



News Release

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

Hurricane Dennis
News Release #4
Date: July 8, 2005
Time: 12:15

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Escambia County- Prepares for Evacuations

➤ **Evacuations**

- As of 6:00pm this evening, Escambia County will be implementing evacuations in all low lying, coastal areas for a category 4 hurricane. This includes the areas along the waterways, South of Highway 98, Perdido Key, Pensacola Beach and Innerarity Point.
- **This also includes all travel trailers, RV's and mobile homes throughout the county.**
- For a detailed map of the evacuation areas, visit www.bereadyescambia.com.

➤ **Shelters**

- As of 6:00pm the following shelters will open
 - Bellview Elementary, 4425 Bellview Ave
 - Blue Angel Elementary, 1551 Dog Track Road
 - Carver Century, 440 East Hecker Road
 - Ferry Pass Middle, 8355 Yancey Avenue
 - Molino Park Elementary, 899 Highway 97
 - Pensacola Civic Center 201 East Gregory Street
 - Tate High School, 1771 Tate Road
 - University of West Florida, 11000 University Pkwy, Bldg. 13
 - West Florida High School, 2400 Longleaf Drive
 - **Special Needs Shelter-** Pensacola Junior College, Lou Ross Building, 1000 College Blvd. **As of Friday July 8 for Hurricane Dennis, residents no longer need to pre-register for the Special Needs Shelter. All residents, including those who pre-registered before today, must meet the criteria listed below. Health department staff will evaluate all residents before admitting them to the Special Needs Shelter. Residents should arrive at the shelter prepared to remain sheltered for the duration of the hurricane. Residents who do not meet the criteria for special needs sheltering will be referred to a general shelter**

George Touart, County Administrator
Sonya M. Smith, Public Information Manager

- **To stay at the Special Needs Shelter, a medically-needy resident must:**
- Live independently but require the help of a nurse to take medication, monitor vital signs, and perform daily activities of feeding and using the bathroom; or
- Require constant electrical power for medical equipment.
- Arrive with one caregiver who can stay with them to help with feeding, taking medications, and using the bathroom.

➤ **Beaches**

- Access to Pensacola Beach will be restricted to residents only beginning at noon Saturday.
- Access to both Pensacola Beach **and** Perdido Key will close at 6:00 p.m. Saturday. Traffic will be allowed off the beach areas only.
- The Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier will close at noon Saturday.
- There are no lifeguards on the beach. They are performing other public safety duties at this time.
- The public is urged to stay out of water.

➤ **Escambia County Emergency Operations**

- Officials are monitoring Hurricane Dennis.
- The EOC is fully activated at this time.
- The Board of County Commissioners signed a declaration of state of local emergency during their regularly scheduled business meeting last night. The declaration will allow the county to implement evacuation orders and open shelters.
- We will monitor the conference call from the National Hurricane Center at 10:00am.
- The public will be advised as soon as any decisions are made.

➤ **Transportation**

- Tolls have been lifted for the Garcon Point Bridge.
- The Alabama Pass Bridge will close at 6:00 a.m. Saturday per the Orange Beach Police Department.

➤ **Pensacola Regional Airport**

- Pensacola Regional Airport is issuing a Terminal Building Closure Time of 10:00 p.m. Saturday evening based upon the current forecast of Hurricane Dennis due to its intensity and speed. The Airport airfield will remain open until unsafe conditions apply.
- AirTran Airways will operate their flights on Saturday with an extra aircraft departing at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. The last flight will depart at 7:05 p.m. (flight 420)
- American Eagle will operate flights Saturday. The last departure to Dallas will be 6:52 p.m. (flight 3436)

- Continental will operate flights until 6:00 p.m. Saturday.
- Delta Air Lines- the last two inbound flights from Atlanta Friday evening arriving at 8:42 p.m. (flight 731) and 10:47 p.m. (flight 936) will go back to Atlanta Friday at 9:30 p.m. (flight 9869) and 11:30 p.m. (flight 9870). On Saturday, the last Atlanta flight will depart at 12:20 p.m. (flight 704). Flight 226 that would have left for Atlanta at 2:01 p.m. and flight 1624 have been cancelled. The last Delta Air Lines/Delta Connection flight for Saturday is flight 5413 to New York (JFK) departing at 12:52 p.m.
- Northwest Airlink will operate flights Saturday.
- US Airways/US Airways Express will operate their flights Saturday. US Airways has added an extra flight on Saturday afternoon departing at 2:00 p.m. (flight 8850) and their last flight will be at 4:00 p.m. (flight 2769).
- 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 & Other Closings**

- County offices and facilities closed at noon today.
- The Lake Stone Campground will close at 6:00 p.m. Friday.

➤ **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 in anticipation of 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.

- **Sandbags**
 - Escambia County Road Department will be making sandbags and sand available at four (4) locations throughout the county beginning at 10am.
 - Baars Field (ballpark) on Sorrento Road
 - Equestrian Center
 - John R. Jones Park (between the baseball and football fields)
 - Corner of South Plaza and Madrid (North of Muscogee Road)
 - Hours of operation will be today, Friday from 10am to 7pm and tomorrow, Saturday from 7am to 7pm.
 - There will be a limit of 25 bags per person.
 - Sand will be available for citizens to fill their own bags. Please bring a shovel.

- **Equestrian Center**
 - There are some outside pens/arena spaces (2) available for horses on a first come first serve basis.
 - There is space available in the covered arena as well.
 - All covered stalls are full.

- **City of Pensacola**
 - The Pensacola Regional Airport terminal will close at 10 p.m. Saturday, July 9. The airfield will remain open until conditions warrant its closing. The airport will remain closed until further notice.
 - 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.

- **Department of Agriculture**
 - The Department of Agriculture is available to assist in moving livestock.
 - For more information contact Tim Niemann at (850) 718-0459.

- **Perdido Landfill**
 - The landfill will close at noon on Saturday and re-open on Monday at 1pm (weather permitting).
 - The Solid Waste Department is pulling all their recycling containers. They will be replaced as soon possible after the storm passes.
 - The Oak Grove Convenience Center will close Saturday at noon and reopening 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) 595-3535.

- **Emerald Coast Utilities Authority**
 - Pensacola Beach water and wastewater systems on both barrier islands will be shut down from 6:00 p.m. Saturday.
 - Emerald Coast Utilities Authority will continue to pick up debris until noon Saturday.
 - Sanitation dumpsters and compactors will be removed off Pensacola Beach starting Saturday morning.

- **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.

- **Additional Information**
 - Businesses selling emergency supplies are encouraged to remain open as long as possible.
 - All other businesses are encouraged to allow their employees the time and opportunity to prepare their homes and families in advance of the approaching storm.
 - 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.

- **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 at 1-800-HELPFLA (1-800-435-7352).

➤ **Official Website**

- www.bereadyescambia.com

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