



TROPICAL STORM DEBBY

State Emergency Response Team
www.FloridaDisaster.org



Rick Scott
Governor

Bryan W. Koon
State Coordinating Officer

TROPICAL STORM DEBBY UPDATE: Wednesday, June 27, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
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TALLAHASSEE – Under the leadership of Governor Rick Scott, the State Emergency Response Team is coordinating the response to Tropical Depression Debby. State Coordinating Officer Bryan W. Koon is overseeing the response efforts.

The following is a summary of state response actions to date, as well as tips for residents and visitors to take precautions both pre and post-landfall.

Landfall Reports and Predictions:

- At 5 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Tropical Depression Debby was located 25 miles southeast of St. Augustine, Florida and moving to the east-northeast at 10 mph. The maximum sustained winds are 35 mph.
- Debby is forecast to gradually move away from Florida today and to continue toward the east-northeast for the next day or two. Little change in strength is forecast during the next 48 hours.

On Site Actions:

• **Evacuation:**

Mandatory:

- Franklin- Residents living near the Carrabelle, New and Crooked Rivers. An 8 p.m. curfew is in effect for St. George Island.
- Suwannee- City of Live Oak and other low lying areas
- Wakulla- low areas, Sopchoppy area and areas south of Hwy 98
- Pasco- flooded areas
- Hernando

Voluntary:

- Pinellas
- Hillsborough
- Levy
- Nassau – low lying areas
- Columbia- low lying and coastal areas
- Taylor- low lying and coastal areas
- Clay- low lying and flooded areas, areas along river
- Bradford- Low lying and flooded areas
- Baker- low lying and flooded areas, areas along river

- **Sandbags** are being distributed by Taylor, Franklin, Leon, Pasco and Nassau counties. Check with the county emergency management agency for details.
- **School and Government Closures:** Schools are out for summer break.
 - Baker County government offices are closed June 27 as well as summer school today and tomorrow.
 - Hamilton County summer school classes are cancelled through Friday.
- **Road Closures:** Up to date road closures are available at www.floridadisaster.org.
- **Ports:** All ports are open.
- **Power Outages:** As of 6 a.m., approximately 13, 508 customers across the state were without power.
- **Healthcare: ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical**
 - Contacted 1,014 of the 1038 healthcare facilities (including all hospitals) along the coast. There are no issues or unmet needs at this time.
- **Tropical Storm Warning:** Tropical Storm Warnings have been discontinued.
- **Tropical Storm Watch:** None.
- **Tornado Watch:** None.
- **Flash Flood Watch:** None.
- **Flood Watch:** None.
- **Flood Warning:** None.

State Actions:

- The State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee is activated at a Level One, full activation, to support requests for assistance from impacted counties.

Health:

- Areas in six counties are under a boil water notice.
 - Franklin- Alligator point
 - Hillsborough- River Oaks Resort RV Park
 - Jackson – Town of Sneads
 - Marion- subdivision of Ocklawaha, victory mobile home park
 - Pasco- Encore North RV Park
 - Sumter- The Woods subdivision

Flood Safety and Post Flood Clean-up

- Do not drive through flooded roadways.
- Look before you step, as the ground and floors may be covered with debris, including bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.
- Avoid contact with downed power lines and electrical wires.
- Do not open manhole covers.
- Clean up debris to avoid injury and contamination.
- Operate chainsaws only in safe conditions (not in water soaked areas) if experienced in proper use.
- Lift heavy debris by bending knees and using legs to help lift.
- Wear shoes to avoid injury to the feet from glass, nails or other sharp objects.
- Be alert to wildlife (snakes, alligators, etc.) that may have been displaced as a result of flooding.

Sanitation and Hygiene: Preventing waterborne illness

- Basic hygiene is very important during this emergency period. Always wash your hands with soap and water that has been boiled or disinfected before eating, after toilet use,

after participating in cleanup activities and after handling articles contaminated by floodwater or sewage.

- Flood water may contain fecal matter from sewage systems, agricultural and industrial waste and septic tanks. If you have open cuts or sores exposed to the floodwater, keep them as clean as possible by washing them with soap and disinfected or boiled water.
- Apply antibiotic ointment to reduce the risk of infection. If a wound or sore develops redness, swelling or drainage, see a physician.
- Do not allow children to play in floodwater. They can be exposed to water contaminated with fecal matter. Do not allow children to play with toys that have been in floodwater until the toys have been disinfected. Use ¼ cup of bleach in one gallon of water to disinfect toys and other items.

Food safety: Preventing food-borne diseases

- Do not eat any food that may have come into contact with contaminated water from floods or tidal surges.
- Commercially prepared cans of food should not be eaten if there is a bulging or opening on the can or the screw caps, soda pop bottle tops or twist-caps.
- Undamaged, commercially canned foods can be saved if you remove the labels and then disinfect the cans in a bleach solution. Use ¼ cup of bleach in one gallon of water; re-label the cans including expiration date and type of food. Assume that home-canned food is unsafe.
- Infants should be fed only pre-mixed canned baby formula. Do not use powdered formulas prepared with treated water. Use boiled water when preparing formula.
- Frozen and refrigerated foods can be unsafe after a flood. When the power is out, refrigerators will keep foods cool for only about four hours. Thawed and refrigerated foods should be thrown out after four hours.

Water Supply, Water Conservation and Septic Systems

- Flooding can contaminate the public water supply. Water treatment plants may not be operating or water lines may be contaminated. Individuals cannot assume water in the affected area is safe to drink.
- Listen for public announcements about the safety of the public water supply, and take action if a boil water notice has been issued. Drinking contaminated water may cause illness. If your well has been flooded, it needs to be disinfected and tested after the storm passes and floodwaters recede. Questions about testing should be directed to your county health department.
- Heed posted signage near affected area waterways.
- If you are on a septic system and plumbing is slow or sluggish, conserve water as much as possible; the less water used, the less sewage the septic tank must process. Minimize toilet flushing. Rental of a portable toilet for a temporary period may be another option.
- Do not have your septic tank pumped out. Exceptionally high water tables might crush a septic tank that was pumped dry. If the problem is high ground water because of the rains and flooding, pumping the tank will not solve the problem.
- If you cannot use your plumbing without creating a sanitary nuisance, such as discharging sewage on the ground, consider moving temporarily to a new location until conditions improve.
- Do not have your septic tank and drain field repaired until the ground has had an opportunity to dry. Often systems are completely functional when unsaturated conditions return. Any repair must be permitted and inspected by your county health department.
- Minimize use of your washing machine. Consider utilizing a Laundromat.
- Turn off sprinkler / irrigation systems.

Drain Standing Water to Preventing Mosquito-borne Illness

Heavy rains and flooding can lead to an increase in mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are most active at sunrise and sunset. Public health authorities are working actively to control the spread of any diseases transmitted by mosquitoes.

To prevent mosquitoes from living and multiplying around your home or business:

DRAIN standing water:

- Drain water from garbage cans, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flowerpots or any other containers where sprinkler or rainwater has collected.
- Discarded old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.
- Empty and clean birdbaths and pet's water bowls at least once or twice a week.
- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.
- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER your skin with:

CLOTHING – If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves.

REPELLENT – Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with 10-30% DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.

COVER doors and windows and screens:

Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches and patios.

Tips on Eliminating Mosquito Breeding Sites

- Clean out eaves, troughs and gutters.
- Remove old tires or drill holes in those used in playgrounds to drain.
- Turn over or remove empty plastic pots.
- Pick up all beverage containers and cups.
- Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water.
- Pump out bilges on boats.
- Replace water in birdbaths and pet or other animal feeding dishes at least once a week.
- Change water in plant trays, including hanging plants, at least once a week.
- Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.

For more information, please contact your local county health department at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us>

Shelters

- 15 shelters are open in Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Hernando, Leon, Nassau, Pasco, Pinellas, Suwannee and Wakulla counties, including three special needs shelters, one in Pasco County and one in Baker County and one in Nassau County. Visit Floridaevacuates.com for shelter nearest you and driving directions.

Tourism

- The following State Parks and Trail are closed:
 - St George Island State Park
 - Bald Point State Park
 - Ochlockonee River State Park
 - Manatee Springs State Park
 - Suwannee River Wilderness Trail

- Big Shoals State Park
- Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park
- Troy Springs State Park
- Nature and Heritage Tourism Center
- Madison Blue Spring
- South Skyway Fishing Pier
- Egmont Key

Partial closure:

- Lafayette Blue Spring State Park
- O'leno State Park
- River Rise Preserve State Park
- Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park
- To Public/Travelers/Guests: Messaging should focus on heeding law enforcement, complying with evacuation orders; advise how/where to get up-to-the minute travel/road/fuel/lodging information.
 - Must comply with mandatory evacuation orders
 - Publicize evacuation and road information

Business and Industry

- ESF 18 will stand up a Private Sector Hotline for members of the private sector throughout the state to report damage, losses, closings, impediments to reopening or any other issues of concern. For those Private Sector partners calling in, please be prepared to give your physical location (county included), phone or email contact information and any issues you are having; if reporting losses of income due to the storm please give your best estimate for the time period of last Sunday (6/24) through next Saturday(6/30). We will maintain this information and share with our county partners as well. Also feel free to call with any questions. If we don't have the answer when we take your call we will get your number or email address and return the call. **The hotline number is (850) 410-1403 between 8a.m. and 7p.m. daily until further notice.** You may also email information to EOC-ESF18@em.myflorida.com.
- Have a plan for re-entry to impacted area (communicate with local law enforcement and emergency managers); protect critical records and data; final communications and messaging to staff and guests/customers, emphasizing planning for special needs, meds, and pets; instruct employees how/where to rally or communicate immediately after event.
 - Communicate where/how to find travel/lodging/evacuation information
 - Activate employee hotline or call list, send test message
 - Ensure employees know they are responsible for checking in to notify of their status, learn the employer's status, and know how to get ongoing recovery information

Recommended Preparedness Actions:

- **Turn Around, Don't Drown.** If you see a flooded roadway, turn around and take another route. Take your time when travelling.
- **Avoid Standing Water.** Avoid contact with flood waters, especially if you have open cuts.

- **Wash Your Hands.** Stay as clean as possible by washing your hands with soap and water that has been boiled or disinfected.
- **Don't Wait to Evacuate.** Follow instructions from local officials by staying tuned to local media for evacuation or sheltering and take action immediately.
- **Use flashlights, not candles.** Ensure your family has enough flashlights and batteries in the case of a power outage. Candles create a fire hazard and should be avoided.
- **Avoid Downed Power Lines.** If you see a downed power line, assume it is live and contact the utility. Do not try to handle it yourself.
- **Follow Beach Warning Flags.** If you go to the beach, pay attention to the warning flags and do not swim if beaches are closed. Tropical storms, including Debby, increase the risk of dangerous rip currents.

For more information, contact your local county emergency management office. For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management and to get a plan, visit www.FloridaDisaster.org. Follow us on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/flsert and visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/floridasert.

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