

Helene/Milton Update 10/7

(Please see previous updates for additional important information-
Updates also posted at townofnrb.com)

Debris

The state has mobilized forces to get the debris off Gulf Boulevard prior to the arrival of Milton. A large contingent of dump trucks has arrived and work has begun.

We have hired Waste Pro to collect debris from the lowest areas of town and around storm drains to help prevent street flooding. You will see them working around town today and tomorrow, but remember that their priority is taking debris that could impact our storm drains. They will not be able to collect all the debris in town. We will be back working with our FEMA contractors for remaining debris after the storm.

Pinellas County has announced that anyone can take debris to the landfill. There is no charge and it will be open 24 hours a day until it is shut down by Hurricane Milton. We have been advised there are long lines, so if you decide to remove debris from your property, be prepared for a wait.

Evacuation Order

Pinellas County has estimated that evacuations for Zones A, B and possibly C will be announced this afternoon. They have stated that

everyone needs to be off the road in in their safe space by tomorrow evening. Please heed this evacuation, if we receive this storm directly there will be dangerous winds and storm surge larger than Helene. Surge is possible from 8-12 feet and potentially higher depending on track of the storm.

Pinellas County has indicated they may shut down water to the barrier islands to protect their system to ensure it can be restored after the storm.

PSTA will be running busses from the barrier islands onto the mainland for anyone that needs transportation. For details call 727-464-4333.

Pinellas County Emergency Operations

PC Emergency Operations is on full activation and has opened a Information Center that is available 24 hours a day. If you have any storm related questions, the number is 727-464-4333. Residents who are deaf or hard of hearing can contact the CIC via online chat at bit.ly/PinellasChat

Sandbags

Please remind residents that sandbags are only effective in slow-moving water that is no more than 15 inches deep. **Residents with sandbags from Hurricane Helene are encouraged to reuse them.**

Storm Damage

Ensure that you document any damage you had from Helene so it can be separated from any damage from Milton. This will be required for FEMA assistance and your insurance.

Housing Help for Displaced Families

Pinellas County residents displaced by Hurricane Helene have several options for seeking short- and long-term housing.

FEMA Displacement Assistance

FEMA Displacement Assistance helps survivors who can't return to their home following a disaster by giving them up-front money to help with immediate housing needs. The amount of money is based on 14 days of hotel costs based on a rate chosen by the state impacted by the disaster. The assistance is a one-time payment. FEMA may provide up to two weeks of funds for temporary lodging at a hotel, motel, or the home of friends or family, for displaced applicants who apply during the registration period.

Displaced residents can apply for this and other help by calling 1-800-621-3362, visiting [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov), or going in-person to the Disaster Recovery Center, at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive, Largo. For more info, see [FEMA Displacement Assistance Fact Sheet](#).

FEMA Serious Needs Assistance is also available to pay for emergency supplies like water, food, first aid, breast-feeding supplies, infant formula, diapers, personal hygiene items, or fuel for transportation. You could qualify for both forms of assistance by applying to FEMA by phone or online.

Pinellas Housing Options Website

Pinellas County has posted a list of resources to help displaced people find short- and long-term housing options, including online search tools, real estate company information, short-term rental companies, and apartment listings. Realtors and property managers are responsible for updating their available listings on their websites, but the listings and resources allow residents to more easily locate potential housing options. [See Pinellas.gov/hurricane housing](https://www.pinellas.gov/hurricane-housing).

Local Emergency Shelters

The County continues to provide emergency shelters for people who need a temporary safe place to stay while looking for a longer-term home. Call the County Information Center at (727) 464-4333 for more information on emergency sheltering, including locations that accept pets and have support for people with special medical needs. County staff is actively helping individuals and families who are at shelters find other housing options.

Resources Available

Anyone needing assistance with clean up can contact Volunteer Crisis Cleanup at 844-965-1386 to be paired with volunteers.

If you suspect price gouging, report it to the Florida Attorney General's Office by visiting [MyFloridaLegal.com](https://www.myfloridalegal.com) or calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM.

If you're looking for hotel accommodations in non-evacuation zones, [use the Hotel Evacuation Zone Look-Up Tool](#).

Updates will be posted on disaster.pinellas.gov, sent out via [Alert Pinellas](#) and [Ready Pinellas](#), and on Facebook [@PinellasGov](#) and X [@PinellasGov](#).

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

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