“In the wake of natural disasters, families and communities must know that their government stands prepared to assist in the recovery. My office is here to help and serve as you prepare and recover from a natural disaster.”

- U.S. Congressman Daniel Webster (FL-11)

Florida Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are important resources for updates and information when preparing for and recovering from a disaster.

⇒ FloridaDisaster.org
⇒ FEMA.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Residents affected by a natural disaster can apply for assistance through FEMA as soon as their county is granted Individual Assistance. DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 800-621-3362. Lines are open every day from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Those who use TTY may call 800-462-7585.

You may locate disaster centers near them at www.fema.gov/disaster-recovery-centers or by calling the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362. You can seek assistance at any disaster recovery center, including centers in other states.

Be sure to consult with your local officials for instructions before setting out debris. If you don’t have local emergency management contact information, it can be found online at http://www.floridadisaster.org/index.asp

FEMA also provides advice on coping with a disaster at http://www.fema.gov/coping-disaster

HELP FOR SENIORS
Florida Department of Elder Affairs operates federal and state-run services for senior citizens. You can visit their website at: http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/index.php or by calling the Elder Helpline at 1-800-963-5337.

HELP FOR VETERANS
Veterans from storm-affected areas who require immediate medical assistance or medications may contact the Veteran Disaster Hotline at 1-800-507-4571 or visit any VA medical facility.

HELP FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
For children and youth services, call the Florida Department of Children & Family Services at 1-800-955-8771 or visit the Central Region Circuit 5 Services website at http://myflfamilies.com/contact-us/region/circuit-5

Emergency Medical Assistance: Please dial 9-1-1
Your local county’s Emergency Management Center is a source of supplies, such as food, water, ice, and sandbags, as they become available. Distributions centers will be set up by each county before and after a natural disaster. Please contact your local Emergency Management Center for assistance. For information and a list of general and special needs shelters within the State of Florida go to http://www.floridadisaster.org/shelters

A statewide food bank database can be found at www.foodpantries.org/st/florida

To request assistance with clean up from disaster relief agencies please visit: https://www.crisiscleanup.org/ or call 1-800-451-1954

For information regarding National Dislocated Worker Grants, visit your local CareerSource Center at http://www.careersourceflorida.com/your-local-team.

The Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program provides assistance to Floridians whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted. To apply, visit www.FloridaJobs.org or call the hotline at 1-800-385-3920.

The Florida Department of Health has disaster preparedness and recovery information online at http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/index.html or you can call 850-245-4444.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has information for flood preparedness and response at: http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) can be reached by calling: 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

Contact your insurance company to file a claim. If you have flood insurance questions call 800-427-4661 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and select option 2. Call center staff are available to assist with information regarding your policy, offer technical flood guidance to aid in recovery and answer other flood insurance questions. You can be transferred to your insurance carrier for additional assistance if you have further questions.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers low-interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, most private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters. The SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center can be reached at (800) 659-2955 or email: disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

USPS Service Alerts will be posted at: https://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm. For other questions regarding the United States Postal Service or to locate mail please visit https://www.usps.com/help/contact-us.htm or call 1-800-275-8777.