



News Release

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

Hurricane Dennis
News Release 20
Date: July 15, 2005
Time: 5:40 pm

Escambia County- Hurricane Dennis Update

- **Operation Roof “Blew”**
 - United Way’s First Call for Help will be assisting residents in gaining volunteer help in protecting roofs with coverings.
 - Residents must meet the following qualifications:
 - Escambia County resident
 - Have a leaking roof
 - Have a signed “Right of Entry” form by the homeowner if renting
 - Must be unable to protect their own roofs
 - Residents who need assistance should call First Call for Help at 595-5905 from 8:00-5:00, Monday-Friday or visit the United Way table at the following Disaster Recovery Center, seven days a week from 8:00 am-6:00 pm:
 - The Ag Building in Century
 - 33 Brent Lane, Pensacola
 - The program should be fully operational and data collection will begin by the first of next week.

- **Escambia County Emergency Operations**
 - The EOC deactivated at 7:00 pm Thursday.

- **Damage Assessments**
 - Preliminary reports that are subject to change show in Escambia County, 42 structures were destroyed, 41 sustained major damage, 55 had minor damage, and 100 has some level of damage.
 - The City of Pensacola reports 82 structures were affected.
 - The SRIA reports damage to public facilities including sand was \$3.4 million.
 - **Preliminary damage estimate is \$44M.**
 - Estimated crop loss for Escambia County to be:
 - Pecan-15%
 - Corn- 95%
 - Peanuts- 10%
 - Cotton- 25%

- Soybeans- 15%
- Pines planted in CRP have damage in excess of 50% due to combined winds from Ivan and Dennis.

- **National Guard**
 - The National Guard will be demobilizing as of **Friday**.

- **Distribution Sites**
 - All distribution sites closed at 6 pm Thursday and will not reopen.

- **Burn Ban**
 - Effective July 13, Escambia County is under a burn ban prohibiting the burning of trash, leaves, branches, trees, and garbage anywhere in Escambia County until further notice.
 - Violators can be punished by a fine up to \$500 and/or by imprisonment in County Jail for up to 60 days.

- **Management & Business Office**
 - Applicant Briefings for governmental and non-profit organizations that would like to apply for assistance as it relates to public damage and its related costs will be held from 9:00am-11:00am on Tuesday, July 19.
 - This meeting is not for the general public looking for FEMA assistance. Citizens should call 1-800-621-FEMA

- **Workforce Escarosa**
 - If you have lost your job due to Hurricane Dennis, Workforce Escarosa has temporary jobs paying \$10 per hour and higher. The jobs range from laborer positions to Administrative Assistant positions.
 - If you feel you qualify, you can visit the Workforce Escarosa office at 3475 N “L” Street in Pensacola or call them at 595-5200.
 - The phones may not work due to lack of power.

- **Pensacola Beach**
 - **The curfew has been lifted for Pensacola Beach.**
 - Power has been restored to the core area of Pensacola Beach.
 - The goal is to have all power, water and sewer operating by July 29, 2005.
 - Pensacola beach will not be closed to residents, business or contractors.
 - Contractors needing decals for access to Pensacola Beach can do so at the Building Inspections Satellite Office at the Shoreline Park at the Athletic Concession Stand in Gulf Breeze from 8:30 am-3:30 pm, Monday-Friday.
 - **A Pensacola Beach satellite office for building permits and inspections is located at the SRIA and is open 8:30-3:30, Monday-Friday.**
 - Pensacola Beach will be flying the new two flag system tomorrow with two red flags, indicating “water is closed”. Everyone is urged to stay out of water.
 - There is debris in the water; it will take several days to perform clean up.
 - Credentialed Insurance Adjusters may go to Pensacola Beach.

- **PLEASE USE EXTREME CAUTION AS POWER LINES ARE DOWN ON THE ROADWAY AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ARE WORKING TO CLEAR THE ROADWAY.**
- All roads are open.
- The Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier is still closed.
- There are no lifeguards on the beach.

- **Perdido Key**
 - Perdido Key is open.
 - Residents are encouraged to pick up their hurricane passes if they have not already done so.

- **Curfew Order**
 - **The curfew has been lifted in Escambia County, including Pensacola Beach.**

- **Disaster Recovery Centers**
 - The following Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) opened on Tuesday, July 12, 2005:
 - The Ag Building in Century
 - 33 Brent Lane, Pensacola
 - Community Center, 5259 Booker Lane, Jay
 - South Santa Rosa Service Center, 5841 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze
 - All centers will be open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, seven days a week until further notice.
 - The agencies that may be represented are as follows:
 - Agency for Workforce Innovation
 - Department of Financial Services (Insurance)
 - Department of Elder Affairs
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - SBA
 - Department of Veterans' Affairs
 - To register for assistance, please call 1-800-621-FEMA

- **Summer Feeding Program**
 - The Escambia County Summer Feeding Program resumed Thursday, July 14, 2005. For more information, please call (850) 595-3135.

- **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**

- Pick-up of Hurricane Dennis debris is underway.
- Residents should place Hurricane Dennis debris on the County right-of-way as quickly as possible. A deadline for pick-up may be imposed.
- Debris on private property should be pushed to the right-of-way. It will be picked up if it is on the right-of way. No right of entry is needed.
- If residents have a tree that is blocking a drive or poses a safety hazard and are financially unable to have it removed should contact First Call for Help at 595-5905.
- No determination on debris removal on private roads has been made as yet.
- The FDOT has begun clean up of state roads and interstate. For questions about debris removal on state roads, please call 981-3000.
- 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.
- Try to limit the amount of debris you place in the streets. You could be causing a traffic hazard and may be restricting passage for emergency vehicles.

➤ **Traffic**

- Signals are still being repaired. Drivers are urged to drive slowly and proceed with caution.
- As of July 13, the Department of Transportation and the Escambia County Road Department report that within the city, 27 of 31 of traffic signals at priority intersections are now functioning. In the county, 102 of 115 of traffic signals at priority intersections are now functioning.
- Flashing Yellow lights – Do not stop – Keep moving.
- Flashing Red lights – Stop – and then proceed when safe to do so.

➤ **Transportation**

- In the north end of the County, Pine Forest Road will be closed between Garrett Road and Doran Road.
- Fanny Road and Barrineau Park Road remain closed while the bridges are being replaced (as a result of damage from Hurricane Ivan last year).

- 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.

➤ **County Office Announcements**

- All County offices opened on Friday for regular business hours. Employees were to report to their normal work site at their regular time.

- **Parks and Recreation**

- The Escambia County Equestrian Center has 43 RV sites open and available to the public.
 - Sites are on a first come/first served basis
 - Cost is \$18 plus tax per night
 - The Equestrian Center is staffed from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Lake Stone Campground will reopen on Saturday.
 - Approximately 65 sites will be available.

- **Mosquito Control**

- Residents are asked to report service requests to 595-3147.

- **Escambia County Building Inspections**

- The Town and Country office of the Escambia County Building Inspections is operating normal business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Their phone number is (850) 595-3550.
- The Molino Office reopened today, with service from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- Contractors needing decals for access to Pensacola Beach can do so at the Building Inspections Satellite Office at the Shoreline Park at the Athletic Concession Stand in Gulf Breeze from 8:30 am-3:30 pm, Monday-Friday.
- **A Pensacola Beach satellite office for building permits and inspections is located at the SRIA and is open 8:30-3:30, Monday-Friday..**

- **Perdido Landfill**

- The Department of Solid Waste Management will be placing recycling containers at their respective Recycling Drop-Off Sites throughout the County. Residents may call the department at (850) 937-2160 or visit www.EscambiaRecycles.com for current information regarding the status of each site.
- **Disposal rates at Perdido Landfill in Escambia County have not been waived.**
 - Standard rates are \$27.00 per ton for household garbage and \$18.00 per ton for yard trash.
- The Oak Grove Convenience Center has reopened.
- The recycling containers at the following locations have been replaced and are back in operation:
 - County Extension Service
 - Perdido Landfill
 - 9th Avenue
 - UWF
 - Ferry Pass
 - Pleasant Grove

Evermans
Equestrian Center
Summit Boulevard
Baars Softball Field
Warrington Fire Department

- Citizens are encouraged to report anyone who is seen dumping illegally by providing vehicle tag numbers and descriptions to (850) 595-3536.
- The Debris Hotline, 937-2180, will resume as soon as possible after the storm.

➤ **Escambia County Health Department**

- All Health Department clinics will resume normal operation hours on Monday.
- Escambia County Health Department Director Dr. John Lanza is recommending that residents receive a tetanus vaccine when they are wounded. Open cuts and wounds are vulnerable to the tetanus bacteria, which can get in through even a tiny pinprick or scratch.
 - The health department will be operating two mobile clinics on through Friday to provide the tetanus vaccination and minor wound care:

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Pensacola Beach	Century
Parking Lot at Casino Beach	Carver/Century School, 440 E. Hecker Road
 - The public can also receive the tetanus vaccination at the Fairfield Drive Clinic.
- The Escambia County Health Department today released information on how to qualify for the WIC program and where pregnant women and mothers of young children can register at county health department clinics:

Household Incomes That Qualify for WIC

For pregnant women, each unborn baby counts as 1 extra person in the household size:

Household Size	Monthly Income before taxes and deductions
2	\$1,978
3	\$2,481
4	\$2,984

* for information on families up to 7 children, call WIC locally at 595-6670

Mothers Who Qualify for WIC are:

- Pregnant
- Breastfeeding
- Mothers of Infants and children under age 5

➤ Sign-Up for WIC at

If mothers meet the above criteria, they can register at:

Main Health Department, Pensacola, 1295 W. Fairfield Dr. from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m

- Century Clinic, Century, 501 Church St. from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- For more information on any of these announcements, the public should call the health department WIC office at 595-6700.
- The public can call 595-6632 or 595-6648 for other health department questions.
- **Escambia County School District**
 - The new school year will begin on time on August 2.
 - Do not place storm debris on school district property.
 - The Regular Board Workshop scheduled for Friday, July 15 at 9:00 a.m. has been canceled and rescheduled for Monday, July 18, 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room, Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building, 215 West Garden Street.
 - An informational hotline has been established to keep employees and the public updated throughout the Hurricane Dennis recovery effort. The 24-hour number is **469-5306**.
- **Courts**
 - Due to the reconstruction project at The Bruno Building, 1800 St. Mary's Street, and the post-Ivan recovery efforts at The Cobb Building, effective July 18, 2005 Juvenile Court in Escambia County will be held at the Pensacola Civic Center with very few exceptions.
 - The courtrooms are located on the second floor at the back of the Civic Center. Pedestrian entry will be at the back of the building with parking in the front. Judge Nickinson will be in Room G and Judge Parnham in Room F3.
 - **EXCEPTIONS ARE:**
 - All Judge Nickinson's Specialty Court hearings will be held at The Cobb Bldg. (Old Health Dept.), 2251 N. Palafox Street.
 - Juvenile Court in Escambia County will be held at The Cobb Building (Old Health Department), 2251 N. Palafox Street on Tuesday, July 26, 2005.
 - The Information Hotline for the courts is 850/595-4400 in Pensacola.
 - Santa Rosa County Courts remain closed until further notice due. As operations resume in Santa Rosa County, please note that hearings may be held in locations other than the courthouse.
 - Domestic Violence hearings scheduled for July 13th in Santa Rosa County have been continued to July 20th and will be held at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room located at the County Administrative Office Complex, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton. Restraining Orders previously issued remain in full force and effect until heard.
 - If you have missed a court date during any court closure, please contact your attorney for rescheduling. If you are unrepresented, please contact your respective Clerk of Court for rescheduling information.
- **City of Pensacola**
 - The City of Pensacola is only picking up vegetative debris at this time. Any construction and demolition debris on city rights-of-way must be pre-approved for pickup by calling 477-0591 between 8a.m. and 6 p.m. Once the pickup of construction and demolition debris begins, any debris not pre-approved will be collected at the property owner's expense.
 - All City of Pensacola recreation centers and swimming pools are closed and will return to operation as they have electrical power returned to them.

- The City expects that all traffic signals within the City of Pensacola will be operational within 3 to 4 days. Motorists are reminded to continue to consider that the four-way stop rules apply at all existing, non-functioning traffic signals.
- For questions concerning debris collection or to have C&D (construction and demolition) debris pre-approved for pickup, call 477-0591 from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm beginning Tuesday, July 12, 2005.
- Yard trash collection within the City has been suspended. Crews will begin this week collecting vegetative debris ONLY. Only vegetative debris will be collected on the first pass.
- All C&D debris from Hurricane Dennis (sheetrock, fencing, damaged household goods, etc.) should be stored on the right-of-way in piles separate from vegetative debris. If C&D debris is not pre-approved for collection, it will be collected at the homeowner's expense.
- No debris should be put into City streets. Any debris in City streets should be moved to the City right-of-way.

➤ **Navy**

- NAS Whiting Field opened and resume normal operations at 2 p.m. Friday, July 15. The Whiting Field Branch Medical Clinic will remain closed until further notice.
- Naval Air Station Whiting Field Medical Clinic in Santa Rosa County is temporarily closed due to damage from Hurricane Dennis.
 - Any Tricare recipients whose primary care manager is located at the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Branch Medical Clinic can obtain medical care through local Tricare network health providers.
 - To get information on local Tricare Network Providers, call toll free: 1-800-444-5445, or via the Internet at <http://www.tricareonline.com>
 - Healthcare can also be obtained at Naval Hospital Pensacola.

➤ **Gulf Power**

- The number of Gulf Power customers who have electricity continues to grow, with more than 221,000 restored since Hurricane Dennis made landfall on Sunday afternoon.
- As of Friday morning, most of the remaining 20,750 customers without power are mostly in the hardest hit areas of the Panhandle: Jay, Milton, Navarre Beach and Pensacola Beach.
- Total outages by County:

	Restored	Remaining
Escambia	99,512	595
Santa Rosa	32,852	20,155
- Customers in these areas only who do not have power should call 1-800 GU-POWER. Crews working those areas will be shifted to help in Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Escambia counties.

➤ **Emerald Coast Utilities Authority**

- Beginning Monday, July 18, ECUA will have a Customer Service Representative at the SRIA building to assist Pensacola Beach customers with questions and information

relative to their accounts. The ECUA rep will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, until further notice.

- Water and sewer services have been restored to the core section of Pensacola Beach. This area is defined as from the toll plaza, west to the Sheriff's substation, and east to Avenida 10. The boil water advisory for this area was lifted Thursday, July 14.
- **Escambia River Electric Cooperative**
 - Escambia River Electric Cooperative, Inc. has power restored to approximately 95% of its service area.
 - Everyone's home or business that is ready to receive power should be back on by tonight. If your meter base or service mast has been damaged, please have that repaired by a licensed electrician so that your power can be restored.
 - If you do not have power at this time, call 1-800-235-3848.
- **Bell South**
 - To date, BellSouth has restored service to more than 8200 lines affected by Hurricane Dennis and continues to bring resources into the area.
 - The company announced today that 26 technicians and three managers from Georgia will travel to Florida; bringing the total to almost 500 technicians and field personnel helping to restore service to customers in the Panhandle.
 - An estimated 5330 customer lines are still affected in Bay, Escambia and Santa Rosa counties after Hurricane Dennis. These represent approximately 1.8 percent of BellSouth's 291,500 access lines in those counties.
 - Customers are encouraged to call for repair and report outages to (877) 737-2478 for residences and (866) 620-2478 for business lines.
- **Cox Communications**
 - 95% of Cox Gulf Coast customers in the Escambia/Okaloosa/South Walton area are receiving cable and internet services, provided commercial power has been restored to the residence or business.
 - Cox crews will be working individual neighborhoods and houses assessing damages and restoring services, which is a slower process.
 - If customers do not have service, please contact Cox at 478-0200.
- **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. until further notice at the following locations:
 - Walnut Hill Community Center, 7850 Highway 97 N, Walnut Hill
 - Parkmore Plaza, 6275 Hwy. 90, Milton
 - Ag Center, 1701 Highway 41, Century
 - Pace Assembly of God, 3948 Highway 90, Pace
 - Casino Parking Lot, Pensacola Beach
- **Red Cross**
 - Citizens needing assistance are asked to call 1-866-GET-INFO (1-866-438-4636).

- The Red Cross opened a fix feeding site New Dimensions Christian Center, 8600 Highway 98.
 - Approximately 36 Mobile Feeding Units will be roaming the county in heavily affected areas including New Warrington, Walnut Hill, Century, and other affected areas. There will also be units giving out home cleaning and personal comfort kits.
 - 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**
- Citizens who would like volunteer to assist others, please call the United Way at 434-3157 or e-mail volunteers@unitedwayescambia.org.
 - The United Way is currently registering those with special needs, those who need debris removal assistance, or those who need tarp assistance. For more information call First Call for Help 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday at 595-5905.
 - The Volunteer Reception Center is open for donations.
- **Council on Aging**
- As of Friday, July 15, all of the following congregate meal sites will be open: Felix Miga Senior Citizens Center, Century Senior Center, Warrington United Methodist Church, Pensacola Retirement Village, Gonzales United Methodist church, and the Cobb Center.
 - For more information, contact the Council on Aging's Community Service Department at 266-2511 or 266-2512.
 - The congregate meals site operated at Byrneville Community Center in Century is closed until further notice due to structural damage from Hurricane Dennis.
- **Department of Children & Families and US Department of Agriculture**
- Residents who suffered Dennis-related losses in the three counties may apply for DFS benefits beginning Tuesday, July 19, through Saturday, July 23 from 7:30 am –6:00 pm. at:
 - Bellview Middle School-6201 Mobile Hwy.
 - Century Customer Service Center- 7600 Mayo Street.
 - Personal Identification
 - Proof of Residence
 - To qualify for benefits applicants must have suffered damage to their homes or self-employment property or have experienced a loss of income or additional expenses as a result of the storm. Applicants also must not exceed income limits.
 - Benefits are based on family size. One person is eligible for \$149 in Disaster Food Stamp benefits. A family of four is eligible for \$499.
 - Eligible individuals and families will be mailed Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards to use at authorized U.S.D.A. food retailers. DFS benefits are good for 90 days from the date of issuance and must be used during that time.

- The Department has also received permission from the U.S.D.A. to replace benefits for regular food stamp recipients in the three counties. More than 17,000 households will receive replacements of their regular July benefit amounts. Benefits will be automatically loaded into each household's EBT account.
- Regular food stamp recipients and those eligible for the DFS program in the three counties may use their benefits to purchase hot prepared foods through August 31.

- **Citizen Information Line**
 - The citizen information line closed at 7:00 pm Thursday.
 - 471-6600 will remain an active number and will be replaced with a recorded message with detailed information and instructions.

- **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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