

From the office of

GOVERNOR  
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COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Gov. Scott: Restoring Power for Families and Businesses Must be a Top Priority for Local Governments**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Today, Governor Rick Scott gave an update on Hurricane Hermine response and recovery efforts at the State Emergency Operations Center. Governor Scott has remained in constant communication with state and local leaders and will continue to travel to areas impacted by the storm to assess damages and meet with Floridians today.

Governor Scott said, "Yesterday, I toured the impacted areas in Tallahassee, Steinhatchee and Cedar Key and met with residents who have been severely impacted by Hurricane Hermine. Today, I will continue to visit impacted neighborhoods, homes and businesses across the Big Bend.

"This morning, there are more than 78,000 homes without power in Leon County and more than 11,000 homes without power in Wakulla County. It is a problem that so many people do not have power and I fully expect every city and county official to aggressively fix this. Private utility companies have offered services to support these efforts and I hope city and county officials will quickly take advantage of this to help residents. I will be asking local and county officials here in Tallahassee for an update on the progress of restoring power later today. Families and businesses need power in order to begin the recovery process and this must be a top priority."

### **IN THE BELOW COUNTIES, THE FOLLOWING PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE ARE CURRENTLY WITHOUT POWER:**

- **Leon – 57% (78,809 homes without power). Leon County is overwhelmingly leading the state in the number of homes and businesses without power.**
- Wakulla – 72% (11,771 homes without power)
- Alachua – 6% (7,092 homes without power)
- Citrus – 5% (4,726 homes without power)
- Columbia – 17% (5,403 homes without power)
- Dixie – 36% (3,623 homes without power)
- Franklin – 2% (242 homes without power)

- Gadsden – 25% (5,507 homes without power)
- Hamilton – 71% (4,735 homes without power)
- Jefferson – 54% (4,340 homes without power)
- Lafayette- 34% (4,149 homes without power)
- Levy – 21% (5,165 homes without power)
- Madison – 50% (5,235 homes without power)
- Suwannee – 41% (9,007 homes without power)
- Taylor – 67% (8,614 homes without power)

**COUNTY BUILDINGS ARE CLOSED IN 23 COUNTIES:**

ALACHUA, BAKER, BRADFORD, CLAY, COLUMBIA, DIXIE, DUVAL, GADSDEN, GILCHRIST, HAMILTON, JEFFERSON, LAFAYETTE, LEON, LEVY, LIBERTY, MADISON, PASCO, PUTNAM, ST JOHNS, SUWANNEE, TAYLOR, UNION, WAKULLA

**EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS BY STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

**Law Enforcement**

*(FDHSMV, FWC, FDLE)*

- The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is monitoring road conditions and has nine missions deployed to assist local sheriffs.
- The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is continuing to assist with reconnaissance and debris removal. They are also providing proactive security and safety patrol.
- The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is coordinating with local law enforcement to support communities affected by the storm and has multiple missions ongoing across coastal areas in the Big Bend.

**Transportation and Public Works & Engineering**

*(FDOT)*

- The Florida Department of Transportation is monitoring road conditions and closures. They are performing road and bridge assessments and clearance and assisting with traffic and debris removal such as fallen trees as needed.
- The state also coordinated the transfer of 200 generators for Department of Transportation warehouses in Orlando and Fort Myers to Midway for deployment in the Tallahassee area to support the operation of traffic signals.
- No interstates are closed at this time. Florida's [FL511.com](http://FL511.com) Traveler Information System is one of the most effective ways drivers can keep informed about the state's roadways during and following any severe weather

**Business, Industry & Economic Stabilization**

*(DEO, OIR)*

- State activated Private Sector Hotline: 850-410-1403. Hotline is available for business inquiries about the storm, preparedness information and post-impact information.
- Actively monitoring the Florida Virtual Business Operations Center and Emergency Management Constellation, which allow counties to request resources and monitor updates.
- The state is also identifying major retail outlets that are open in impacted areas. In 17 impacted counties, 296 major retail outlets are open currently, including 40 in Leon County. For more information, contact your local emergency management office.
- If you need help finding your Florida's property insurance company's website and contact information, click [HERE](#). For a list of licensed insurance agents in Florida, click [HERE](#).
- If you have questions about insurance coverage, you can call the Department of Financial Services, Division of Consumer Services' Insurance Helpline at 1-877-693-5236. You can find other hurricane season resources from the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation [HERE](#).

### **Food & Water**

*(FDACS, DOH, DCF, DEA)*

- The state is coordinating with counties impacted by the storm for U.S. Department of Agriculture allocations and monitoring power outages and flooding to ensure safety at food establishments.
- The Salvation Army has deployed 13 canteens across the state to assist in these efforts.
- The state has already sent 2 truckloads of water from the state logistics center in Orlando. There are multiple places they are giving out water for free in Tallahassee. The Mayor's office put out the following information on water distribution. Distribution will be from noon to 6 p.m. today and tomorrow at the following locations: Lake Jackson Library, Woodville Library, Ft. Braden Community Center, Chaires Community Center and Miccosukee Community Center.

### **Health & Medical Services**

*(DOH, AHCA, APD, DCF, DEA)*

- The Florida Department of Health is helping staffing needs at the shelter at Florida High. As power continues to be out, we expect more people to go there. DOH is also providing oxygen.
- A special needs shelters remains open in Leon county. Please visit [FloridaDisaster.org/Info](http://FloridaDisaster.org/Info) for more information.
- The Florida Department of Elder Affairs' Area Agency on Aging offices remained open and provided services such as meals in multiple affected counties.
- We encourage residents to continue to watch local news for information on life safety alerts such as weather threats and potential boil water notices.

### **Environmental Protection**

*(DEP, Water Management Districts)*

- There are currently 8 state park closures. DEP is working to clear damaged areas and reopen more parks today once they are safe and secure.
- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection will continue to work with local municipalities to address any water or sewer related issues caused by Hurricane Hermine.

## **Energy**

*(DEM, Florida Public Service Commission)*

- Coordinating with utility companies to assess impacts to electric, natural gas, and fuel facilities
- Monitoring and compiling updates on power outages and coordinating any necessary resources

## **Resource Management and Communications**

*(DMS)*

- The Department of Management Service is currently assessing state buildings without power.
- There are currently six DMS managed facilities without power.
- The state is continuing to assess telecommunications facilities, towers and services.
- Additional generators are being deployed to sustain telecommunications currently running on backup power.
- Comcast is offering free wireless for the next few weeks. There are 2,000 hot spots available that are free for anyone, regardless of whether or not you are a customer.
- DEM is working on the following items for the City of Tallahassee: portable showers, hygiene kits which include soap and shampoo, washer/dryer stations, and recharging stations for cell phones

## **Military Support**

*(Florida National Guard)*

- The Florida National Guard is in the process of mobilizing two teams of soldiers to provide logistical support at the State Logistical Response Center in Orlando and at the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee.

## **Volunteer and Donations**

*(Volunteer Florida)*

- Volunteer Florida is coordinating over 40 non-profits and voluntary organizations and working with partners to provide shelter support and mass care feeding to areas in need.

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The Florida Division of Emergency Management is the state agency charged with preparing for all types of disasters in Florida. The Division is the state's disaster liaison with federal and local agencies, and is the lead consequence management agency for the State Emergency Response Team (SERT). The Division maintains the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Tallahassee and the State Watch Office, the

24-hour communications and command center for response coordination. Follow the Division on social media at [facebook.com/FloridaSERT](https://facebook.com/FloridaSERT) or on Twitter @FLSERT.

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