



## Hurricane Ian Updates and Resources

Dear licensee,

If you or your loved ones have been impacted by Hurricane Ian, our hearts are with you during this difficult time. Under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation is here to help you get back on your feet as quickly as possible. We encourage you to read the information below and share it with colleagues, friends, and family who may need it.

### DBPR UPDATES

- Utilize the Emergency Page on our DBPR website for Hurricane Ian information regarding DBPR Emergency Orders, rescheduled board meetings, temporary licensure, and resources for homeowners, contractors, and more.
- The DBPR Division of Hotels and Restaurants field staff is performing post-storm assessments to support public lodging and public food service establishments in storm-impacted counties. The Division's goal is to see each impacted establishment re-open as soon as is safely possible.
- DBPR encourages Florida business owners and homeowners impacted by Hurricane Ian to be alert and reject fraudulent and illegal offers to perform work on their homes by using only properly state-licensed professionals.

Avoid the most common traps and threats created by unlicensed frauds:

- Taking a deposit but not performing the work, or performing substandard work resulting in an extensive loss in home value, financial cost to the homeowners, and potential dangers to occupants and guests
- A lack of proper permitting or proof of work performed resulting in difficulty or inability to sell the home
- Non-compliance with building codes may leave defects, or the inability for the home to withstand future storms
- A lack of necessary insurance, creating possible liability for the homeowner for injuries on their property or for shoddy work performed
- Unknown criminal backgrounds allowing potentially dangerous people access to the home and near loved ones

- A lack of education and/or qualifications endangering the safety of homeowners, their loved ones and their property
- Verify the license of any prospective contractor by visiting [MyFloridaLicense.com](https://www.myfloridalicense.com), or downloading the DBPR mobile app on iTunes and GooglePlay.
- Report unlicensed contractors and other unlicensed activity to 866-532-1440 or on the DBPR mobile app or [MyFloridaLicense.com](https://www.myfloridalicense.com). For more information visit the DBPR Unlicensed Activity web page.

## **BUSINESS RESOURCES**

- To scale up recovery efforts, recovery teams will be hiring many local individuals. Find more details at [DisasterRecovery.EmployFlorida.com/](https://DisasterRecovery.EmployFlorida.com/)
- The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is updating [FloridaDisaster.biz](https://FloridaDisaster.biz) with real-time information for business owners, their families, and employees for Hurricane Ian.
- DEO and the Division of Emergency Management have activated the Business Damage Assessment Survey to gather information about how Hurricane Ian is impacting local businesses. This survey will assess and inform recovery resources needed in impacted communities. Take the Survey at [FloridaDisaster.biz/BusinessDamageAssessments](https://FloridaDisaster.biz/BusinessDamageAssessments).
- The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program has been activated to assist small businesses that have been impacted by Hurricane Ian with short-term, zero-interest loans to meet the businesses' immediate financial needs and "bridge the gap" until longer term funding sources become available. Small businesses in the most impacted counties will be escalated and prioritized as they are received. Visit [FloridaJobs.org/EBL](https://FloridaJobs.org/EBL) to learn more.
- Enterprise Florida activated its Disaster Assistance page with a list of state and federal resources available for businesses to utilize in their mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities.
- CareerSource Florida is working with DEO to support recovery efforts and help connect affected residents with temporary employment and other recovery assistance. All career centers are open statewide except CareerSource Southwest Florida's centers in Port Charlotte. To find your local career center, visit Find Your Local Team or Career Center Directory.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has several Business Recovery Centers (BRCs) to assist Floridians applying for SBA disaster loan assistance for losses due to Hurricane Ian that began September 23, 2022.

All BRCs will operate as indicated below until further notice from the SBA:



<b>SBA Business Recovery Center</b> <b>Collier County</b> The Naples Players 701 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue South Naples, FL 34102  <b>Hours:</b> Monday, 9 am – 4:30 pm Tuesday – Sunday, 9 am. to 5 pm	<b>SBA Mobile Business Recovery Center</b> <b>Collier County</b> Museum of the Everglades 105 Broadway Avenue W Everglades City, FL 34139  <b>Hours:</b> Saturday – Monday, Oct. 8 – 10, 9 am – 6 pm
<b>SBA Business Recovery Center</b> <b>Hillsborough County</b> Chloe Coney Urban Enterprise Center 1907 E. Hillsborough Ave. Tampa, FL 33610  <b>Hours:</b> Monday – Sunday, 9 am – 5 pm	<b>SBA Business Recovery Center</b> <b>Lee County</b> Kiwanis Club of Cape Coral 360 Santa Barbara Blvd. S. Cape Coral FL 33991  <b>Hours:</b> Monday – Thursday, 8 am – 4 pm <b>Closed:</b> Friday, Saturday and Sunday
<b>SBA Business Recovery Center</b> <b>Lee County</b> The Hub at SWFL, Inc. 25071 Chamber of Commerce Drive Bonita Springs, FL 34135  <b>Hours:</b> Monday – Sunday, 9 am – 5 pm	<b>SBA Business Recovery Center</b> <b>Seminole County</b> Sanford Information Center 230 E. First St. Sanford, FL 32771  <b>Hours:</b> Monday – Sunday, 9 am – 6 pm

SBA Customer Service Representatives will be available as indicated above to answer questions about the disaster loan program and assist business owners in completing their applications. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the SBA has established protocols to help protect the health and safety of the public. All visitors to the BRCs are encouraged to wear a face mask.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at [DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s/](https://DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s/) and should apply under SBA declaration # **17644**.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, applicants should register online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov) or download the FEMA mobile app. If online or mobile access is unavailable, applicants should call the FEMA toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services should call 800-621-3362.

## DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS

The state currently has 10 Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) operated by DEO, in conjunction with DBPR and more than 10 other state and federal agencies, to provide a one-stop shop for individuals or businesses that need help recovering from the storm. Hours of operation are 9 am-6 pm daily, seven days a week. Lee County currently has extended hours from 7 am-7 pm, daily.

Disaster Recovery Centers are located at:

**Charlotte County**

Mobile DRC – Home Depot  
12621 S. McCall Rd.  
Port Charlotte, FL 33981

**Collier County**

Veterans Community Park  
1895 Veterans Drive  
Naples, FL 34109

**Hardee County**

Wauchula Civic Center  
515 Civic Center Dr.  
Wauchula, FL 33873

**Lee County**

Joseph P.D Alessandro Office Complex  
2295 Victoria Ave.  
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Lakes Regional Library  
15290 Bass Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33919

**Orange County**

Barnett Park  
4801 W. Colonial Dr.  
Orlando, FL 32808

**Osceola County**

Hart Memorial Central Library  
211 E. Dakin Ave.  
Kissimmee, FL 34741

**Polk County**

W.H. Stuart Center  
1702 S. Holland Pkwy.  
Bartow, FL 33830

**Sarasota County**

Shannon Staub Library  
4675 Career Lane  
North Port, FL 34289

**Seminole County**

Seminole State College Automotive Center  
100 Welden Blvd.  
Sanford, FL 32773

## MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- All Floridians impacted by Hurricane Ian can find someone to talk to today through the **Disaster Distress Helpline** by calling 800-985-5990.

## UTILITY & BRIDGE UPDATES

- There are currently 19,362 reported power outages. In Lee and Collier counties, there are only 1,000 accounts on the mainland that remain without power that can receive it. More than 42,000 linemen have already restored power to over 2.6 million accounts across the state, representing over 99% of accounts restored since the peak.
- Tuesday, October 11, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that temporary repairs to the Sanibel Causeway will allow a one-time convoy of power restoration equipment, supplies, and crews to access Sanibel Island and continue restoration efforts. Once crews are on the island, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will resume repairs to restore access to the island for residents, which is expected to be complete by the end of this month.
- Last week, Governor DeSantis announced that bridge repairs were completed in record time to restore access to Pine Island.

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- First Lady Casey DeSantis announced that the Florida Disaster Fund has raised nearly \$40 million since activation. To read more info, [click here](#). To contribute, please visit [FloridaDisasterFund.org](https://FloridaDisasterFund.org) or text DISASTER to 20222.
- Find volunteer opportunities through Volunteer Florida's Volunteer Connect at [VolunteerFlorida.org](https://VolunteerFlorida.org).

If you have any questions about your license, please reach out to our Customer Contact Center at 850-487-1395. Together, we will come back stronger than ever.

Sincerely,  
*Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation*

DBPR

2601 Blair Stone Rd , Tallahassee, FL 32399

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