

HELENE/MILTON UPDATE 10/18

(Please see previous updates for additional important information)

All updates available on townofnrb.com

Questions, Misinformation and Confusion

Today's update is a Question and Answer type update. I have received an email stating that due to a lack of communication from the town, there is much misinformation and confusion. Rest assured, that if we have the information, it has been included in the our updates.

And as always, if you have any questions or concerns, all you have to do is call, email or stop by and see us. We have been here all along to help.

How do we find out about rebuilds and renovations?

All building questions must go to our building department, Safebuilt. You may call them at 727-202-6825; email at redington@safebuilt.com or visit their office at 17895 Gulf Blvd (the old Wells Fargo Building).

If you want to know the value of your structure for the FEMA 50% rule, the Pinellas County Property Appraiser has that information for each property at pcpao.gov. Search for your property then click FEMA/WML letter on the Quick Pick Tools section.

Where is my mail?

The Madeira Beach post office sustained heavy damage from Helene. They have relocated to the Crossroads office at 1275 66th St N, St. Petersburg. The delivery people are out delivering where they can. If you are not receiving mail, you can contact them at 800-275-8777 to inquire if pickup for your address is available.

Why is the debris removal so slow?

Believe it or not, we were one of the first affected communities to call up our debris removal company. Our debris removal contracts have been in place for several years allowing us to engage them immediately and have them mobilized to our area. We were set to begin removal on the Monday following Helene, but

Milton stopped that process. Once Milton went through on Thursday, October 10th, our contractors began pick up two days later on Saturday.

The process is slow because of the vast amount of debris. The contractors are working sunup to sundown 7 days a week. This was an unprecedented event in our community and it will take time to see a more normal town.

Why was Gulf Blvd cleared first?

The state sent in a huge amount of workers, including the National Guard, to get Gulf Boulevard cleared so traffic could flow and the contractors could get to the residential streets. This group, who we had no contact with, also picked up a small amount of debris in the residential streets. We don't know why or how they chose the spots they cleared.

Why aren't claw type trucks being used?

Due to the unimaginable devastation throughout the South from Helene, much of the heavy machinery was in use in North Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee including the claw type trucks. Therefore, debris is being collected with loaders. The contractors do their very best to cause as little damage as possible. If there is damage to your yard or driveway, please add that to your insurance claim.

Why are some people paying for private removal?

Several residents have decided to pay contractors to remove their debris. This could be because they don't want to wait for the town's contractors or have concerns about damage from the loaders.

Where should my debris pile be located?

The debris pile can be anywhere near the curb that can be accessed by the loaders, but preferably on driveways as they can push it easier off a hard surface. They can not collect debris near structures as the machinery needs room to maneuver. Debris must be located completely on the property, it can not be in the gutters or street.

Why hasn't appliances been picked up?

Appliances have to go to a different debris site so they will be picked up at a later date.

How do I know where the debris has been collected?

Updated reports on the amount of debris removed and a map of completed removal locations are on our website. Please check there for the latest on the project.

Will there be another collection for debris?

After the first run (one trip on each of our residential streets) is complete, there will be a pause next week to allow everyone to place any remaining debris curbside. The second run is expected to begin the weekend of the 26th. This will most likely be the final run so any debris after this point will be the responsibility of the homeowner to remove.

Is the beach open?

The beach itself is open. The County has asked that people use caution as there could be debris buried in the sand. However, all of our beach accesses are currently closed due to damage from Helene. The town is beginning clean up on the beach but due to a limited amount of man power, and so many issues throughout the town, this will be a slow process so please be patient.

What should I do with my sandbags?

Pinellas County recommends you scattering sand from sand bags throughout your yard once hurricane season is over (November 30th).

Is there somewhere we can talk to a FEMA representative in person?

There is a FEMA disaster recovery center located at Botanicals Gardens at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. They are there 7:00 am til 7:00 pm 7 days a week.

Why don't I have reclaimed water?

Reclaimed water has been turned off throughout the town due to numerous water breaks. It will be turned on once debris is cleared and the breaks can be addressed.

Is there currently red tide?

A large bloom of red tide has been reported off our coast. The wind should remain offshore for the next several days. However, if you experience effects from the bloom, please contact the following resources:

For dead fish: <https://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/health/fish-kills-hotline/>
Respiratory Issues: 800-222-1222

Additional information on the health effects of Florida red tide can be found on the Florida Department of Health website:
<https://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/aquatic-toxins/updates-report-and-contact/index.html>.

Where can I find additional information?

For updated important information, please visit Pinellas County's Emergency Management website for a full list of resources at:

<https://pinellas.gov/emergency-information/>

Please see previous updates at townofnrb.com for additional information

***WE ARE ALL ROWING IN THE SAME BOAT, IF WE DON'T ROW TOGETHER
WE JUST GO IN CIRCLES***