



# TROPICAL STORM DEBBY

State Emergency Response Team  
[www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org)



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Bryan W. Koon**  
Director

**TROPICAL STORM DEBBY UPDATE:** Tuesday, June 26, 2012, 6:00pm.  
**CONTACT:** Public Information (ESF 14), (850) 921-0217

**TALLAHASSEE** – Under the leadership of Governor Rick Scott, the State Emergency Response Team is coordinating the response to Tropical Storm 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 PM Tuesday, Tropical Storm Debby was located about 35 miles north-northwest of Cedar Key, Florida. Maximum sustained winds remain at 40 mph. Tropical storm force winds extend 175 miles on the eastern side of Debby.
- Debby is expected to become a tropical depression within the next six to 12 hours, but Debby could once again strengthen to a tropical storm after exiting Florida later this week.
- Debby is moving toward the east-northeast at six mph and this general motion with an increase in forward speed is expected over the next couple of days before turning northeast on Thursday or Friday.

## **On Site Actions:**

- **Evacuation:**
  - **Mandatory:**
    - Franklin- Low lying, coastal areas and mobile homes; Gulf- Indian Pass Campground and Boat Ramp, St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.
    - Suwannee- City of Live Oak and other low lying areas
    - Wakulla- low areas, Sopchoppy area and areas south of Hwy 98
    - Pasco- communities located near Anclote River area
    - Hernando
  - **Voluntary:**
    - Pinellas
    - Hillsborough
    - Levy
    - 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
- **School and Government Closures:** Schools are out for summer break. Clerk and Courthouse are closed in Franklin County. Government Offices are closed in Wakulla County.
- **Road Closures:** The Sunshine Skyway Bridge in Pinellas and Manatee counties is closed in both directions due to a high wind advisory. The St. George Island Bridge in Franklin County is closed due to high winds, only residents may pass. Up to date road closures are available at [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org).
- **Ports:** All ports are open.
- **Power Outages:** As of 3 p.m., approximately 34,890 customers across the state were without power. Outages have been reported in 50 counties.
- **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.
  - An assisted living facility in Hillsborough County was evacuated due to fast rising waters.
- **Tropical Storm Warning:** Tropical Storm Warnings are in place Steinhatchee to Englewood, including Dixie, Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota counties.
- **Tropical Storm Watch:**
- **Tornado Watch:**
- **Flash Flood Watch:** A [Flash Flood Watch](#) is in effect for Taylor, Dixie, and Lafayette Counties through late tonight.
- **Flood Watch:** A [Flood Watch](#) is in effect for West Central Florida, including Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Sumter, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota counties through Wednesday morning and all of Northeast Florida through Wednesday night.
- **Flood Warning:** [Flood Warnings](#) are in effect for several North Florida and West Central Florida rivers.

### **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:**

- Six counties are under a boil water notice. These include Franklin, Hillsborough, Jackson, Marion, Pasco, and Sumter counties.

### **Shelters**

- 15 shelters are open in Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Suwannee, Taylor and Wakulla counties, including two special needs shelters, one in Pasco County and one in Baker County. Visit [Floridaevacuates.com](http://Floridaevacuates.com) for shelter nearest you and driving directions.

### **Tourism**

- 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**

- 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](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org). Follow us on Twitter at [www.Twitter.com/flsert](http://www.Twitter.com/flsert) and visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/floridasert](http://www.facebook.com/floridasert).

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