



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
SITUATION REPORT
September 13, 2017, 2:00 PM EDT

Hurricane Irma (Category 4) – Florida

Overview. On Sunday, September 10, 2017 at approximately 9:10 am, Hurricane Irma made landfall on Cudjoe Key in the Lower Florida Keys as a Category 4 storm. Hurricane Irma has weakened to a tropical storm and has maximum sustained winds of 70 mph with higher gusts; although peak wind gusts from Irma included 142 mph at Naples Airport, 130 mph at Marco Island, 122 mph in Lely, and 120 mph at Big Pine Key, FL.

Situation. The threat of heavy rainfall and flash flooding from Irma is over. The remnants of Irma will weaken in drier air over the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys today, producing only a half inch to an inch of rainfall. In Florida, significant river flooding will continue across northern and central portions of the state. Major flooding, with local areas of record flooding, will continue to impact homes, businesses, and state/county roads. Many locations will crest today; however, some of the slower responding basins may not crest until later in the week. Most rivers will drop below major flood stage by later this week. The North Fork of Black Creek in Clay County, Santa Fe River in Gilchrist County and Peace River in Desoto County may remain in major flood stage into next week. Although Post-Tropical Cyclone Irma has dissipated, the affected areas continue to deal with the recovery stages from the residual effects of storm damages, power outages, and flooding. Protecting lives and safety of those impacted by Irma continue to be a priority of HUD.

Declaration Activity

FEMA-4335-DR-VI (U.S. Virgin Islands)

- Incident Period: September 06, 2017 - October 01, 2017
- Major Disaster Declaration declared on September 07, 2017
- Provides: Individual Assistance for 2 (County-equivalent) / Public Assistance for 3 County-equivalent
- Federal Coordinating Officer: (TBD)
- Designated counties: St. Croix Island / St. John Island / St. Thomas Island

FEMA-4336-DR-PR (Puerto Rico)

- Expedited Major Disaster Declaration approved on September 10, 2017
- Hurricane Irma beginning on September 5, 2017 and continuing
- Provides: Individual Assistance for 2 Municipalities / Public Assistance for 2 Municipalities
Federal Coordinating Officer is Alejandro De La Campa
- Designated counties: Culebra (Municipal) and Vieques (Municipal)

FEMA-4337-DR-FL (Florida)

- Major Disaster Declaration approved on September 10, 2017
- Hurricane Irma beginning September 4, 2017 and continuing
- Provides: Individual Assistance and Public Assistance for 9 counties / Public Assistance for 58 counties / Hazard Mitigation for all counties and tribes statewide
- Federal Coordinating Officer is Justo Hernandez

- Designated counties: Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Indian River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Walton, Washington

PRIORITIES FOR HUD

- **Protect the health and safety of HUD employees.** HUD regional offices are closely monitoring the storm and guidance provided by state and local officials to protect the health and safety of HUD personnel. HUD offices will make decisions on office closures based on local information. Office of Field Policy and Management (FPM) is tracking and reporting office closures.
 - Offices in Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico are closed.
 - Columbia and Birmingham offices are open.
- **Assess potential impacts to HUD programs and clients:**

Multi-Family properties that have been in the route or *proposed route*, including potential storm surge:

| STATE/ TERRITORY | TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTIES | TOTAL NUMBER OF UNITS | TOTAL NUMBER OF ASSISTED UNITS |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| VIRGIN ISLANDS | 17 | 1,474 | 1,468 |
| PUERTO RICO | 203 | 21,013 | 19,859 |
| FLORIDA | 1,011 | 108,028 | 51,040 |
| GEORGIA | 741 | 70,817 | 35,967 |
| ALABAMA | 530 | 39,213 | 20,571 |
| TENNESSEE | 748 | 628,224 | 35,799 |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | 505 | 35,400 | 21,270 |
| NORTH CAROLINA | 1,163 | 70,241 | 31,130 |
| TOTALS | 4,918 | 974,410 | 217,104 |

At this time, the counts are based on entire states. More specific metrics will be reported once they have been collected.

- **Coordination of long-term recovery efforts**

Actions Taken

- PIH Caribbean office is serving as the liaison with VIHA and FEMA to refer critical health care issues that need immediate attention in the VI.
- PIH Caribbean office has reached out to the Mass Care Coordinator for FEMA in PR to request escalation for Tutu Apts. in the VI, where over 100 residents are living in severely damaged housing with nowhere to go.
- PIH Caribbean office was engaged with the VIHA prior to the onset of the storm. Although the employees were on admin leave on Friday Sept 8, the whole team came into the office to work with VIHA to serve as a liaison to find resources to assist residents including resources in Puerto Rico to arrange to have goods and services shipped for residents. The

office continues to function as liaison with VIHA and FEMA to assist residents with critical health matters that need immediate attention.

- PIH Caribbean office worked to coordinate with PRPHA and the PR Secretary of Housing for Virgin Islands refugees coming into Puerto Rico. They are collaborating to identify housing options in Puerto Rico for Virgin Islands refugees including scattered site vacation villas for the use of local government employees. Also, 89 units on the east coast of Puerto Rico are being inspected to see if they meet HQS.
- PIH is working with Housing's ReCap office to secure technical assistance for VIHA's RAD applications and to draft a deadline waiver notice to allow VIHA more time to apply if that is still their plan for properties not impacted.
- VIHA will submit a waiver request for their financial audit deadline of 30 Sept. PIH Caribbean office staff are assisting, and PIH has alerted REAC it is coming. Missing that deadline would render the agency financially troubled under our regulations.
- In Georgia, five (5) PHAs that have reported some damage; additional information has been requested. The one additional PHA is Flint Area Consolidated (GA280). Power was restored today. A tree fell on one unit and damage is minimal; no residents were injured.
- In Alabama, PHAs are beginning to assess to what extent, if any, damages exist. Only one PHA reported damages (AL073 – Ozark) including downed trees; no units or residents affected.
- In South Carolina, damages include:
 - Georgetown Housing Authority: Three (3) Public Housing units reported with a roof leaks with only one (1) family displaced to an available PH unit.
 - City of Charleston Housing Authority: Approximately 50 units received minor water damage but, currently, no families have been displaced. Assessments are ongoing and expected to be completed later today.
 - Assessments are still ongoing and PHAs have been advised to provide updates as determinations are made
- In North Carolina, there are no new updates.
- In Florida, PHAs that are able to report include the following damages:
 - Daytona Beach: One fatality has been reported. A female resident was found deceased in her apartment by DBPD this morning because of carbon monoxide poisoning due to utilizing a gas-powered generator inside of the unit. There was a total of three (3) adults in the apartment when the body was discovered, allegedly the deceased's caregiver and the caregiver's boyfriend were taken to the hospital in critical condition. Two other residents were hospitalized from other unrelated incidents. The agency has reported minor roof damage and minor flooding.
 - Gainesville: A tree fell on the roof of four (4) units; a crane was needed to remove the tree. There was \$100,000 estimated damage.
 - Alchua Co.: A tree fell and went through a roof in one (1) unit, two (2) units had fallen ceilings. There is 3 to 4 inches of water damage in some units. There are no reported injuries.
 - New Smyrna Beach: The office is closed due to power outage.
 - Ormond Beach: There is minor roof damage.
 - Live Oak: A tree fell on a roof. There is no power.
 - Eustis: There is a water leak issue in two (2) units.
 - Union Co.: There is a leak in the roof of one (1) unit.
 - Columbia Co.: A tree fell on one (1) unit and damaged the roof and ceiling. Water damage was sustained.
 - Brevard Co.: Two (2) units have leaking roofs.

- Palm Beach County HA: Five (5) PH Units have leaking roofs; HCV is being assessed.
- Arcadia HA: One (1) PH unit window blew in and has been repaired.
- Melbourne HA: There is minor soffit damage; no one was displaced.
- Brevard HA: There is minor fascia damage; no one was displaced.
- Stuart HA: One (1) PH unit has a damaged door and has since been repaired; 10 HH were in a shelter and have since been rehoused.
- Indian River County: No reported damage.
- Pinellas County HA: Roof at Rainbow Village development had a leak which has been repaired.
- Tampa HA: All PH Units were reported with no damage; HCV being assessed.
- Miami- Dade HA: Still accessing.
- Broward County HA: There is confirmed damage at Section 8 properties, but the number of units is being assessed.
- Hialeah HA: Damage is being accessed.
- Plant City: No damage reported. There is no power down
- Orlando HA: There is a lot of tree damage. Power to the sites is slowly coming back. Today is the staffs' first day in the office.
- ONAP received the following update from the Deputy Director of United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) on the Seminole Nation of Florida:
 - Six (6) shelters are open with the population fluctuating around 85. Three of the shelters are running on generator power. Potential Critical Issue: Immokalee & Big Cypress shelters are leaking.
 - The Public safety buildings at Hollywood, Big Cypress, and Brighton have roof damage beyond repair.
 - There is no cell phone service and no utility power to the area. They are currently using generators for power. The landline telephone service capacities are limited. The Tribe is requesting assistance from Sprint for emergency responder communications.
 - The Tribe specifically requested BIA Law Enforcement support through FEMA. The BIA is coordinating with DOI's Office of Law Enforcement and Security to provide such support.
 - The Tribe is facilitating coordination between Glades, Hendry and Broward County Sheriff Departments and HQ attorneys to create an MOU for cross deputization agreements.
 - The Hollywood Reservation has reported that there is debris, downed trees and fences, and power lines are down.
 - A boil-water notice has been issued due to water main break.
- ONAP spoke with the Executive Director, ISWA Development Corporation. She confirmed no damage to the Catawba Indian Nation. They are expecting some heavy winds but limited rain. She does not think they will be significantly affected.
- ONAP coordinators sent e-mails and tried calling our known contacts in the Miccosukee Tribe of Indian Nations of Florida; however, there was no answer. The following update was received from the Deputy Director of USET:
 - There is no cell phone service and no utility power. Area is currently using generators for power.
 - The Tribe requested support for dewatering pumps in main reservation area from the Army Corps of Engineers, and Indian Health Service has readied cots, blankets, chain saws, generators, and de-watering pumps for shipment.
 - The Tribe evacuated tribal members with special medical needs to hospitals off-reservation.

- One shelter is open with a current population of 20.
- Flooding, downed trees, canal levels cresting, and severe wind gusts are still being experienced.
- ONAP spoke with the Executive Director of Poarch Creek Housing Department. She has received no reports of any damage to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.
- HQ and Region IV regional disaster staff are exploring models for how to staff Mission Assignments from FEMA in Florida and Puerto Rico/US Virgin Islands, including logistics and potential oversight structure. Initial team for work with FEMA at the Joint Field Office is identified and will be led by Jerrie Magruder (FOD, MS).
- Field Office Directors in Florida are in contact with state and territorial leadership, including emergency management and recovery agencies. HUD messaging from SOHUD on available HUD assistance has been shared and explained.
- FOD Maldonado in San Juan will be coordinating with IG staff routing through Puerto Rico enroute to US Virgin Islands, including equipment needed such as satellite phone.
- The first item on HUD's ArcGIS Online portal addresses Hurricane Irma USVI Declaration DR-4335- <https://hud.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>. It can also be reached directly at <https://hud.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fd32d38fce194d058ab6a3c06d2fe2f3>. As with all PD&R apps, the design is responsive to the device of the user, meaning they will function efficiently on mobile phones and tablets as well as on the desktop.
 - The application is fairly simple to use. The ribbon across the panel contains a summary of the following HUD data for the entire USVI. Each radio button on the bottom of the panel advances you to the next summary panel (they don't all fit at once).
 - Housing Choice Vouches as of 06/2017
 - HUD Assisted/Insured Multifamily Property and Units as of 06/2017
 - Public Housing Developments and Units (ACC and Occupied) 06/2017
 - FHA Single Family Insured Properties, Original Mortgage Amt and Unpaid Principal Balance as of 12/2016
 - Alternatively, you can zoom in on any of the individual US Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. John, or St. Croix) or select an island from the filter on the bottom right and the summary panel will adjust automatically to show the numbers for that specific island or extent. And finally clicking on an island will also present the summary numbers for that island.

Next Steps

- FPM Customer Relationship Management (CRM) disaster module will be implemented across 30+ staff at Fort Worth office handling customer service calls. Initial training was completed on 1 Sept. Additional training will be provided to Fort Worth and deployed staff over the next two weeks.
- PIH will begin reporting on impacted counties as data comes in.
- Internally, HUD is beginning to work on the necessary Federal Register notice that will govern the use of the funds from law HR 601 (referenced above).
- ONAP contacted Shawntee Maza at the Seminole Nation of Florida's emergency disaster hotline (800) 617-7514. The hotline is still receiving a high volume of calls from tribal members needing immediate assistance. ONAP will make future contact to receive a better status report.

Issues/Challenges

- The Fair Housing Discrimination Hotline has been getting calls from the public about a group using a scam that shows them calling from 1-800-669-9777 (HUD's Discrimination Hotline). HUD has received over 30 calls from the public. The scam tells the person to send \$300 to them and that HUD will send them back \$9000. FHEO is working to inform the public that there is no such program, and with the FTC and FCC to report this fraud and see if the phone number can be blocked.
- Last week PIH reported over 100 units blown out at Tutu Apartments with displaced families who are remaining in their severely damaged apartments. Shelters in St. Thomas have no space available. FEMA emergency assistance is greatly needed, and residents are pleading for help. [see video <http://viconsortium.com/featured/watch-housing-community-in-st-thomas-is-ravaged-by-hurricane-irma-residents-plead-for-help/>]
- VIHA has capacity in their current voucher program to issue vouchers; however, there are likely no suitable units available on the island. Families will need to port out (transfer) to St. Croix, Puerto Rico, or PHAs on the mainland. PIH estimates they have budget authority for approximately 100 vouchers on hand for immediate issuance. PIH staff are not yet aware of what emergency transportation resources be available through FEMA. There are cruise ships that are evacuating residents of Virgin Islands to Puerto Rico and Miami, but PIH has not seen this service offered to PH residents. Coordination of transportation options is needed.
- While PIH has the authority to issue vouchers with demolition, they are unsure whether there will be available private rental housing for these families in neighboring communities.
- Data on units for the HCV program will continue to be delayed but reported as received, as PHA staff need to travel out to them to survey.
- VIHA's operational capabilities have been severely compromised, with an estimated duration of least 6 months before they are back at capacity. Only 50% of VIHA staff in St. Thomas have been accounted for, and they need basic necessities.
- Data on damages in Florida and numbers of displaced/evacuated residents are still pending and will be shared once obtained.
- It is important to note that unlike the continental US, address geocoding in Puerto Rico and the USVI is a major challenge for us. We are only able to locate a small portion of total addresses at the street level in PR and absolutely 0% of the addresses at the street level in the USVI. Thus the lowest level of precision that we can achieve in our mapping and reporting efforts is at the county or county equivalent. In the USVI that equates to the "island level."

AVAILABLE HUD DISASTER ASSISTANCE

- **Assist the state and local governments in re-allocating existing federal resources toward disaster relief.** HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs give the state and local communities the flexibility to redirect millions of dollars in annual formula funding to address critical needs, including housing and services for disaster victims. HUD is currently contacting State and local officials to explore streamlining the Department's CDBG and HOME programs to expedite the repair and replacement of damaged housing.
- **Grant immediate foreclosure relief.** HUD has granting a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures and forbearance on foreclosures of Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured home mortgages.
- **Make mortgage insurance available.** HUD's Section 203(h) program provides FHA insurance to disaster victims who have lost their homes and are facing the daunting task of

rebuilding or buying another home. Borrowers from participating FHA-approved lenders may be eligible for 100 percent financing.

- **Make insurance available for both mortgages and home rehabilitation.** HUD's Section 203(k) loan program enables those who have lost their homes to finance the purchase or refinance of a house along with its repair through a single mortgage. It also allows homeowners who have damaged houses to finance the rehabilitation of their existing single-family home.
- **Offer Section 108 loan guarantee assistance.** HUD will offer state and local governments federally guaranteed loans for housing rehabilitation, economic development and repair of public infrastructure.
- **Provide information on housing providers and HUD programs.** HUD will share information with FEMA and the state on housing providers that may have available units in the impacted counties. This includes Public Housing Agencies and Multi-Family owners. HUD will also connect FEMA and the state to SMEs to provide information on HUD programs and providers.



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