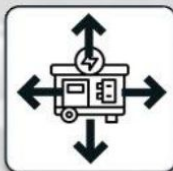




GENERATOR REMINDERS



Keep generator at least 20 ft from your house



Make sure there is at least 3-4 ft clearance around the generator



Never run a generator inside a house or garage

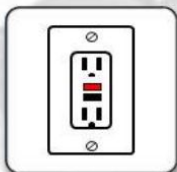
Install carbon-monoxide detectors



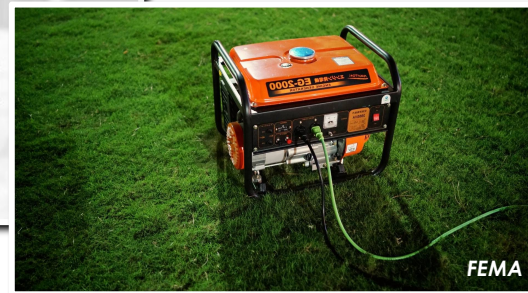
Always use grounded cords



Make sure cords are rated for the proper wattage



Always use GFCI protection



GENERATOR TIPS

GENERATOR TIPS: BEFORE, DURING & AFTER THE STORM

Before the Storm

CHECK & TEST:
1 Ensure your generator is
in good working order



STOCK FUEL:
2 Have enough fuel
stored safely



READ THE MANUAL:
3 Familiarize yourself
with operation & safety



During Use

OPERATE OUTDOORS:
1 Place outside, away
from doors & windows



KEEP DRY:
2 Protect from rain with a
cover, ensuring ventilation



AVOID OVERLOADING:
3 Connect only essential
appliances



After the Storm

INSPECT SAFELY:
1 Check for damage & refuel
ONLY when off & cool

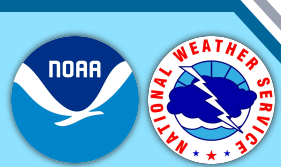


CLEAN & STORE:
2 Clean the generator &
store it safely



For more information visit
FloridaDisaster.org/Generators





CLEANING UP



Don't push yourself

Straining the body can lead to heart attacks and other serious issues. Perform cleanups slowly, taking lots of breaks.



Be careful with chainsaws

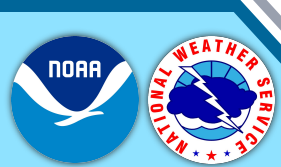
Wear protective gear. Keep a safe distance from bystanders. Avoid contact with fallen power lines to prevent electric shock. If you aren't trained to use them, leave power tools to the experts.



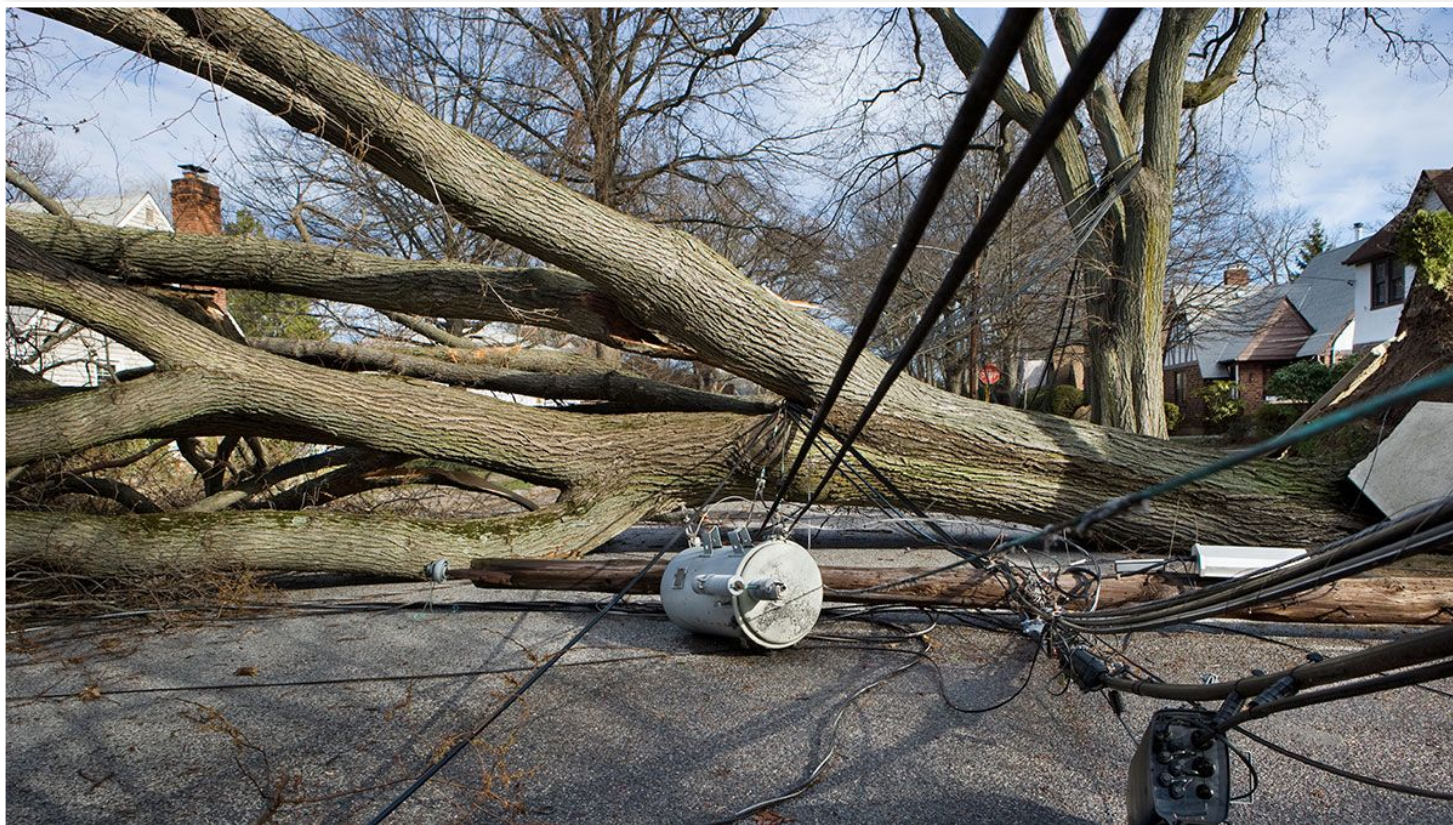
Stay safe in the heat

Stay hydrated. Wear light, loose-fitting clothing. Take breaks in shaded areas or in air conditioning. Cleanup during cooler hours if possible.





HEALTH & SAFETY REMINDERS



WEAR SAFETY GEAR

WHAT TO WEAR

when cleaning up debris after a severe storm



Hard hat



Work gloves



Boots with
steel toe and insole



Safety goggles



Mask
(N95 if available)



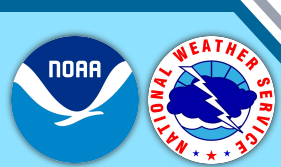
Hearing
protection



Long-sleeved
shirt



Long pants

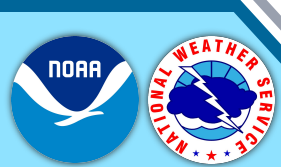


CARDIAC & HEAT RISK

♥ POST-STORM STRESS & OVER-EXERTION ♥

- Storm recovery affects us mentally, physically & emotionally with increased vulnerability
- During clean-up, take frequent breaks & care for yourself
-- **DON'T PUSH IT!**





DANGEROUS HEAT & NO POWER



Keep blinds closed to prevent sunshine from heating the indoors



Go to the coolest part of the house or building (usually the basement)



Reduce body temperature by taking a cool shower/bath, or putting hands/feet in cool water



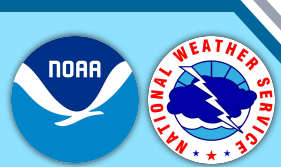
Stay hydrated and wear lightweight, light-colored clothing



Find local cooling centers: malls, libraries, movie theaters, etc

Always monitor yourself and others for symptoms of heat illness.
Call 911 in the event of heat stroke!





DANGEROUS HEAT & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



PREGNANT

Extreme heat events have been associated with adverse birth outcomes such as low birth weight, preterm birth, infant mortality, and congenital cataracts.



NEWBORNS

Newborns are extra sensitive to heat because their ability to regulate body temperature is limited.



CHILDREN

Young children and infants are particularly vulnerable to heat, as their bodies are less able to adapt to heat than adults. Those under four are especially vulnerable.



ELDERLY

Older adults, especially those who have preexisting diseases, take certain medications, live alone or have limited mobility are at higher risk for heat illness.



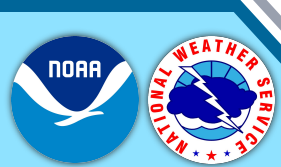
CHRONIC ILLNESS

People with chronic medical conditions are more likely to have a serious health problem during a heat wave.

Source:
*The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States,
A Scientific Assessment (U.S. Global Changes Research Program)*

weather.gov





MEDICAL CARE

- Medical facilities may operate on a limited basis if they've sustained structural damage or power loss
- Mobile health units may be available to provide basic services
(ex: treat of cuts, scrapes, bruises, mild illnesses)
- **Wash your hands often with soap & clean water**
Especially if cleaning & handling items in flood water or sewage
- If you suspect contaminated water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to decrease the risk of illness and infection



SAFE FOOD

- Keep refrigerator & freezer doors closed to maintain a cold temperature – becomes a COOLER!
- Food is generally safe if it has ice crystals or if 40° F or colder
- FREEZERS: Full Freezer: Food is safe for about 48 hours
Half-full Freezer: Food is safe for about 24 hours
- REFRIGERATORS: Food is safe for about 4 hours
- For unopened cans dirtied by flood water: Remove labels & soak cans for 30 minutes using clean, disinfected water
- Don't eat from bulged or opened cans

If left
unopened!



Protect Food and Water
During Hurricanes & Storms

FOOD SAFETY

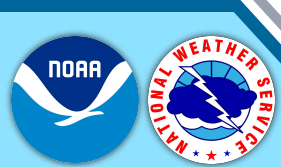


THE COIN TEST

The **Coin Test** helps assess if your freezer thawed during a power outage

1. Put a small cup of water in your freezer & let it freeze
2. Before the storm, put a coin on top of the frozen ice.
3. When you check the coin, if it has settled down into the cup and is frozen over with ice, then you will know that it had thawed due to a power outage. **This means the food is not safe to eat!**





SAFE WATER

PRO TIP:

**Save & Clean out 2 liter bottles
Fill with tap water & Freeze
Store in the fridge/freezer**

*Helps keep food longer & when they thaw,
you can use them as potable water!*



SAFE H2O

CDC: [How to Make Water Safe in an Emergency](#)

For drinking, cooking, washing wounds and brushing teeth, use bottled water, boiled water or disinfected water.

7-8 drops
(about 1/8 tsp.)
bleach per
gallon of water.

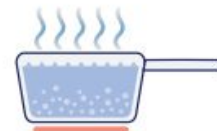


DISINFECTING

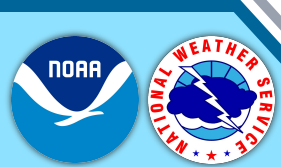
1. Add 8 drops of plain unscented house hold bleach (4-6% strength) or 7 drops of high strength bleach (8.25% strength) per gallon of water.
2. Mix and let stand for 30 minutes.
3. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat once.

FOR BOIL WATER NOTICES

Hold a rolling boil for 1 minute to kill organisms.

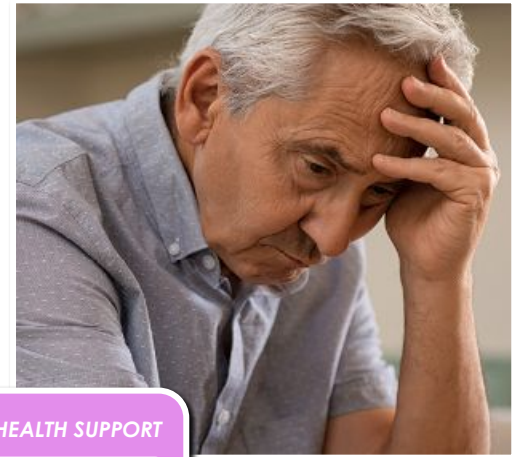


[floridahealth.gov](#)

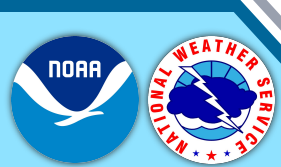


MENTAL HEALTH

- Going through a hurricane is traumatic for many – **You are NOT alone** in feeling scared, anxious, exhausted, confused, mad, sad, frustrated, etc.
- Stick to your daily routine as much as possible – get some exercise (clean up will probably be plenty!), enough rest & eat/hydrate properly
- Connect with family, friends, and your community, especially those who've been through something similar
- If symptoms last more than a couple weeks & begin to limit joy in your daily life, reach out to a mental health professional for help



[Florida Health:](#)
[Mental Health](#)

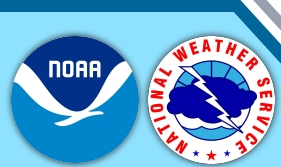


POLL QUESTION

What is your biggest concern after a tropical system?

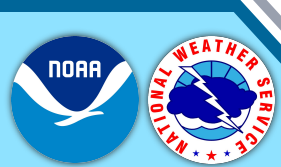
- a. Heat/No Power**
- b. Lack of medical care**
- c. Returning home**
- d. Fixing Damage**





DEMO

**Safely reporting damage
to your local National
Weather Service Office**



REPORTING TO THE NWS

WHO

you are.

WHAT

you are reporting.

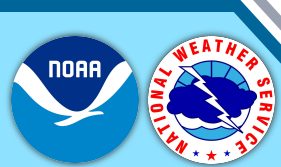
WHEN

did the event occur?

WHERE

did the event occur?

If the time and location of your report are miscommunicated, it won't match up with radar. This may lead us to discount your report!



REPORTING TO THE NWS

WHO

Hi, I'm Blake Bachellor, a resident of Jacksonville, FL.

WHAT

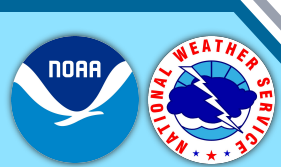
We have extensive flooding on my street, cars are not able to drive through. It is now ankle deep and rising on my front lawn.

WHEN

Now

WHERE

I'm located at 13701 Fang Dr, Jacksonville, FL, 32218



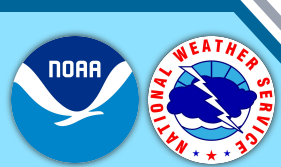
REPORTING TO THE NWS

**Safety first, only report storm or flood damage
-- if you can do so SAFELY!**

Simply report what you are seeing. Photos can help!

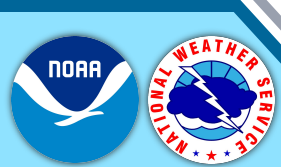
Example: The forest of pine trees behind my home is completely gone. Hundreds of healthy pine trees have been snapped at the base or middle of the tree.



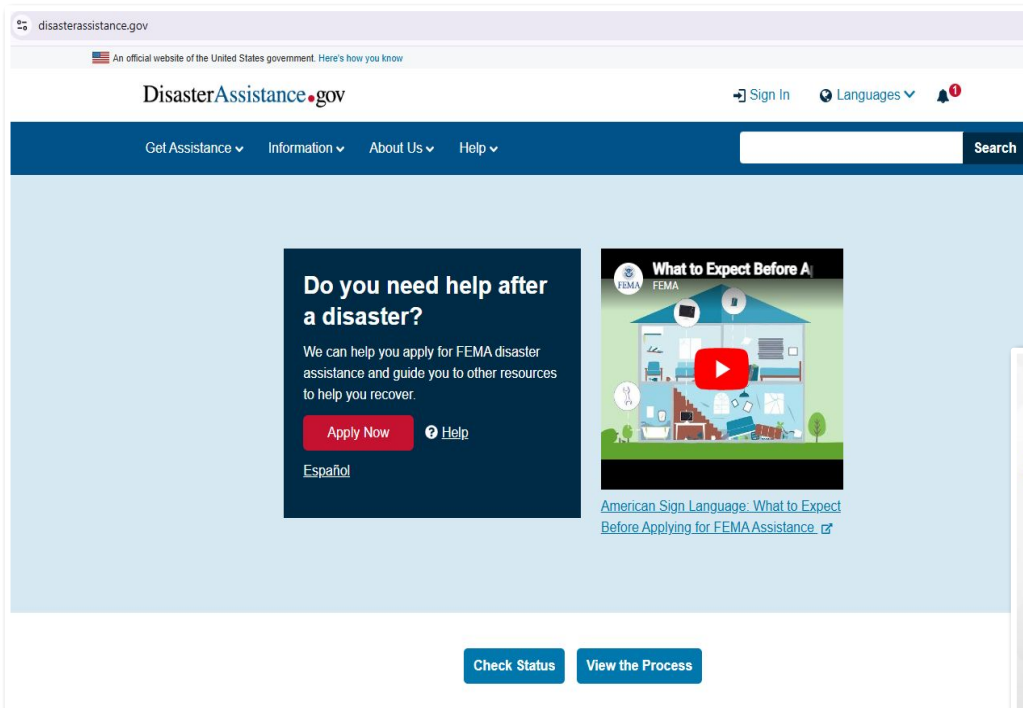


DEMO

**Requesting Aid from
FEMA after a hurricane**



DisasterAssistance.gov



What you need:

- SSN
- Annual household income
- Contact info
- Insurance info
- Damage description

REBUILD STRONGER

3 WAYS TO APPLY FOR FEMA INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

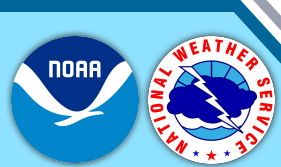
WEB
Visit
DisasterAssistance.Gov

APP
Download the
FEMA app
for smartphones

PHONE
Call
800-621-FEMA (3362)

TTY 1-800-462-7585





DisasterAssistance.gov

DisasterAssistance.gov

Get Assistance ▾

Information ▾

About Us ▾

Help ▾

Search

We didn't find any federally declared disasters in your area, so you can't apply for FEMA assistance.

But we still want to help, so here are some links to other resources that may be able to help you.

Get Immediate Help

Find help with needs that FEMA does not provide. To find local emergency resources, you can [dial 2-1-1 to find help near you](#).

Our [Immediate Needs](#) pages may also help guide you to other assistance you need.

Helpful Links

Read the SBA [Disaster Assistance](#) page to learn about low-interest disaster loans for businesses and homeowners.

Go to the [Emergency Shelter Page](#) to find shelters in your area.

Find your state's [emergency management agency](#) for resources and county contacts.

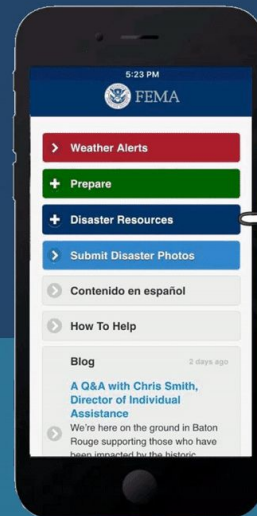
Other Resources

To find other disaster assistance that meets your personal needs. Learn about more than 70 forms of assistance from 17 federal agencies.

[Explore Other Resources](#)

A disaster needs to be declared for your local area

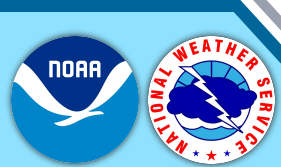
How to check your application status on the FEMA App



1. Select Disaster Resources tab on the home screen.



If you feel you got this message in error, you can call the FEMA Helpline: 1-800-621-3362.

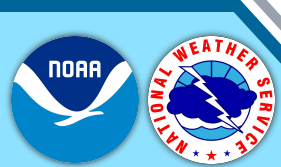


POLL QUESTION

What have you done to prepare thus far this hurricane season?

- a. Secured my home**
- b. Confirm your evacuation zone**
- c. Let others know where I will shelter**
- d. Stock emergency supply kit**
- e. Nothing yet**





TOMORROW

Panel Discussion with National Hurricane Center & Florida Division of Emergency Management!

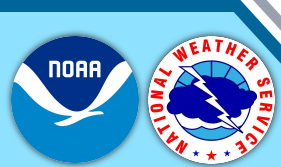
**Seasonal
Readiness**

**Monitoring
the Tropics**
Days 6-7

**Gearing Up
for Impacts**
Days 3-5

Hunker Down
<48 hrs to
Impact

**Post-Storm
Safety**



THANK YOU!

Training Website



FL Tropical Training 2026



**BE PREPARED.
STAY AWARE.**

Submit questions



via Google Forms



Certificate Of Completion



**Thank you for attending Day 3 of
Florida Tropical Training Week
July 29th 2026**

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