



News Release

Escambia County
Office of Public Information and Communications
34 West Government Street, Pensacola FL 32501

Hurricane Ivan Update # 33
Date: September 17, 2004
Time: 1200

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Hurricane Ivan Update

Pensacola, FL, September 17, 2004: Escambia County officials continue to work around the clock restoring services to citizens and guests. The Escambia County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) continues to be at "Level 1" activation.

Government / Organization Closures:

- Escambia County Courthouse and Administration Building continues to be closed.
- Pensacola Naval Air Station is closed. *Key personnel need to report to the base, this does not include tenant command. If unsure where to report, go to the consolidated fire station on the base.*
- Escambia County School Board continues to be closed. *District maintenance and facilities planning personnel should report to the Hall Center Maintenance immediately. All other school district personnel are to remain clear of all school district properties until further notice.*
- Pensacola Regional Airport is closed.

Transportation:

- Highway 90 Bridge is open for local traffic only.
- Pensacola Bay, Escambia County (I-10), and Bob Sikes Bridge continue to be closed due to damage.
- Residents and guests are asked to stay off roads to allow emergency vehicles to move quickly and safely to emergencies.

Curfew:

- A curfew has been established from 7:00pm – 7:00am. All citizens and guests should be off the roads during this time.

FEMA Assistance:

- Escambia County residents may apply for FEMA assistance by calling 1-800-621-FEMA. Residents who sustained damage from Hurricane Ivan must register to be eligible for assistance.
- Small business owners may also be eligible for low interest loans to cover business losses.

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Shelters:

- The following shelters have been opened in Escambia County. These shelters will replace all other shelters inside the county:
 - Escambia High School
 - Tate High School
 - Washington High School
 - Northview High School
 - Pensacola Junior College (special needs only)

Utilities:

- Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA)
 - Main Street Sewer Plant remains down, however, the Bayou Marcus plant is operating.
 - Citizens are urged to report water leaks. Call 476-5110 or 595-3394 to report the leaks.
- BellSouth
 - Approximately 156,700 people are without service in their northwest network area which is comprised of Bay, Washington, Holmes, Jackson, Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties. They are working to repair service as soon as possible. Customers wishing to call BellSouth for repair service may use the following number:
 - Residential repair from a BellSouth phone, dial 611; from wireless or non-BellSouth phone or outside of Florida, dial 1-800-432-1424.
 - Business repair from a BellSouth phone, dial 866-620-6900; from wireless or non-BellSouth phone or outside Florida, dial 1-800-252-0803.
- Escambia River Electric Cooperative
 - Approximately 5,600 customers in Escambia County are without power. Additional workers are responding from around the county.
- Gulf Power
 - Approximately 137,963 customers in Escambia County are without power.
 - They are bringing in more than 1,800 outside workers to aid in the restoration efforts. These crews will be working in Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Jackson, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington counties.
 - Damage Assessment has been listed as catastrophic. Over 790 miles of transmission lines have been damaged. Plant Crist Generating Plant sustained damage and is not working. Crews hope to have it running later today.

Volunteers/Donations:

- The Red Cross is looking for Volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering can call 432-7601.
- Emergency Management Officials need available County personnel to work phone lines in the Citizens Information Center and Disaster Recovery Distribution sites. Please call 595-3344 to sign up.

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Debris / Solid Waste:

- Perdido Landfill will open at noon, Today, September 17, 2004. Oak Grove Convenience Station will remain closed.
- Citizens are urged to avoid burning debris. Failure of water systems, make it extremely difficult for firefighters to fight fires.

Health / Medical:

- The Escambia County Health Department reminds everyone that we are still under a Boil Water Notice.
- Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services workers remind citizens to use generators outside in well-ventilated areas.
- Children should be monitored at all times. Downed power lines and tree limbs present a threat of injury.

Animal Services:

- Escambia County Animal Control and The Animal Shelter can be reached at 595-3075 for non-emergency calls, and 595-3080 for emergencies.
- Citizens are allowed to claim missing pets starting, Saturday, September 18, 2004.
- The Animal Shelter is open Saturday and Sunday this weekend from 9:00am – 4:00pm. On Monday, September 19, 2004, the Animal Shelter will resume normal operating hours Monday – Saturday, 9:00am – 4:00pm.
- Injured wildlife should be taken to the Wildlife Sanctuary, 105 N S Street, Pensacola.
- A temporary refuge for pets has been established at Escambia County Animal Shelter 595-3073.

Citizen Information Line
(850) 595-3344

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For more information:
Sonya M. Smith, Public Information Manager
(850) 595-3315