



News Release

Escambia County
Office of Public Information and Communications
P.O. Box 1591, Pensacola FL 32591

Hurricane Dennis
News Release 10
Date: July 11, 2005
Time: 13:15

Escambia County- Hurricane Dennis Update

➤ **Curfew Order**

- Escambia County Administrator, George Touart has established a curfew order effective Sunday, July 10, 2005, from 8:00pm to 6:00am
- Law Enforcement agencies will enforce the curfew with the following exceptions:
 - Businesses and their employees who sell any goods, services, materials, merchandise, supplies, equipment, resources, or other articles of commerce including food, water, ice, chemicals, petroleum products, and lumber necessary for use as a result of a direct emergency; emergency responders including employees of Federal, State, County and Municipal agencies and health care workers assigned to work as a direct result of this emergency; and employees or agency volunteers of non-governmental organizations officially participating in the emergency response effort assigned to work as a direct result of this emergency are exempt.

➤ **Generator Safety**

- Generator Placement- Place the generator a minimum of 15 feet from any opening such as windows, patio doors, and open garage doors.
- Ensure that the wind is not blowing generator fumes towards any open windows. Be cautious of blowing gas fumes toward your neighbors open windows and thus creating a hazardous situation for them.
- Turn off generator before re-fueling. Allow the generator to cool before re-fueling.
- Use the proper size electrical cords with no cuts or frays. Do not pinch the cords in doors or windows.
- Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning include: headache, dizziness, irritability, confusion/memory loss, disorientation, nausea and vomiting, abnormal reflexes, difficulty in coordinating, difficulty in breathing, chest pain, cerebral edema, convulsions/seizures, coma, and death.
- Treatment of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

- Go to a safe area that is not affected by fumes and contact 911 immediately
- Wait for assistance.
- DO NOT RE-ENTER AFFECTED AREA.

➤ **Disaster Recovery Centers**

- A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) will open on Tuesday, July 12, 2005 at 8:00 am at the Ag Building in Century.
 - The agencies that will be represented are as follows:
 - Agency for Workforce Innovation
 - Department of Financial Services (Insurance)
 - Department of Elder Affairs
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - Army Corp of Engineers
- To register for assistance, please call 1-800-621-FEMA

➤ **Board of County Commissioners**

- The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners have cancelled their trip to the National Association of Counties Conference in Hawaii due to, not only Hurricane Dennis, but also to allow the Commissioners to attend the funeral of former Commissioner Cliff Barnhart.

➤ **Summer Feeding Program**

- All Escambia County Summer Feeding Program sites will be closed on Monday, July 11, 2005. Additional closure days will be announced

➤ **Colleges**

- **Pensacola Junior College**
 - All Pensacola Junior College campuses are closed and classes cancelled until Monday, July 18, 2005.
 - Only essential personnel should report to work (maintenance, grounds, housekeeping).
- **University of West Florida**
 - The University is closed through Monday, July 18, 2005.
 - On Monday, July 18, 2005, operations will return to normal.
 - Any personnel needed will be contacted.

➤ **Coast Guard**

- All waterways in the Mobile COTP zone from Mobile Harbor to the western end of the COTP Mobile AOR are open to commercial barge traffic only. Mariners are advised to use caution when transiting these waters, due to possible Aids to Navigation discrepancies and debris from Hurricane Dennis. Follow up surveys are currently being conducted and mariners will be advised of possible hazards through broadcast notice to mariners.
- Current information may be obtained from the COTP Mobile Voice Mail Announcement system at phone number (251) 441-5080.

- Further questions may be addressed by contacting Sector Mobile at (251) 441-5508.

➤ **Debris Clean-Up**

- Residents should place Hurricane Dennis Debris on the County right-of-way.
- Vegetative debris and construction and demolition (C&D) debris must be separated. If debris is mixed, it will not be picked up.
- Debris should not be placed in the roadway or within 10 feet of fire hydrants, mailboxes or water meters.

➤ **Pensacola Civic Center**

- The Kelly Clarkson Concert, scheduled for tomorrow, July 12, 2005, has been postponed.

➤ **Health Department**

- Effective immediately, the Health Department is issuing health alerts for all swimming and water recreation areas in the inland waters of Escambia County. Excessive surface run-off and possible sanitary sewer overflows caused by flooding may potentially contaminate local swimming areas with water-borne disease pathogens. The Health Department advises against any water-related activities including swimming and fishing in the inland waters due to the potential for high bacteria levels.
- Excessive surface run-off and possible sanitary sewer overflows caused by flooding may contaminate the floodwaters pooled on area streets. Children and adults should stay away from pooled floodwaters on area streets; children playing in contaminated standing water can become sick due to high bacteria levels and disease pathogens.
- The Escambia County Health Department will assess the safety of swimming areas and notify the public when regularly monitored areas are safe for swimming, fishing and water recreation.
- Basic hygiene is very important during an emergency period. Always wash your hands with soap and water that has been boiled or disinfected and cooled before eating, after toilet use, after participating in cleanup activities, and after handling articles contaminated by floodwater or sewage.

➤ **Traffic & Fuel**

- Crews cannot get to areas. Please stay off roads so crews can repair services.
- The county is working with the State for fuel deliveries.

➤ **Shelters**

- The Special Needs Shelter will now accept residents who are no longer able to live in their home due to loss of power or damage from Hurricane Dennis. The Special Needs Shelter is for the medically needy who live independently but rely on either nursing care or electrical power to perform daily activities such as taking medication or monitoring vital signs.
- The shelter populations are as follows as of 9:30 pm July 10:

- Total General Shelter population – 1,210
 - Bellview Elementary, 4425 Bellview Ave – 80
 - Blue Angel Elementary, 1551 Dog Track Road - 141
 - Carver Century, 440 East Hecker Road - 159
 - Ferry Pass Middle, 8355 Yancey Avenue – 50
 - Molino Park Elementary, 899 Highway 97 - 210
 - Pensacola Civic Center 201 East Gregory Street – 350
 - Tate High School, 1771 Tate Road – 52
 - University of West Florida, 11000 University Pkwy, Bldg. 13 – 101
 - West Florida High School, 2400 Longleaf Drive - 67
 - **Special Needs Shelter**— 206 including staff
 - Carver/Century is open to residents whose homes are not liveable due to damage. They must be at the shelter by 8:00 p.m.
 - Pensacola Civic Center now has power.
- **Fire & Law Enforcement**
- The Escambia County Fire Department and EMS crews are currently responding to calls held during the storm and current emergency calls. They are also doing street-to-street damage assessments and search & rescue operations.
 - Escambia Search and Rescue personnel are asked to report as early as possible on Monday.
 - The Escambia County Sheriff’s Department and Pensacola Police Department are currently conducting damage assessments and answering emergency calls.
 - FHP is reporting downed trees, water on roads and are still assessing the interstate.
 - FDLE has 450 state Law Enforcement Officers responding, 750 National Guardsman, and 100 Sheriff’s Deputies.
- **Hospitals**
- West Florida Hospital is currently running on generators but has water service. Patients are safe and cared for.
 - Baptist Hospital is up and running.
 - Sacred Heart is up and running.
- **Beaches**
- Perdido Key is open but under current curfew conditions
 - No hurricane passes are needed.
 - No power or other utilities at this time
 - Access from Escambia County Only.
 - The Perdido Key Chamber of Commerce Office will be closed tomorrow to allow County crews easier access for damage assessment, but will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, July 12, 2005.
 - Residents that do not already have their hurricane passes should pick up their passes beginning on Tuesday, July 12, 2005.
 - The Bob Sikes Bridge is open.
 - Pensacola Beach is open to residential and commercial leaseholders with proper identification.

- Leaseholders that are trying to access the beach must park at Casino Beach and walk. **PLEASE USE EXTREME CAUTION AS POWER LINES ARE DOWN ON THE ROADWAY AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ARE WORKING TO CLEAR THE ROADWAY.**
 - Pensacola Beach still has downed power lines and wash-overs on roads.
 - The Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier is still closed.
 - There are no lifeguards on the beach.
 - Everyone is urged to stay out of water.
- **Escambia County Emergency Operations**
- The EOC will continue to staff positions.
- **Transportation**
- The I-10 Escambia Bay Bridge opened Monday, July 11, 2005 at noon.
 - In the north end of the County, Pine Forest Road will be closed between Garrett Road and Doran Road.
 - Traffic is restricted on State Road 742 at Hillburn Drive due to trees being on power lines.
 - Traffic is restricted on State Road 10 (U.S. 90A) at Music Lane due to trees being on power lines.
 - The bridge and road at Eleven Mile Creek on 297A will be closed between Highway 97 and Pinecone Drive.
 - All bridges are closed other than 3-Mile Bridge and the Theo Baars Bridge until inspection by the Department of Transportation on Monday.
 - The detour route for Interstate 10 is north from Exit 13 SR 291 (Davis Highway) or Exit 22 SR 281 (Avalon Boulevard) to US 90. Motorists are asked to follow the detour signs. Traffic will use this route until the bridge structures have been inspected after the storm makes landfall.
 - The Alabama Pass Bridge closed at 6:00 a.m. Saturday per the Orange Beach Police Department.
 - ECAT bus service will have no service tomorrow.
 - All ECAT employees are to report as scheduled Monday.
 - People in shelters should not call ECAT individually. Shelters will coordinate their transportation.
 - Four buses will be sent to each shelter to transport. All people from the shelters at one time.
 - No transportation will be available tonight.
 - Tolls remain suspended on the Mid-Bay and Garcon Point Bridges in Florida's panhandle until further notice.
 - The Florida Department of Transportation has set up and is manning a phone bank for motorist seeking information. Live personnel are standing by 24/7 to answer calls related to detours, road closures and other transportation related issues. The toll tree number is 888-638-0250, then dial 1 and extension 637.

➤ **Pensacola Regional Airport**

- Pensacola Regional Airport sustained damage to the roofs of two out buildings, the Navy Flying Club and Air Cargo. There is minor water damage to other parts of the airport.
- The airport is expected to open within 48 hours.
- Travelers are advised to make any travel changes by telephone, and should not come out to the airport before contacting their airlines.
 - AirTran Airways 1-800-247-8726
 - American Eagle 1-800-433-7300
 - Continental Airways 1-800-525-0280
 - Delta Air Lines 1-800-221-1212
 - Northwest 1-800-225-2525
 - US Airways 1-800-428-4322
- Contact information for all airlines serving the Pensacola Regional Airport is available on our website www.flypensacola.com.

➤ **County Office Announcements**

- Escambia County Facilities Management reports:
 - The Escambia Jail, Central Booking, and Sheriff Administration are without water pressure and power.
 - The canopy blew off the Central Booking building onto Escambia County One-Stop Building.
 - The generator at the Road Prison is not working.
 - The Animal Shelter has sustained roof damage.
 - The phone system at Escambia County Animal Control is back in service. Citizens should call 595-3075 for routine calls or 595-3080 for emergency calls.
- Escambia County Road Department Crews are currently inspecting roads.
- The Escambia County Engineering Department is evaluating all traffic signals and will have generators at locations that do not have power.
- The Escambia County Animal Shelter will open Monday.
- The county currently has three debris contractors, Ash Britt, Crowder-Gulf and DRC and will not be soliciting for additional contractors.
- Those Board of County Commissioner and Constitutional Officers' employees that are Manpower Pool unscheduled are to report to the Extension Center at 8:00 am on Tuesday for job assignments. This includes all employees who have not been assigned pre-storm duties. Employees ONLY should call (850) 475-5488, (850) 475-5489, (850) 475-5490 or (850) 475-5491 if they have any questions. This does not include School Board or Emerald Coast Utilities Authority employees. Staff are asked to come prepared to work outside with tennis shoes, sunscreen, hats, etc.
- All Escambia County Health Department clinics will be closed on Monday. Clients with appointments at any of the health department's four clinics should call next week to reschedule.
- Escambia County Health Department employees must call-in their status after Dennis makes landfall using the toll-free phone number 1-877-425-8852. There

are more than 400 health department employees reporting to emergency assignments during Hurricane Dennis including assignments at the county's Special Needs Shelter.

➤ **Escambia County School District**

- Reporting 2 schools with major damage:
 - Workman Middle
 - Bratt Elementary
- The damage is not expected to hinder the opening of schools in August
- Disaster assessment teams are asked to report to their respective sites at 7:00 am Monday.
- The Escambia County School District has reported that all district activities are cancelled for next week.

➤ **Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office**

- The scheduled Tax Deed Sale scheduled on Monday July 11th, 2005 at the Old County Courthouse has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.
- The scheduled Mortgage Foreclosure Sale scheduled on Monday July 11th, 2005 at the M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.

➤ **Courts**

- All courts in Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton Counties will be closed on Monday, July 11, 2005 due to Hurricane Dennis.
- The Information Hotline for the courts is 850/595-4400 in Pensacola. Information will be updated on that line as it becomes available. The courts have also established a web link at www.firstjudicialcircuit.org where updates will also be posted.
- Persons who miss a court date on Monday should call their attorney's office on Tuesday for rescheduling information. Unrepresented persons should call the respective Clerk of Court when the courts reopen.
- It is anticipated that all courts will re-open for business on Tuesday, July 12, 2005 unless otherwise posted or stated on the Information Hotline.
 - **ESCAMBIA COUNTY JURORS:** All Escambia County jurors scheduled to report for the week of Monday, July 11, 2005 should not report to the M.C. Blanchard Building on Monday. Pay close attention to the news media for updated information and further instructions.
 - **SANTA ROSA COUNTY JURORS:** No jurors are scheduled to report the week of Monday, July 11, 2005. Jurors scheduled to report the following week should pay close attention to news media for updated information and further instructions.
 - **OKALOOSA COUNTY JURORS:** Jurors scheduled for jury duty on Monday, July 11, 2005 should plan to report instead on Wednesday, July 13, 2005. Pay close attention to the news media for updated information and further instructions.

- WALTON COUNTY JURORS: Jurors scheduled to report on Monday, July 11, 2005 are excused. Pay close attention to the news media for updated information and further instructions.

- **City of Pensacola**
 - The City of Pensacola reports the northeast side of the city was hardest hit. Most damage was not severe, generally downed trees.
 - The Fire Department will start clearing roads immediately.
 - Pensacola Police Department is currently conducting damage assessments and answering emergency calls.
 - The Pensacola City Council has cancelled City Committee meetings scheduled Monday, July 11 and the City Council meeting scheduled Thursday, July 14. The meetings are expected to be rescheduled for the week beginning July 17.

- **Navy**
 - The Navy Exchange and Commissary will not open today, Monday, July 11, 2005, as planned, due to power outages.
 - NAS Pensacola sustained minimal damage. The front and back gates are open. Access is restricted to military and civilian employees with red stickers.
 - NAS Pensacola will reopen tomorrow to all military personal and those civilians with red and yellow stickers for normal working hours from 8:00 am.
 - All residents of Mariner Village may return at any time. Be advised there is no power as of yet.
 - NAS Pensacola base housing will be open for residents at noon Monday. Base housing does have power.
 - The base will reopen to all at noon Monday.
 - Tuesday will be normal working hours for all personnel.
 - Boat owners with boats at Bayou Grande Marina will have access to their boats at noon Monday.
 - Military personnel and government employees are exempt from the curfew order.
 - NAS Whiting Field personnel with red/orange stickers are to report to work at 8:00 am Monday. Personnel with purple stickers should report at noon.
 - NAS Whiting EOC contact number is: (850) 623-7709/7287.
 - Center for Information Dominance, Corry Station – All military and civilian personnel will muster no later than 12:00 noon on Monday, July 11, 2005.
 - The Naval Hospital will be open Monday, July 11, 2005 and will be accepting patients on a walk-in basis. Tuesday will be business as usual.
 - NAS Saufley Field will resume normal operations on Monday, July 11, 2005.

- **Gulf Power**
 - Gulf Power has begun a comprehensive damage assessment to determine which lines and equipment to repair first to get the most customers back up in the shortest period of time
 - Of 1,579 miles of transmission lines, almost 500 miles have been damaged.
 - Gulf Power is initially bringing in approximately 2,000 outside workers today and more are on the way Tuesday, July 12, 2005 to aid in the restoration effort.

Following Hurricane Dennis, **242,185** Gulf Power customers are without power. The following is a breakdown geographically:

Outages by county are:

Bay	16,783	Escambia	100,107
Holmes	1,913	Santa Rosa	56,697
Jackson	342	Okaloosa	67,877
Washington	2,577	Walton	385

- Gulf Power has been busy trying to assess damage to the electrical system as Dennis passed through the area. Full restoration will begin at daybreak on Monday as Gulf Power crews and outside workers head out in full force.
- Until damage assessments are done, they cannot determine how long it will take to restore power.
- Customers are asked to report outages to 1-800-GUPOWER
- 1,400 employees are prepared for storm duty and outside utilities are standing by to send in crews.
- Gulf Power Company has commitments for more than 3,300 outside workers to help restore power after the storm passes.

➤ **Emerald Coast Utilities Authority**

- ECUA Customer Service closed at 10:00 am today because of no phone service.
- Main Street and Bayou Marcus Wastewater treatment plants are operating.
- Residents should continue to restrict their water use due to loss of power at lift stations.
- As a precaution, ECUA is notifying all of its water customers to boil water prior to drinking or use bottled water.
- ECUA Sanitation is operating on normal schedule. Our trucks may have trouble accessing some streets but we are hopeful that this will be minimal.

➤ **Escambia River Electric Cooperative**

- Escambia River Electric Cooperative received widespread damage to their power system. All members are without power at this time. Five of seven substations received heavy damage to the transmission lines, which bring the electricity from their generating plant.
- Crews have begun arriving to assist EREC crews to restore power. Several hundred linemen will be on-site Monday with additional crews arriving Tuesday to join their restoration force.
- Call 1-800-235-3848 to report power outages.

➤ **Gonzales Utilities and Farm Hill Utilities**

- These utilities have reported that they will continue to run throughout the hurricane.

➤ **Bell South**

- With power outages, some customers receiving service through remote telephone terminals have experienced service interruptions. Service to most of those customers is being restored as commercial power returns.

- Some customers may experience service interruptions if their lines have been damaged. As soon as it is safe to enter these areas, BellSouth sweep teams are assessing damage and restoring service.
 - Approximately 7,000 BellSouth employees maintain the Florida network and hundreds of BellSouth technicians in surrounding BellSouth states are mobilized with vehicles, equipment and supplies ready to work around the clock to help restore telephone service to Florida customers affected by Hurricane Dennis.
- **Cox Communications**
- Cox Communications is currently going through the assessment process.
 - Preliminary assessments show the network did not sustain major damage. Assessments will continue today and tomorrow.
 - 1,000 additional contractors and employees from other Cox service areas will help restore services as soon as possible.
- **Perdido Landfill**
- The landfill plans to re-open on Monday at 1pm (weather permitting).
 - The Solid Waste Department has pulled all their recycling containers. They will be replaced as soon possible after the storm passes.
 - The Oak Grove Convenience Center will reopen after the storm as soon as possible.
 - Citizens are encouraged to report anyone who is seen dumping illegally by providing vehicle tag numbers and descriptions to (850) 595-3536.
 - Landfill employees are to report to work Monday as scheduled unless winds are above 40 mph (sustained).
 - The Debris Hotline, 937-2180, will resume as soon as possible after the storm.
- **Red Cross**
- All Red Cross volunteers and individuals wishing to volunteer their support for Hurricane Dennis should contact their local Red Cross office unless already scheduled for assignments.
 - In Escambia County, Red Cross volunteers and those wanting to assist should call (850) 432-7601.
- **United Way**
- Any residents who would like to volunteer to assist others please call the EOC Volunteer Line at 471-6696.
 - The Volunteer Reception Center will open for donations on Tuesday morning.
- **Additional Information**
- Remain calm, especially while waiting in fuel lines, at grocery stores, banks, etc.
 - Be sure to store gasoline and diesel fuel in well-ventilated areas, away from heat sources, which could cause it to ignite.
 - Generators should be placed outdoors in a well-ventilated area.
 - Residents can help the recovery effort by staying off the roads until curfews are lifted. Refrain from unnecessary travel following the storm's landfall.

- Evacuated residents should avoid returning to impacted areas until local authorities issue re-entry orders, roads and bridges along travel corridors re-open and utility crews begin returning power to communities.
 - Exercise patience, restraint and good judgment.
 - Visit floridadisaster.org for the latest information or call the Florida Emergency Information Line at 1-800-342-3557 before returning to impacted areas.
- **Citizen Information Line**
- Citizens may call (850) 471-6600 if they have questions about Hurricane Dennis.
- **Price Gouging**
- Residents are asked to report price gouging to the Florida Attorney General at 1-866-966-7226.
- **Official Website**
- www.bereadyescambia.com

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