



# News Release

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

Hurricane Dennis  
News Release 11  
Date: July 11, 2005  
Time: 14:15

## *Escambia County- Hurricane Dennis Update*

### ➤ Distribution Sites

- Escambia County has open two distribution sites for water and ice:
  - Washington High School, 6000 College Blvd.
  - Old Winn Dixie Shopping Center, 470 N. Hwy 29, Cantonment
- On Tuesday, July 12, the following sites will also be open:
  - Ernest Ward Middle School, 7650 Hwy 97, Walnut Hill
  - Molino Park Elementary School, 899 Hwy 97, Molino
  - Carver/Century School, 440 E Hecker Road, Pensacola
  - Ferry Pass Middle School, 8355 Yancy Avenue, Pensacola
  - Brent Mall, 15 E Brent Lane, Pensacola
  - Warrington Village Shopping Center (Old Zayre's location)  
507 N Navy Blvd, Pensacola
- Hours of operation are from 7am to 6pm.

### ➤ Pensacola Beach

- Monday, July 11- Via De Luna will be open down to Avenida 18 until 8pm. Additional changes for Tuesday, July 12 will be updated late this evening.
- Pensacola Beach is open to residential and commercial leaseholders with proper decals.
- 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 impassable roads.
- The Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier is still closed.
- There are no lifeguards on the beach.
- Everyone is urged to stay out of water.
- The Bob Sikes Bridge is open.

➤ **Perdido Key**

- Perdido Key is open but under current curfew conditions
  - No hurricane passes are needed.
  - No power or other utilities at this time.
- The Perdido Key Chamber of Commerce Office will be closed Monday 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.

➤ **Curfew Order**

- A curfew order is in effect 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)
      - **SBA**
    - To register for assistance, please call 1-800-621-FEMA
  - **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). **All other faculty members and students should not return.**
    - **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.
  - **Special Needs Shelter- 131 including staff**
- All shelters have closed except two:
  - Pensacola Civic Center will close this evening.
  - 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.

➤ **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 was restored to full power at 6:45pm Sunday night (July 10). The hospital is fully operational. Patients are safe and cared for.
  - Both Baptist Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital are up and running.
- **Escambia County Emergency Operations**
  - The EOC will continue to staff positions.
- **Transportation**
  - The I-10 Escambia Bay Bridge is open.
  - In the north end of the County, Pine Forest Road will be closed between Garrett Road and Doran Road.
  - Traffic has reopened on State Road 742 at Hillburn Drive due to trees being on power lines.
  - Traffic has reopened 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.
  - Fanny Road and Barrineau Park Road remain closed while the bridges are being replaced (as a result of damage from Hurricane Ivan last year).
  - Richardson Road in Molino is closed at this time.
  - ECAT bus service will resume normal service on Tuesday.
  - 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 free number is 888-638-0250, then dial 1 and extension 637.
- **Board of County Commissioners**
  - Due to Hurricane Dennis and the passing of former Commissioner Cliff Barnhart, the trip to the National Association of Counties meeting in Hawaii has been cancelled.
  - The board wishes to extend their sympathy to the family of Cliff Barnhart.
- **County Office Announcements**
  - All Board of County Commission employees that are not presently in a job assignment are to report to the Extension Center at 8:00 am on Tuesday. 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. Employees are asked to come prepared to work outside with tennis shoes, sunscreen, hats, etc.

- Escambia County Facilities Management reports damage to the following buildings:
  - 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.
- 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 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 Health Department**
  - 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**
  - Preliminary reports show the following schools with major damage:
    - Workman Middle
    - Bratt Elementary
    - Sutter Elementary
    - Brownsville Middle
    - West Florida Technical High School
    - Brown Barge Middle
    - Northview High School
    - Woodham Highschool
  - Preliminary reports show the following schools with moderate damage:
    - Helen Caro Elementary
    - Ensley Elementary
    - Hallmark Elementary
    - Lipscomb Elementary
    - Environmental Center
    - Ferry Pass Middle
    - Washington High School

- Ransom Middle School
  - Pine Meadow 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**
  - The Information Hotline for the courts is 850/595-4400 in Pensacola.
    - **ESCAMBIA COUNTY:** All courts in Escambia County remain closed on Tuesday, July 12, 2005. All courts are expected to re-open on Wednesday, July 13, 2005, subject to restoration of power. All jurors for the week of July 11<sup>th</sup> are excused. Please watch your media for further updates. If you missed a court appearance on Monday or Tuesday, please call your attorney's office on Wednesday for rescheduling information. If you are unrepresented, please call your respective Clerk of Court for rescheduling information.
    - **SANTA ROSA COUNTY:** All courts in Santa Rosa will remain closed through Friday, July 15, 2005. Please watch your local media for updates on court re-opening. The main court facility in Milton has received substantial damage and court may be held in alternative facilities following the completion of damage assessments.
    - **OKALOOSA COUNTY:** All court proceedings in Okaloosa County will resume on Tuesday, July 12, 2005. If you missed a court appearance on Monday, please call your attorney for rescheduling information.
    - **WALTON COUNTY JURORS:** All court proceedings in Walton County will resume on Tuesday, July 12, 2005. If you missed a court appearance on Monday, please call your attorney for rescheduling information.
  
- **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 Monday 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.
- NAS Pensacola is open. All personnel should report at normal working hours.
- All DEFAS personnel are to report at normal working hours on Wednesday, July 13, 2005.
- 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 is open to designated personnel only. 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 estimates that power will be restored to 95% of the customers within one week.
- More than 17,000 customers in the Gulf Power service area are expected to have power by 9pm tonight.
- 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.
- 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.
  - Customers in the Cordova Park area may experience brown water. They are advised to flush their lines by running the water for a few minutes.
  - Today ONLY, you may report problems to the Citizens Information Line at 471-6600.
  - ECUA Customer Service Center and phone lines will re-open Tuesday morning, Tuesday, July 12, 2005.
  - 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.
  - The transmission to Jay substation has been repaired. They are working on critical loads such as hospitals.
  - 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**

- 80% of the Pensacola network is up and operating.
- They are in the process of fine-tuning the assessments.
- 1,000 additional contractors and employees from other Cox service areas will help restore services as soon as possible.

➤ **Perdido Landfill**

- The landfill has re-opened.
- The Solid Waste Department has pulled all their recycling containers. They will be replaced as soon as possible.
- The Oak Grove Convenience Center will reopen at 8:30am Thursday.
- 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.

➤ **Salvation Army**

- The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services is currently serving meals, sandwiches, snacks and drinks to Hurricane Dennis victims and disaster responders from 10:30-6:30 p.m. as of Monday, July 11 until further notice at the following locations:
  - Faith Miracle Center, 4317 N. Palafox St., Pensacola
  - Walnut Hill Community Center, 7850 Highway 97 N, Walnut Hill
  - Pensacola Retirement Center, 1700 North L Street, Pensacola
  - First West Florida Baptist District Association, 2400 W. Strong Street, Pensacola
  - Parkmore Plaza, 6275 Hwy. 90, Milton
  - Bruno's Parking Lot, 334 Gulf Breeze Pkwy, Gulf Breeze
  - Winn Dixie Parking Lot, 3355 Gulf Breeze Pkwy, Gulf Breeze
  - Walmart, 3767 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze
- Additional locations will be announced as Emergency Disaster Canteen Food Units arrive in the area.

➤ **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](http://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](http://www.bereadyescambia.com)

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