

## FAST FACTS

- For recovery information, call the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center at 941-833-4000 or go online to [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/storm](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/storm).
- Follow Charlotte County Emergency Management for important emergency information at [www.charlottecountyfl.gov/em](http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/em), [www.facebook.com/oemcharlottecounty](https://www.facebook.com/oemcharlottecounty), and [www.x.com/ccoem](https://www.x.com/ccoem) and [www.twitter.com/ccoem](https://www.twitter.com/ccoem).
- For information on what does or does not require a permit, visit [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/permits](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/permits).
- For permitting-related questions, contact Community Development at 941-743-1201 or [BuildingConstruction@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:BuildingConstruction@CharlotteCountyFL.gov).
- Text the word CHARCOARES to 888-777 to receive text updates on recovery resources.
- Cleanup Assistance by [Crisis Cleanup](#) : call 844-965-1386, deadline Oct. 25
- Call Charlotte County Solid Waste for garbage and recycling information at 941.764.4360.
- Call Charlotte County Utilities for water and sewer information at 941.764.4300.
- FEMA Individual & Business Assistance for Hurricane Helene  
Residents can apply in several ways:
  - Online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov)
  - On the [FEMA mobile app](#)
  - Call 800.621.3362 from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST
- State Price Gouging Hotline: 1-866-966-7226. Visit [MyFloridaLegal.com](http://MyFloridaLegal.com)

### Onsite ASSISTANCE:

- Multi-Agency Resource Center  
Open inside the Port Charlotte Town Center Mall, 1441 Tamiami Trail, across the FYE store, to assist residents affected by Hurricane Milton providing local and state resources to support recovery efforts:
  - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
  - 12 p.m.-6 p.m. Sunday
- **FEMA Mobile Disaster Recovery Center (MDRC)**
  - [South County Regional Park](#)
  - 670 Cooper Street, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950
    - 7 am to 7 pm, 7 days a week
- **FEMA: New Disaster Recovery Center OPEN**
  - **Home Depot, 12621 S McCall Rd, Port Charlotte, FL 33981**
    - All centers are open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.
    - Disaster Recovery Centers provide disaster survivors with information from Florida state agencies, FEMA, and the U.S. Small Business Administration. Survivors can get help applying for federal assistance and disaster loans, update applications and learn about other resources available.
- **UPHELP** - United Policyholder Florida Local Liaison and Attorney, Julitza Perez, will be hosting open office hours. United Policyholders is a non-profit consumer advocacy group dedicated to being a trustworthy resource and respected voice for all insurance consumers in the U.S. They are here to help, at no cost, any resident in

need of assistance with their disaster-related insurance claims. For more information about United Policyholders visit: [www.uphelp.org/milton](http://www.uphelp.org/milton).

- 4 dates @ 2825 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda, 33950
- 10/18, 2 – 5 pm
- 10/25, 2-5 pm
- 11/4, 3-6 PM
- 11/22, 2-5 pm

#### INFORMATION HUBS:

Locations with printed Resource Sheets:

- South County Regional Park Recreation Center 670 Cooper St.
- Port Charlotte Public Library 2280 Aaron St.
- Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park Recreation Center 6961 San Casa Drive., Englewood

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Apply online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov) or call the FEMA Helpline 1-800-621-3362, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Help is available in many languages. FEMA may provide financial help to assist you with home repairs, temporary housing, or property damage (appliances, furniture, vehicle, etc). You may also qualify for help with childcare, medical, lodging, moving, and funeral expenses.

- Registering online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov) is the quickest way to register for FEMA assistance. If clients do not have access to the internet, they can register by calling 800-621-3362 or by visiting a local Disaster Recovery Center (DRC).
- Money is available for hotels and motels or to rent a different place to live. Government-provided housing unit may be offered when rental resources are not available.
- If you have business losses, including property damage and economic losses, you may qualify for assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)(even rental assistance). Visit the MySBA Loan Portal at [lending.sba.gov](http://lending.sba.gov) to learn more and apply.
  - SBA DISASTER LOANS:
    1. [Economic Injury Loans for Working Capital Needs](#)  
Low interest direct loans to small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations. Economic Injury Disaster Loans help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical damage.
    2. [FloridaJobs.org/EBL](http://FloridaJobs.org/EBL) to apply for the **Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program**  
Short-term, zero interest, personal loans using Florida State funds: must be paid back. Apply through November 24, 2024. Eligible small business may apply for up to \$50,000. For agricultural and aquaculture businesses, \$100,000 loans are available.  
Call 1-833-832-4494 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
    3. **Business Physical Disaster Loan:** Businesses of any size are eligible. Loans to repair or replace disaster-damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, inventories, machinery and equipment.
    4. **SBA Disaster Recovery after Florida Hurricanes INFORMATION WEBINAR**
      - a. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024 / 2:00–3:00 PM EDT | On-line Event
      - b. There is no cost to attend this event, but registration is required.
      - c. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/disaster-recovery-after-florida-hurricanes-tickets-1050957992647>
    5. **EMERGENCY BRIDGE LOANS** – SUSAN CRAIG – [SCRAIG@FGCU.EDU](mailto:SCRAIG@FGCU.EDU) OR CALL 941-916-5324

## 6. FEMA Extends Renewal Period for Flood Insurance Policyholders in Seven States Affected by Helene

- The extension applies to policies with policy expiration dates beginning Aug. 28, 2024, as follows:
- If the policy term ended on/The grace period would have ended/But now runs until:
  - Aug. 28, 2024    Sept. 26, 2024    Nov. 26, 2024
  - Sept. 26, 2024    Oct. 25, 2024    Nov. 26, 2024
  - Oct. 15, 2024    Nov. 13, 2024    Nov. 26, 2024
  - Nov. 1, 2024    Nov. 30, 2024    Nov. 30, 2024
  - Nov. 15, 2024    Dec. 14, 2024    Dec. 14, 2024
  - Policyholders whose policy renewal date is within this range should contact their agent or insurance company.
  
- Additional information about disaster loans and resources is also available in the survey. [FloridaDisaster.biz](https://floridadisaster.biz) is a partnership between Florida Commerce and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM).
- To register for disaster assistance: <https://agents.floodsmart.gov/client-support/claims#register>
- Human Services programs may also be able to provide disaster recovery assistance. Access to disaster recovery assistance is through [www.coadfl.org](http://www.coadfl.org).
- **United Way of Charlotte County:** <http://www.unitedwayccfl.org/> VITA tax assistance; financial assistance administration; non-profit supports
- **Emergency Relief - Southern Smoke-** Funds are being raised to rapidly support the food and beverage works. Bridge funding provided by Southern Smoke Foundation is available. Individuals may receive up to \$1,000, and families may be eligible for up to \$1,200.

### ASSESSMENT/SURVEYS

- Businesses affected by Hurricane Helene can submit a business damage assessment survey on [FloridaDisaster.biz](https://floridadisaster.biz).
- Charlotte County has an online Self-Reporting Storm Damage system to help us collect damage assessments. Visit [www.tinyurl.com/reportingdamage](http://www.tinyurl.com/reportingdamage), enter your address, select the type of damage and add a photo. If possible, include high water marks when reporting damage.

### TRANSFER/CLEAN-UP

- Cleanup Assistance by [Crisis Cleanup](https://crisiscleanup.org) : call 844-965-1386, deadline Oct. 25
- [Garbage, Landfill, and Mini-Transfer and Recycling Transfer Station Schedules](#) - Residential curbside collection will resume for regularly scheduled Friday customers on Friday, October 11th. The Mid-County Mini-Transfer and Recycling Facility and the West Charlotte Mini-Transfer and Recycling Facility will reopen on the same day with an extended schedule from 9 a.m. to gates closing at 4:45 p.m. These facilities are open from Monday to Saturday. The Charlotte County Landfill will resume normal operating hours from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday and from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.
- The following restrictions apply at all mini-transfer stations and drop-off locations:
  - Proof of county residency is required. Residents need to bring a valid form of identification to include name, photo, and local address. Photo identification from other areas must be accompanied by a current utility bill or document showing proof of residency at a Charlotte County residential address. P.O. Box addresses are not accepted as proof of residency.
  - Trailers cannot exceed 12 feet in length

- Just storm debris: no perishable waste, such as household garbage, no yard trimmings in bags.
  - Residential only — no business or commercial use.
  - **Locations:**
    - Mid-County Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility, 19765 Kenilworth Blvd., Port Charlotte
    - West Charlotte Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility, 7070 Environmental Way, Englewood
- Two sand drop-off sites are open daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Englewood Beach and Don Pedro Knight Islands for flood-deposited sand left by Hurricane Milton
- **FEMA Clean and Sanitize Assistance** has been approved, limited to \$300 per eligible household, awarded as a one-time payment following a FEMA home inspection and determination of eligibility. Residents whose homes are habitable but require cleanup actions such as muck out, mold remediation, and limb clearing are eligible to apply for CSA, which is intended to address potential health and safety concerns and ensure minimal damage to homes is addressed to prevent additional losses. This program is not available automatically and must be requested and approved separately while applying for FEMA assistance.
- **Free Cleanup Assistance with Samaritan's Purse** (Oct. 16, 2024) – Samaritans purse is assisting homeowners who were affected by Hurricane Milton. Volunteers may be available to help with the following:
  - Personal belongings and furniture carried to the curb
  - Flood cleanup
  - Sanitizing
  - Roof tarping
  - Chainsaw work
  - This is a free service. Call 833-747-1234 to speak with a Samaritan's Purse representative.
- **Operation Blue Roof Available to Residents Impacted by Hurricane Milton** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has opened Operation Blue Roof in Charlotte through Tuesday, Nov. 5. This program is a free service for homeowners and permanently occupied rental properties, providing fiber-reinforced, industrial strength sheeting to protect storm-damaged roofs until homeowners can make permanent repairs. Residents impacted by Hurricane Milton can sign up for this no-cost service by visiting [blueroof.gov](http://blueroof.gov), calling 888-ROOF-BLU (888-766-3258).

#### SHELTER/HOUSING REPAIRS

- Residents whose homes have been damaged and rendered uninhabitable from Hurricane Helene can temporarily live in recreational vehicles and mobile homes on their property until Sept. 23, 2027. Only occupants of the damaged home may reside in the temporary RVs or mobile homes.
  - To register a temporary RV, visit [bit.ly/rvregistration](http://bit.ly/rvregistration) to review qualifications and other regulations. To obtain a permit to set a temporary mobile home, visit the Community Development Department at 18400 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, to fill out necessary paperwork and provide plans.
  - For questions about RV registration, call 941-743-1201.
- St Vincent de Paul CARES: <https://www.svdpsp.org/>: Housing stabilization case management and housing placement for veteran and non-veteran families.
- SHELTER REMAINS OPEN: BABCKCOK RANCH SCHOOL FIELD HOUSE AT 43281 CYPRESS PARKWAY IN Punta Gorda
- **County Opens Comfort Stations with Restrooms, Showers, and Laundry**
  - Opening today, Monday, Oct. 14 until further notice:

- Harold Avenue Regional Park Recreation Center, 23400 Harold Ave., Port Charlotte
    - South County Regional Park, 670 Cooper St., Punta Gorda
    - Fellowship Church of Englewood, 140 Rotonda Blvd. W, Rotonda West
  - This facility provides residents with a safe space where they can take showers and do laundry as part of their recovery efforts. Bring your own supplies if you have them – detergent, soap, shampoo, towels.
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- Disaster Assistance Program for Low-Income Households  
The [State Housing Initiatives Partnership Disaster Assistance program](#) provides assistance to low-income households following a disaster.
- Housing Repairs and Recovery Assistance Portal: The Disaster Case Management Program works with Long Term Recovery Groups to collaborate with national, state and local government and disaster relief organizations to provide resources to disaster survivors: [volunteerflorida.org/dcmp-providers](http://volunteerflorida.org/dcmp-providers).
- **Comfort Stations with [Mobile Medical Clinics](#), Restrooms, Showers Laundry (bring your own supplies):**
  - Harold Avenue Regional Park Recreation Center, 23400 Harold Ave., Port Charlotte
  - South County Regional Park, 670 Cooper St., Punta Gorda
  - Fellowship Church of Englewood, 140 Rotonda Blvd. W., Rotonda West
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## SAFETY

- [Private Well Testing](#) kits available at Department of Health, 1100 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte, while supplies last

## TRANSPORTATION

- Charlotte County [Transit Offers Rides to and from Distribution Centers](#). To quickly schedule a ride, call 941-833-4000.

## FOOD PANTRY

- Punta Gorda Community Resource Center now is limited to just a food pantry the last Wednesday of each month, with items supplied by the Harry Chapin Food Bank. 28038 Cleveland ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33982, (941) 462-9874
- Discipleship Driven Ministries: 23375 Janice Ave., Port Charlotte, FL 33980, (941) 764-8458

## PERMITS

- Charlotte County Community Development Department reminds property owners that permits are required for storm damage repairs in accordance with Section 105.1 of the Florida Building Code. Storm-related repairs are NOT exempt from permitting requirements.
  - If your home was flooded and more than 100 square foot of drywall was removed, a residential remodel permit is required.

- This requirement is in place to ensure that all repairs are conducted safely and meet the necessary building standards. Failure to obtain a permit may result in fines, additional repair costs, or issues when selling or insuring the property in the future.
- For information on what does or does not require a permit, visit [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/permits](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/permits).
- For permitting-related questions, contact Community Development at 941-743-1201 or [BuildingConstruction@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:BuildingConstruction@CharlotteCountyFL.gov).
- CHARLOTTE COUNTY, Fla. (Oct. 23, 2024) – The Charlotte County Community Development Department has opened a pop-up permitting site at the Mac V. Horton West County Annex, located at 6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood. This location will assist homeowners and contractors with residential storm-related permits for the following:
  - Baby barrier
  - Demolition
  - Door
  - Electrical
  - Fence
  - Mechanical (AC)
  - Plumbing
  - Remodel
  - Roof
  - Shutters
  - Siding or soffit
  - Stucco
  - Water heater
  - Window
  - Commercial permits are not currently available at this site. For other permit types, visit the main permitting office at 18400 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, or [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/permits](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/permits).
    - Operating Hours for Both Locations:
      - Monday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
      - Tuesday to Friday: 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
      - Last customer served at 3:30 p.m.
- [Work that can be Completed Without a Permit](#) - To streamline the rebuilding process and prevent delays, follow these guidelines on work that does not require a permit:
  - Removal of debris from on or inside a structure.
  - Minor demolition to prevent injury or prevent further damage to buildings. This includes removal of drywall that has been affected by flood water.
  - Structural shoring and bracing.
  - Repair of minor water leaks that do not involve structural, mechanical, or electrical systems.
  - Previously permitted fences destroyed by the storm may be re-installed, like for like, in the exact same location, except for fences used as a pool enclosure. Pool enclosure fence replacements must be reviewed for compliance with pool safety requirements.
  - If you are unsure whether your project requires a permit, or if additional information is needed, visit [Permits](#) or contact Community Development at 941.743.1201 or [BuildingConstruction@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:BuildingConstruction@CharlotteCountyFL.gov).
- Unlicensed Contracting During an Emergency is a Felony

## LEGAL

- Legal Services: Florida Rural Legal Services provides free legal services to vulnerable and low-income clients within 13 counties in Florida and farmworkers throughout Florida. They may be able to help if you are experiencing legal challenges from Hurricane Ian. They are a not-for-profit organization and services

include assistance with insurance claims, proof of ownership, property disputes, disaster benefits, and legal papers lost in the storm. Call 1-888-582-3410 or visit [frls.org](http://frls.org)

## **INSURANCE**

- Insurance Help: The Florida Division of Consumer Services assists insurance consumers in the aftermath of a disaster. Visit [myfloridacfo.com/division/consumers/storm/resources](http://myfloridacfo.com/division/consumers/storm/resources) or call the insurance consumer helpline: 1-877-693-5236, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- The My Safe Florida Home program helps with strengthening your home which also helps to reduce the cost of home insurance premiums. Visit [mysafehome.com](http://mysafehome.com) or call 1-866-513-6734.
- To file a flood insurance claim: <https://agents.floodsmart.gov/client-support/claims#file>
- To appeal a flood insurance claim: <https://agents.floodsmart.gov/client-support/claims#appeal>
- United Policyholders is a nonprofit consumer advocacy group that offers guidance on navigating claims and purchasing appropriate insurance. They do not sell insurance or take money from insurance companies. Visit <http://www.uphelp.org/Milton> or contact Julitza Perez, the United Policyholders Florida Local Liaison and attorney, at [julitza.perez@uphelp.org](mailto:julitza.perez@uphelp.org) or call 787-454-3353.
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## **EMPLOYMENT-CAREER SOURCE - [Home - \(careersourcesouthwestflorida.com\)](http://careersourcesouthwestflorida.com)**

### **Port Charlotte Branch**

**3745 Tamiami Trail, 33952**

**941-235-5900**

**M-F 8 to 5**

## **Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities:**

- Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida is a nonprofit organization connecting older adults (age 60-up), adults with disabilities, and caregivers to resources and assistance for living safely with independence and dignity: [www.aaswfl.org](http://www.aaswfl.org) or call 866-413-5337.
- Center for Independent Living of Gulf Coast is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering people with disabilities regardless of age: <https://www.cilgulfcoastflorida.org> or call 855-260-4575.

## **Behavioral Health**

- Charlotte Behavioral Health Care is a nonprofit community-based behavioral health care provider offering a full range of mental health services and substance use disorder treatment in Charlotte County. Visit [www.cbhcf.org](http://www.cbhcf.org) or call 941-639-8300.