Emergency Preparedness and Response
Florida’s Waste Cleanup Sites
Emergency Preparedness

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

• Procedures and guidance to managers and staff in the event that one or more facilities of DEP are rendered inoperable.

• Objectives:
  • Continuous performance of DEP mission critical functions
  • Outlines a decision-making process for activation of the plan
  • Provides the delegation of authority and order of succession
  • Protects essential facilities, equipment, records and assets
  • Reduces loss of life and injury and minimizes damage and losses
  • Achieves timely and orderly recovery from an emergency
  • Ensures the safety of staff and visitors
Organizational Structure

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

In addition to the Tallahassee Headquarters office, the Department has six District offices that are responsible for permitting, compliance and enforcement activities within their geographic area.

- Pensacola
- Jacksonville
- Orlando
- Tampa
- Fort Myers
- West Palm Beach
Gov. Scott Declares State of Emergency in Florida for Subtropical Storm Alberto
On May 26, 2018, in News Releases, by Staff

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott issued Executive Order 18-150 declaring a state of emergency in all 67 Florida counties as the state continues to monitor and prepare for Subtropical Storm Alberto.
Agency’s Order Examples:

Storage Tank Systems-
- Authorized to make repairs and restore essential services without prior notice to the Department

Solid Waste Management-
- Field authorizations of Disaster Debris Management Sites (DDMS) prior to inspection
- C & D debris need not be segregated prior to disposal in a lined landfill

Hazardous Waste Management -
- General 30-day time extension for generators of hazardous waste and storage of that waste onsite
Hurricane Preparedness

Waste Cleanup Sites

Sites are prioritized based on location and work being completed.

High priority:
• Sites under construction
• Sites with treatment systems
• Sites that have waste onsite

Investigative Derived Waste (IDW)

Large Diameter Auger (LDA) at DEP remedial action site
Hurricane Preparedness

Site Location and Inventory

Use of ArcGIS to Map and locate sites within the potential area of impact

DEP’s Contamination Locator Map: http://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DepClnup/welcome.do
Hurricane Preparedness

Pre-Strike Preparations

Waste Cleanup has a Hurricane Preparedness Plan for sites undergoing cleanup

• Pre-storm preparation measures to secure cleanup sites and treatment systems.
• During Irma ~ 50 drycleaner and waste cleanup sites with equipment or treatment systems.
Hurricane Preparedness

Identification and Monitoring

Closely monitor the potential hurricane path to determine which sites may be at risk.

Figure 1. IRMA Graphics 5-day Forecast Track, Initial Wind Field and Watch/Warning Graphic, September 8, 2017. Image credit: National Hurricane Center.
Hurricane Preparedness

Pre-Strike Preparations

- **Timing** - Site visits are completed by DEP’s contractors at least 36 hours ahead of tropical storm force winds.
- Corresponds to NHC issuing a hurricane warning for an affected area.
- Safety is the primary consideration.
  - Plans must be undertaken early enough to allow for the orderly departure of workers prior to evacuation gridlock.
  - Use local contractors/personnel to avoid unnecessary travel.

Err on the side of caution
Hurricane Preparedness

Pre-Strike Preparations

• **Communication** - If activity is ongoing at a site, DEP will instruct the on-site contractor to secure the site immediately.

• Coordination with the property owner/tenant on the preparedness plan.

• After completing preparedness measures and departing the site, the DEP Project Manager is informed that preparedness measures are complete and that all personnel have safely departed the site.

• **Documentation** – *onsite personnel are required to document site conditions, secure all wastes and containers that will remain on site and shut off power to any treatment systems.*

• Photo documentation, proper signage, and security of all ancillary items.

Report up
Hurricane Preparedness

During the Storm

• Emergency Phone Tree:
  • Practice phone tree communication
  • Critical communication will continue through key staff
  • Have a back up – alternative staff identified
• Paper copies of contact information and site locations/Inventory
• Daily Reports continue through key staff
Hurricane Preparedness

Post-Strike Operations

Figure 2. Downtown Jacksonville at the height of storm surge flooding on Monday, September 11, 2017. Image credit: Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office.
Hurricane Irma:
• September 10, 2017
• Heavy rain and a record storm surge caused historic flooding in Jacksonville
• Storm surge of nearly 6’ along the St. Johns River
• Mandatory evacuations
Purpose of the initial post strike assessment:

• **Public Safety**: Verify that there are no public safety issues related to remedial activities at the site.

• **Equipment Integrity**: determine the condition and operability of remedial equipment, and to develop a list of needed parts and services to restore the system to operability.

• **Well Integrity**: Determine the condition of all monitoring wells, extraction wells, injection wells, piezometers. Measure the depth to water in each well, and also measure the total depth of each well.
Hurricane Preparedness

Post-Strike Assessment

Most common damage following a Hurricane is damage to fences surrounding equipment compounds.
Hurricane Preparedness

Post-Strike Documentation

Confirmation within 24 hours of initial site visit.

• Assessments are due within one week of site visit and includes:
  • Digital photos of site/equipment to document damage.
  • System description and system status (immediately post-storm).
  • Description of damage to the site (unrelated to DEP equipment).
  • Description of damage to the regional infrastructure.
  • Recommendations for restoration the system to operational status.
  • Estimate time required to implement corrective measures.
  • Estimate of the cost of repairs to the system.
Hurricane Preparedness

Boots on the Ground

DEP often has to rely on local offices and the public to provide us information on situations we may be unaware of.

- **Do not** attempt to correct any problem you identify at a site.
- Report your concerns by contacting:
  - DEP Waste Cleanup Section at (850) 245-8705
  - State Warning Point at (800) 320-0519
Hurricane Michael Response
EPA Region 4
Spot Report #1
October 9, 2018 – 1000 hours

I. STORM STATUS
As of 17:00 hrs, October 8, Hurricane Michael’s forecasted track has shifted westward and is expected to make landfall as a Category 3 storm. Hurricane Michael is expected to strengthen as it moves toward the northern Gulf Coast, reaching major hurricane status tomorrow evening. With landfall expected along the Florida Panhandle Wednesday, significant impacts are expected across the area beginning late Tuesday to early Wednesday.

II. REGION 4 ACTIVITIES
The EPA Region 4 Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) is operating at Level 3. A pre-landfall planning meeting was held on October 8. The Regional Pre-Landfall Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will be implemented beginning October 9, at 06:00 hours.

III. STATE/FEDERAL PROGRAM STATUS AND REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE
A. FEMA
On October 9, the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Region 4 Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) will be partially activated to Level 2 from 07:00 hrs-19:00 hrs. FEMA has requested EPA to staff the Emergency Support Function 10 (ESF-10) Desk.

B. Florida
1. Current Status
   • The Florida Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is at Level 1, full activation. All ESF’s have reported to the State EOC, and the FL Department of Environmental Protection Division is staffing the ESF-10 Desk.

Hurricane Michael: 91 NPL Sites located within storm path, one within storm surge. 8 NPL sites were located in Florida
Hurricane Preparedness

Coordination with EPA

United Metals Superfund Site, Jackson County, Pre and Post Hurricane Michael.
Emergency Preparedness

Challenges

• Personnel
• Funding
• Fuel availability
• Accessibility-flooding, debris, damaged roadways
• Phone and Electric service

Figure 3. Hurricane Michael estimated customers without power. Image Credit: www.weather.gov/tae/HurricaneMichael2018
Emergency Preparedness

Be Prepared

- Division of Emergency management
  [FloridaDisaster.ORG](http://FloridaDisaster.ORG)
  - State Emergency Response Team (SERT)
  - SERT tasked with providing disaster assistance to the residents of Florida.
  - SERT is comprised of branches and Emergency Support Functions (ESF).