

Polk County Emergency Operations Center
1890 Jim Keene Blvd.
Winter Haven, FL 33880

EOC Activation Level: Partial Activation

EOC Hours of Operation: Friday: 0800 – 1700hrs

WebEOC Incident: 2024-10-05 Hurricane Milton

<http://webeoc.polk.one>



RECOVERY SITUATION REPORT #18

A dedicated location for ongoing recovery information has been added to the Polk County website. The link is at the very top of the page in the banner and the direct link is: <https://www.polk-county.net/hurricane-milton-recovery-resources-in-polk/>. Existing programs and services the EOC are aware of are listed currently, and we will keep the page updated as new programs are approved or announced. State and Federal programs should continue to be approved and announced in the coming weeks.

An unmet needs/long-term recovery framework has been initiated with United Way of Central Florida and Polk Vision. At some point, once all State and Federal assistance has been provided, this group will leverage local resources and partnerships to help Polk County residents with recovery over the coming months. A Community Recovery Outreach event was held on Wednesday, October 30 at the Combee Connection church.

A comfort station was set up at Combee Connection Ministries and Church, 1140 N Combee Rd, Lakeland, FL 33380 on October 16. The station contains 2 laundry trailers, 2 restroom trailers, and 2 shower trailers. Another community outreach event is being organized and will occur on Saturday November 23.

STATE NON-CONGREGATE SHELTERING

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) will provide Non-Congregate Sheltering in the form of travel trailers and hotel rooms for survivors in the 34 Individual Assistance-designated counties whose homes are uninhabitable.

This is a short-term (6-month) program with a focus on transitioning disaster survivors into longer-term housing.

For more information, or to apply:

- Visit the Activate Hope website at hopeflorida.com and fill out the Assistance Request Form; or
- Call the Hope Florida support line at 833-GET-HOPE (833-438-4673), currently operating 24 hours a day.

FEMA DISASTER DECLARATION

Polk County is included in FEMA-4834-DR for Individual Assistance (assistance to individuals and households) and Public Assistance and Categories A and B (debris removal and emergency protective measures). C-G, permanent work was approved on Wednesday, October 16.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

For Individual Assistance the fastest way to apply is through DisasterAssistance.gov. You can also apply through the FEMA mobile app or by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

Below are the numbers for Polk County for the Individuals Assistance Daily Status Report. Daily is the number that registered yesterday, cumulative is the total number that have registered. IHP is Individual and Household Programs which captures all the survivor programs we have such as serious needs assistance, clean and sanitize, TSA, etc.

Below are the Polk County Individual Assistance numbers as of COB 11/06/2024

County	Daily	Cumulative	IHP Referred	IHP Eligible	IHP \$ Approved	HA \$ Approved	ONA \$ Approved
Polk	226	75,786	51,830	5,871	\$21,403,241.19	\$9,102,086.56	\$12,301,154.63

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) crews are currently visiting Polk County neighborhoods. DSA specialists are going door-to-door in affected neighborhoods to help people apply for federal assistance, check the status of an application, identify potential needs and make connections with organizations that can provide resources. DSA specialists carry federal photo identification. DSA crews never ask for or accept money.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MILTON DR4834

To apply for Public Assistance, eligible applicants must be a registered user in Grants Portal and submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA). To receive assistance, all eligible applicants will be required to submit this form at <https://grantee.fema.gov/> within 30 days of the Presidential Disaster Declaration. The deadline to file for Request for Public Assistance (RPA) has been extended to **December 20, 2024**.

DEBRIS INFORMATION

Debris hauling began on Monday, October 14. The Residential Hurricane Milton Debris Hotline is (833) 843-1920 is available for questions, but no appointments are required. A debris removal dashboard with daily total debris collection is available on the Polk County website at www.polk-county.net, (Hurricane Milton Debris Removal Dashboard).

The county’s initial focus will be in the most heavily damaged areas that are unaffected by flooding. Debris haulers will sweep the entire county, so residents do not have to call and report or request service. The City of Lakeland will manage debris collection within their city limits. Residents may self-haul yard waste/vegetative debris to the debris sites 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The following sites will accept yard waste/vegetative debris now:

- Polk County Strickland Avenue, 5901 Strickland Avenue, Lakeland
- Polk County Marigold, 9500 Marigold Avenue, Poinciana

The Polk County North Central Transfer Station will accept all hurricane-related debris at no cost during regular operation hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Polk County North Central Transfer Station, 3131 K-Ville Ave., Auburndale

The county’s intent is to have all Hurricane Milton debris removed by mid-December. FDEM provided an exemption to Polk County on October 27 to FDEM Order 24-014

Volunteers Polk has been coordinating volunteers and sending them to different locations to help victims of Hurricane Milton to include:

- Florida United Methodist Conference – Call Center

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Operation Blue Roof- The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District has opened Operation Blue Roof. Residents impacted by Hurricane Milton can sign up for this no-cost service. Right of Entry Forms must be submitted by **November 14th**. Call 888-ROOF-BLU (888) 766-3258 or go to bluerroof.gov. To date the Army Corps has received 610 Right of Entry (ROE) forms from Polk County residents. 591 of those have been reviewed and approved and 521 blue roofs have been installed.

FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) opened on Thursday October 24. The DRC provides 1-on-1 assistance to residents and provides guidance on FEMA applications. Staff can answer questions about application denials or how to properly fill out applications. The DRC will be staffed with other state agencies as well to ensure that residents have access to all available resources following Hurricane Milton.

Location: W.H. Stuart Center, [1702 S Holland Parkway, Bartow, FL 33830](http://1702SHollandParkway.com)

Time: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily until further notice

To find other center locations go to fema.gov/drc or text “DRC” and a Zip Code to 43362. All centers are accessible to people with disabilities or access and functional needs and are equipped with assistive technology.

Hope Florida is providing assistance with external resources such as food, household items, home repairs, and more, you can reach out to them directly at 833-GET-HOPE (438-4673).

The Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) was approved on Wednesday October 23, by the Department of Children and Families (Department). D-SNAP will be implemented by the Department in phases and by county beginning Monday, October 28, 2024. Pre-registration is required by all applicants and can be found online at MyFLFamilies.com/DSNAP.

How to Apply:

- 1- Pre-register online
 - Verification is required for certain elements of the application.
 - Eligibility can be determined more quickly and easily if a state driver’s license or identification number and a Social Security number is provided.
 - **Pre-Registration Dates: Sunday, November 3- Friday, November 8**
- 2- Phone Interview or On-Site Interview
 - After an applicant completes the pre-registration process above, the applicant must complete an interview by calling the D-SNAP Call Center or attending an on-site event.
 - **Telephonic Dates: Monday, November 4, and Wednesday, November 6 – Friday, November 8**
 - On-site interviews date and location are still to be determined.