



News Release

Update #19

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Pinellas Update: Mandatory evacuation order lifted

Based on the latest storm response developments, Pinellas County has rescinded its mandatory evacuation order for the barrier islands, but two segments of Gulf Boulevard remain without access due to health, safety and welfare issues that remain as a result of the severe impacts caused by Hurricane Helene.

The Sheriff's Office announced the reopening of the barrier islands effective at 4 p.m. Access to barrier islands will be open only to residents, business owners or employees with a Barrier Island Re-Entry Permit or photo ID and reasonable proof that they reside or have legitimate business on the barrier islands. The barrier islands are not open to visitors at this time.

Remaining barrier island closures: The north and southbound lanes of Gulf Boulevard will remain closed from 150th Avenue (Tom Stuart Causeway) south to 140th Avenue in Madeira Beach. Additionally, Gulf Boulevard, both north and southbound from the Park Boulevard Bridge to 196th Avenue (Tiki Gardens County Park) in Indian Shores, will remain closed.

Important reminder for those entering the barrier islands: If you enter the barrier islands, be advised that the power is out and traffic lights and signals are not functioning. Drive with caution and treat each intersection as a four-way stop. Also, buildings have not been inspected for structural integrity. Re-enter your property at your own risk and use extreme caution. Be respectful of recovery and storm cleanup crews. As a reminder, debris on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. Please contact your city for additional questions.

Additional law enforcement resources will be patrolling the segments that remain closed. Deputies will reevaluate any further openings tomorrow morning. We will share Sheriff's Office updates when there are changes to the barrier island restrictions.

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