



News Release

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

Hurricane Dennis
News Release #7
Date: July 10, 2005
Time: 12:30 pm

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.

➤ Shelters

- The shelter populations are as follows as of 12:15 am July 10:
 - Total Shelter population – 4,710
 - Bellview Elementary, 4425 Bellview Ave – Full (276)
 - Blue Angel Elementary, 1551 Dog Track Road - 800
 - Carver Century, 440 East Hecker Road - 333
 - Ferry Pass Middle, 8355 Yancey Avenue – Full (225)
 - Molino Park Elementary, 899 Highway 97 - 615
 - Pensacola Civic Center 201 East Gregory Street – 1,200
 - Tate High School, 1771 Tate Road – Full 469
 - University of West Florida, 11000 University Pkwy, Bldg. 13 – Full (396)
 - West Florida High School, 2400 Longleaf Drive - 340
 - **Special Needs Shelter**— 245 including staff

➤ Fire & Law Enforcement

- Fire & Law Enforcement are handling “life & death” calls only.

➤ **Beaches**

- Access to Pensacola Beach was restricted to residents only beginning at noon Saturday.
- Access to both Pensacola Beach **and** Perdido Key closed at 6:00 p.m. Saturday. Traffic will be allowed off the beach areas only.
- The Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier closed at noon Saturday.
- There are no lifeguards on the beach.
- The public is urged to stay out of water.
- An Information Station is being setup on Perdido Key where passes for re-entry can be obtained. (The location to be announced). These passes will be recognized on Orange Beach and Baars Bridge. See their website www.perdidochamber.com for updates.
- Hurricane passes from Ivan can be used for re-entry to Perdido Key.

➤ **Escambia County Emergency Operations**

- 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 Thursday, July 7, 2005. The declaration allows the county to implement evacuation orders and open shelters.

➤ **Transportation**

- Effective 1:30 a.m. Sunday, July 10, 2005, the Department of Transportation temporarily closed the I-10 Escambia Bay Bridge to traffic due to winds exceeding 45 mph. Conditions caused by Hurricane Dennis have caused unsafe conditions for the crews inspecting the bridge and the traveling public.
- The detour route 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.
- Three-mile Bridge, connecting Gulf Breeze and Pensacola, was closed at 10:30 am Sunday.
- Department of Transportation crews are staging for response to Pensacola. DOT will be inspecting all bridges tomorrow.
- Tolls have been lifted for the Garcon Point Bridge.
- The Alabama Pass Bridge closed at 6:00 a.m. Saturday per the Orange Beach Police Department.
- **ECAT bus service has been suspended.**
- When tropical storm force winds are sustained (approximately 45 mph) the Interstate 10 bridge may close, which could be as early as 2:00 – 3:00 a.m. Sunday.
- The Florida Department of Transportation has set up and is manning a phone bank for motorist seeking information should Hurricane Dennis strike the area.

- 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 closed 10:00 p.m. Saturday evening.
 - 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**
 - 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. Please monitor news broadcasts in the event that the return time is moved up to an earlier time. This includes all employees who have not been assigned pre-storm duties. This does not include School Board or Emerald Coast Utilities Authority employees.
 - 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.
 - 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 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**
 - **NAS Pensacola and Whiting Field are closed.**
- **Gulf Power**
 - Gulf Power is reporting 660 customers without power.
 - Gulf Power Company is advising customers to prepare to be without power for several weeks if Hurricane Dennis hits Northwest Florida or along the Alabama coastline.
 - 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.
- **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.
- **Emerald Coast Utilities Authority**
 - ECUA has received some reports of water low pressure. Everything is operational.
 - Pensacola Beach water and wastewater systems on both barrier islands shut down at 6:00 p.m. Saturday.
- **Gonzales Utilities and Farm Hill Utilities**
 - These utilities have reported that they will continue to run throughout the hurricane.
- **Other Utilities**
 - Bell South- Crews are on standby.
 - Nextel- No towers are out at this time. "Cellular on Wheels" trucks are standing by if needed.
- **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.
- **Salvation Army**
 - The Salvation Army is staged for response.
- **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.
- **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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