



FEMA



Hurricane Michael Recovery

Feb. 6, 2019

Summit Focuses on Resiliency in North Florida

More than 200 people attended the Summit for a Resilient North Florida in Marianna Feb. 4, hearing an update on recovery from Hurricane Michael and plans for making the Panhandle more resilient in future storms. Sandra Eslinger, Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator for FEMA in Florida, addressed the participants, who included public officials, nonprofit organization leaders,



businesses and other interested parties from 12 counties in North Florida. Kevin Guthrie, State Coordinating Officer and Deputy Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, conducted a question-and-answer session. The program included updates from officials in affected communities, resiliency funding, field investigation of coastal, residential and critical facilities and the benefits of mitigation. The summit was held at Rivertown Community Church in Marianna.

Hurricane Michael Recovery Resources Portal Online Now

The Hurricane Michael Recovery Resources Portal provides online access to information that can help local governments, nonprofit organizations, the private sector and the philanthropic community in Florida locate resources for recovery from the storm.

The portal was developed by FEMA's Integrated Recovery Coordination (IRC) group, which is coordinating federal support to the State of Florida and Panhandle communities. An important role for IRC is to identify financial and other resources to meet needs that FEMA, state and other

programs cannot meet. The philanthropic portal is a tool that IRC is using to help connect community organizations with potential resources, including grants and technical assistance in the areas of housing, economic, natural and cultural resources and other aspects of community recovery. The portal can be accessed at: <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/dr4399fl/>. Users sign in as “Guest,” then follow instructions on the webpage.

FEMA Team Demonstrates How a Floodplain Works

A FEMA Hazard Mitigation Community Education and Outreach team is demonstrating a storm water model in school classrooms and other locations in the region. Their visual presentation demonstrates how urbanization changes the natural flow of water and how building techniques



and technology are being used to reduce the risk of flooding. The team emphasizes that “if it rains it can flood” and that living on higher ground doesn’t eliminate the risk of flooding.

In its presentation to seventh grade classrooms, the team aligns the content with Florida state education standards and reinforces earth science lessons. Team members also provide a disaster preparedness message. For more information, email Paul Albertson, Hazard Mitigation Community Education and Outreach (Paul.Albertson@fema.dhs.gov).

Recovery Update (Feb. 6, 2019)

- **FEMA Individual Assistance:** \$134.5 million in grants approved, including \$110.2 million in housing assistance and nearly \$24.3 million for Other Needs Assistance.
- **FEMA Public Assistance:** \$2.1 million awarded to reimburse local jurisdiction for debris removal.
- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA):** Approved 12,162 disaster loan applications totaling nearly \$602 million, including more than \$502 million for homeowners and renters and nearly \$100 million for businesses.
- **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):** 4,224 claims received; paid more than \$192.2 million; closed 4,054 claims.
- **Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA):** 556 survivor households are checked into hotels under TSA, which is approved for Bay, Gulf and Jackson counties.
- **Direct Temporary Housing:** 522 households are occupying units in the five counties – Bay, Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf and Jackson – authorized for direct housing assistance.

SBA Centers

- **Bay County Public Library,** 898 W. 11th St., Panama City, FL 32401, Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (Mobile Business Recovery Center)

- **LeRoy Collins Library**, 200 W. Park Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301, Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Disaster Loan Outreach Center)



Disaster Assistance Loans
 Customer Service: 800-659-2955
www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance

- **A.D. Harris Learning Village Building 2** (classroom 10), 819 E 11th St., Panama City, FL 32402, Mon-Sat 8 a.m.-5 p.m (Disaster Loan Outreach Center)
- **Florida State University Panama City Holley Academic Center**, 4750 Collegiate Dr., Panama City, FL 32405, Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat Noon-6 p.m.

Disaster Recovery Center Opens in Port St. Joe

A State/FEMA disaster recovery center in Gulf County has opened in Port St. Joe. The center is at the Port St. Joe Fire Department, 404 Williams Ave., Port St. Joe, FL 32456. Hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

Disaster Recovery Centers

Centers are open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday and closed Sunday. All times local.

- **Bay County Public Library**, 898 W. 11th St., Panama City, FL 32401
- **Callaway Community Center**, 599 Beulah Avenue, Callaway, FL 32404
- **Blountstown Public Library**, 17731 NE Pear St., Blountstown, FL 32424
- **Old Gretna Elementary School**, 706 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Gretna, FL 32332
- **Port St. Joe Fire Department**, 404 Williams Ave., Port St. Joe, FL 32456.

Visit: FEMA.gov/DRC or [download the FEMA App](#) to locate open disaster recovery centers in your area.

###

The graphic is a vertical banner with a dark blue header and footer. The header contains the FEMA logo and the text "Disaster Recovery Assistance Information". Below the header is a red bar with the text "FOR MORE INFORMATION:". The main body of the graphic is light blue and contains three rows of contact information: "PHONE" with a telephone icon and the number "1-800-304-9320"; "EMAIL" with an envelope icon and the address "RECOVERY@HUD.GOV"; and "WEBSITE" with a globe icon and the URL "WWW.HUD.GOV". The footer is dark blue and contains four white icons (a house, a hammer, a mailbox, and a wrench) above the text "HERE TO HELP YOU".