



**GULF COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd.  
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FROM: MARSHALL NELSON  
DATE: 9/21/2016  
SUBJECT: Gulf County Flood Response Plan

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By this memo we are requesting the board's review and approval of the attached Gulf County Flood Response Plan.

Attachment

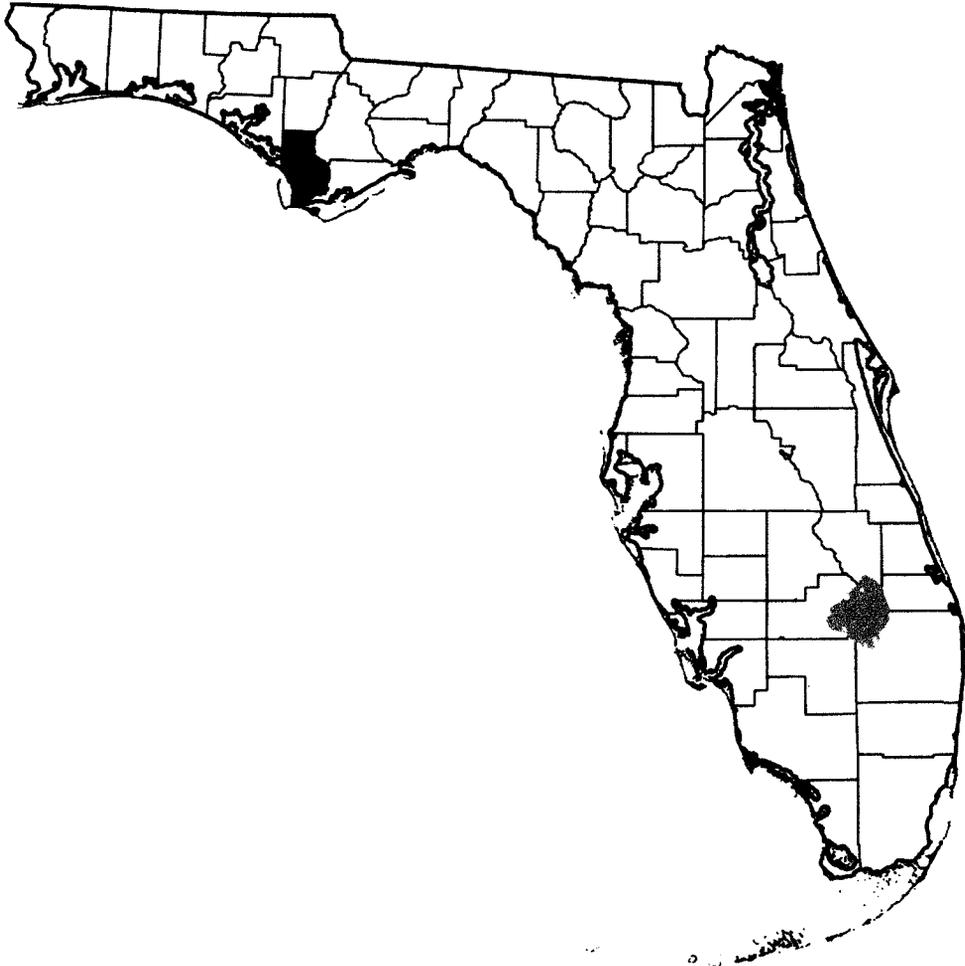
FILED FOR RECORD  
REBECCA L. MORRIS  
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT  
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA  
2016 SEP 21 PM 2:39

**BCC APPROVED**  
DATE 9/27/16 D.C. [Signature]

CONSENT  
DATE 9/27/16 KS



# Gulf County Emergency Management



## Flood Response Plan

**Gulf County Emergency Management**

**1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr., Blvd, Bldg. 500**

**Port St. Joe, FL 32456**

**850-229-9110**

**BCC APPROVED**  
DATE 9/27/16 D.C. [Signature]

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# PROMULGATION STATEMENT

Submitted herein is the Flood Response Plan (FRP), which serves as a roadmap for response and recovery from flooding incidents. This plan supports the Gulf County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) as an Annex, is adopted by virtue of the CEMP being adopted, and supersedes any previous plan promulgated for this purpose. This plan establishes the framework defining the implementation and coordination of incident objectives in response to a flood.

This plan has been developed as an Annex to the CEMP, following the guidance of the State of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, the National Response Framework, the National Incident Management System, and FEMA's *Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 (v. 2.0) – Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans*. The efficient and effective implementation of this plan is the responsibility of the Emergency Management Director or their designee. A program of review and evaluation of this plan is essential to its overall effectiveness.

This plan is hereby promulgated as of the date signed below.

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Marshall Nelson  
Director of Emergency Management

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Date

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# INTRODUCTION

## HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Most communities in the United States will experience some kind of flooding after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms, or winter snow thaws. Floods can be slow or fast rising but generally develop over a period of days.

Flash floods usually result from intense storms dropping large amounts of rain within a brief period. Flash floods occur with little or no warning and can reach full peak in only a few minutes.

Sources of floodwaters in Gulf County include the Gulf of Mexico, the Chipola River, and the Apalachicola River and their tributaries. For additional information on this hazard to Gulf County, please see the 2015 Local Mitigation Strategy.

## PURPOSE

The Gulf County Flood Warning Program establishes a framework through which Gulf County may prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from salt water or freshwater flooding conditions that could adversely affect the health, safety and general welfare of Gulf County's residents or visitors.

Provisions are made within this program for the needed flexibility of direction, coordination and method of operation to enable both government and non-government entities to accomplish their objectives of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, before, during and after a flood event has impacted the County. This plan also provides the framework for rendering support to other counties, municipalities and states as well as the federal government in their respective flood management efforts.

## SCOPE

This plan will describe the various types of flooding that could occur, provide procedures for disseminating warning information, and for determining, assessing and reporting the severity and magnitude of impact on flooded areas. This document will also establish the concept under which the county government will operate in response to flood emergencies and create a framework for expeditious, effective and coordinated employment of local resources.

## PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

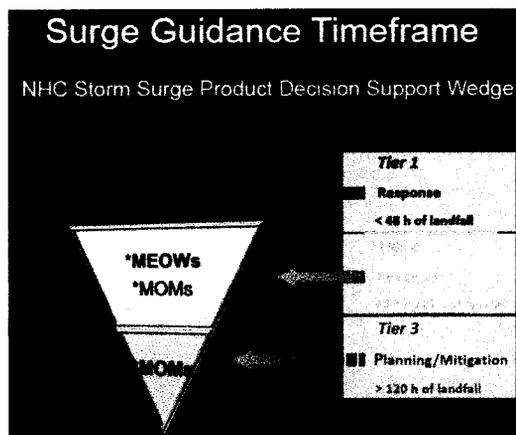
The state agencies of Florida have certain expertise and resources at their disposal that may be used in relieving emergency or disaster related problems that are beyond the County's capabilities. When the County declares a local state of emergency and requests state assistance following a flood disaster, the Governor will declare a state of disaster emergency, and the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) will be activated should conditions warrant such action. Should state assistance be inadequate to cope with the flooding event, the Governor will request federal government assistance under a presidential disaster declaration.

The National Weather Service Office (NWSO) Tallahassee, will issue flood advisory, watches and warning information to both Government and the citizens. The State Watch Office will follow-up the NWSO's warning information with direct contact with Gulf County Emergency Management.

## SITUATION

Because of the seasonal possibility of large-scale flooding events within Gulf County, the County must be adequately prepared to deal with, reduce vulnerability to, and recover from these flood emergencies. The emergency management functions within the county must be coordinated with other local government and non-governmental agencies as well as with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), to ensure the most effective preparation and use of manpower, equipment, resources and facilities in response to flood threats and/or emergencies.

- The primary causes of flooding most likely to affect Gulf County are as follows:
  - Hurricanes/tropical storms which can generate high winds, wave action along coastal zones and widespread flooding over much of the populated area of the County. Salt water intrusion from the storm surge has the potential to affect a significant amount of the County's population depending on the intensity of the storm event. Although tropical storms can form during almost any time of year, hurricane/tropical storm season begins on June 1 and extends to November 30.
  - **STORM SURGE:** Regarding the flood threats from storm surge, the graphic below depicts the timeline and the modeling tools from the National Hurricane Center (NHC) that the local emergency management office uses to estimate and refine potential storm surge impacts. (For more information about storm surge, go to: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/ssurge/index.shtml>). Then as the NHC makes computer runs associated with a particular storm, they will make the "REX-files" available to the local emergency management office in order to better approximate the flooding potential. Ultimately, within, 24 hours of a landfall, the local Tallahassee Weather Forecast Office will provide the most precise surge impacts to the local jurisdiction in the form of probability statements and graphics.



- Other weather systems, both of a tropical and non-tropical nature, which may or may not have an identifiable low pressure center, can produce as much as 20 inches of rain over a 72- hour period. Such events occur primarily during the hurricane season, but can occur at other times as well. This flooding can result in canals and rivers overflowing their banks, and could be further aggravated by even slightly above normal tide conditions.
- Severe thunderstorms which are local in nature can often cause flashflood-like isolated flooding from short-term, torrential rains, which may or may not be accompanied by high winds. These events generally occur between late May and late September but may also occur at any time of year.

## POPULATION INFORMATION

Table 1: Gulf County Population Projections for Planning Periods 2009-2030<sup>1</sup> Projected, April 1

| Area of County | 2010          | 2015          | 2020          | 2025          |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Port St. Joe   | 3,445         | 3,525         | 3,715         | 3,827         |
| Wewahitchka    | 1,981         | 2,126         | 2,240         | 2,273         |
| Unincorporated | 10,437        | 10,695        | 10,745        | 10,900        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>15,863</b> | <b>16,346</b> | <b>16,700</b> | <b>17,200</b> |

<sup>1</sup> University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, *Estimates of Population by County and City in Florida: April 1, 2015*

<sup>2</sup> Florida Demographic Estimating Conference, February 2014 and the University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research, Florida Population Studies, Bulletin 168, April 2014

There are 4,123 buildings located in the Special Flood Hazard Area, unincorporated – 3,379, Port St. Joe – 555, and Wewahitchka – 189. These buildings are also covered by flood threat recognition system, flood emergency warnings, and the flood response operations.

## AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

- Public Law 91-606, Disaster Relief Act of 1970
- Public Law 93-288, Disaster Relief Act of 1984
- Public Law 100-707, Robert T. Stafford Act
- Chapter 252, Florida State Statutes, as amended
- Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement, State of Florida, 2010

## CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

This program is based on the principle that the County bears the initial responsibility for disaster response and recovery. As a corollary to this principle, each level within local government will accomplish the functions for which it is responsible, requesting relief from the next higher level of government only after resources at that level prove inadequate to respond to the flood emergency or disaster. Requests for assistance will be made to the Florida Division of Emergency Management only after a state of local emergency has been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

Should both state and local resources be deemed inadequate to respond to the flood emergency, the Governor will request assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The request will be based on local and state damage assessment and expenditure reports which are to be maintained and supplied by the County and/or state for each flood disaster related activity.

When conditions are favorable for flooding from either hurricane-induced storm surge flooding or from fresh water flooding caused by more than normal amounts of rainfall in a short period of time, the following actions will be taken by the agencies and organizations listed below:

- Emergency Management
  - Staff the EOC as the situation dictates.
  - Notify all primary respondents as the situation dictates.
  - Advise the public of the situation through local radio, television, the Emergency Management website, and social media.
  - Request activation of the Emergency Alert System if required.
  - Keep the Florida Division of Emergency Management and other state agencies informed of the situation throughout the event.
  - Activate the mass notification system when an imminent life or property threatening flooding situation exists.
  - To alert and coordinate Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) responses.
- School Board
  - Provide shelter facilities and bus transportation
- American Red Cross
  - Provide manpower and supplies for opening and operation of evacuation shelters and to coordinate with Emergency Management regarding the timing of such openings consistent with the dangers facing the people who will occupy the shelter.
- Gulf County Sheriff's Office/Port St. Joe Police Department

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- Provide traffic control and security for those in the flood threatened areas.
- Provide security for shelters as needed.
- Wewa Search & Rescue/Gulf County Volunteer Fire Districts/Gulf County EMS
  - Provide fire control and suppression.
  - Provide rescue service as needed.
  - To provide ambulance/rescue service
  - Provide first-aid support at shelters if available.
- Public Works
  - Assist in traffic control by erecting barricades to guide persons in threatened areas to places of safe refuge.
  - Erect barricades to deny entry to flooded areas and areas with infrastructure damage
  - Assist performing flood control measures.
- Florida Department of Health – Gulf County
  - Provide public health and environmental health-related services
- City of Port St. Joe Public Works, City of Wewahitchka Public Works, Duke Energy, Gulf Coast Electric Co-op, St. Joe Natural Gas, Light House Utilities, Gulf Aire WWTP
  - Provide emergency maintenance of utilities in the flood damaged areas.
- Amateur Radio Emergency Services
  - Provide communications support between the EOC, hospitals, public shelters and other critical facilities if required.
- Community Emergency Response Teams
  - Provide volunteers to support the EOC call center answering phones.
  - Assist with rapid impact assessments.

Meteorological information for Gulf County will be obtained from the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, Florida for all flood threats resulting from tropical storms and hurricanes. More specific local advisories pertaining to Gulf County will be issued by the NWS Office in Tallahassee. The Emergency Operations Center receives weather information from Tallahassee NWS via telephone, internet, and, if necessary, satellite telephone. The EOC monitors the

following for current weather information: The Weather Channel (cable and satellite), local television (cable and satellite), iNWS (NWS text and email alert system), EM NET, and Emergency Weather Radios.

Requests for state assistance must be forwarded to the State EOC for assessment and approval before deployment of state resources. Prior to requesting state assistance, the current situation must be identified, the current and projected resource needs must be assessed, and a timeframe indicating how long state resources would be needed must be identified.

## **EXECUTION**

Gulf County Emergency Management may activate portions of the Flood Warning Program if a flood disaster/emergency threatens prior to the Board of County Commissioners declaring a state of local emergency. In this situation, GCEM will coordinate increased readiness procedures and such emergency response actions as might be necessary for the immediate protection of life and property.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Increasing the public's awareness of flood hazards and the methods they can use for protecting themselves from the effects of these hazards is a necessary part of reducing disaster potential, preparing for disasters as well as a continuing responsibility of public officials. In addition, providing accurate information immediately before, during and after a flood emergency or disaster is very important for saving lives, minimizing property damage, and informing people of various assistance programs. This plan describes the organization and procedures for providing accurate information to the public.

Gulf County Emergency Management is responsible for coordinating public information programs and related activities with regard to flood emergencies or disasters. This responsibility includes public awareness programs in schools, civic and fraternal organizations, community subdivisions and other organized groups including radio and television when requested.

The Public Information Network, comprised of members of the following agencies, will meet periodically before, during and after a flood emergency to minimize conflicting information being disseminated. Members of the network who have assigned public relations tasks include but are not limited to the following:

- American Red Cross representative
- City of Port St. Joe representative
- City of Wewahitchka representative
- Emergency Management Director
- Florida Department of Transportation Public Information Officer

- FDOH – Gulf County Public Information Officer
- Gulf County Sheriff Office Public Information Officer
- Gulf County Fire Coordinator
- Gulf County EMS representative
- Chamber of Commerce representative
- Tourism Development Council representative

Although Gulf County does not publish an "All Hazards Guide", information to residents and visitors of Gulf County is made available through the local library, our website and a robust social media presence. In addition, various pamphlets and brochures are distributed annually through a multitude of outreach efforts throughout the County. Every effort is made to deliver this information to people living in flood-prone areas. Disaster related information is also provided to recipients of the local telephone system in their books.

Special information programs have been established for people with special needs such as the elderly and the handicapped. These individuals are encouraged to pre-register with GCEM who will advise them of their vulnerability to flooding and items that they should bring to a shelter in the event of an evacuation. GCEM will also arrange for transportation to shelter if needed.

During an emergency/disaster that might result in flooding over parts of the community, members of our response team will be assembled in the Emergency Operations Center to provide information to the public.

### FLOOD THREAT RECOGNITION PHASE

Some of the indications of a potential flooding event are as follows:

- Impending tropical weather system.
- Saturated grounds due to prolonged rainy periods whereby absorption into the soil is hindered or a period of three to five inches of rain has fallen within 48 hours and more rain is anticipated.
- High tides occurring during the heaviest rainy periods.
- A series of rain clouds producing a “training effect” over an area.
- Higher than normal river levels.

Emergency Operations Center activation levels and the corresponding agency roles and responsibilities are:

- Level Three - Monitoring (day to day operations)
  - Emergency Management
    - Daily, review the day’s short-term forecast at the Tallahassee Weather Forecast Office’s home page. If a flood threat presents itself, disseminate the information to those most affected areas/populations through one or more of the following methods
      - NOAA Weather Radio (EAS)
      - Email (email lists for government entities and vulnerable areas such as mobile home parks, etc.)
      - Media releases
      - Social media
      - Mass notifications systems
    - Collaborate with both the National Weather Service Office in Tallahassee, and the State Watch Office on any significant flooding event potential. When a potential major flooding type event threatens, the Tallahassee Weather Service Forecast Office and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) will most likely institute once a day webinar and/or conference calls with the threatened counties. (NOTE: Tallahassee Weather will provide the best area rainfall forecasts as well as the best real-time rainfall rates for each weather event. They have access to, and/or possess, rainfall and waterway gauges to monitor real-time water impacts.) Using GIS-type mapping products depicting areas susceptible to past flooding events, alert response agencies based on the weather forecasts.
    - Initiate conference calls with the various fire districts, as needed.
    - Distribute the road closure list to the public through social media as needed
  - Public Works
    - Maintain 24/7 capability to respond to the public regarding roadway concerns.
    - Begin cleaning of culverts and break beaver dams.
    - Set up “sandbag stations” as needed throughout the County for the public to fill and pick up sandbags for residential and business property protection.
  - Gulf County Sheriff’s Office

- Dispatch will monitor road closures and update and distribute the road closure list every four hours as needed

## EMERGENCY WARNING DISSEMINATION

During this phase, the National Weather Service Office, Tallahassee has issued a “Flood Watch or Warning” and the conditions cited above are the most unfavorable for the grounds absorbing a heavy rainfall amount and therefore roadway flooding, etc., will present hazardous/adverse conditions to the public and/or the river levels are expected to rise into flood stage.

- Level Two - Partial Activation
  - Emergency Management
    - Continue with all activities in the Threat Recognition Stage.
    - Critical Facilities: The Gulf County Emergency Management Department maintains a listing of Critical Facilities which could be affected by flooding in the County. This listing is considered sensitive and is protected under HSPD 5 and is available For Official Use Only. In the event of a flooding risk to one or more of these facilities, they will be notified as soon as possible in advance of the risk in accordance with the emergency notification protocols outlined in the CEMP and SOGs. Due to the critical nature of the function or service provided by these facilities, every attempt will be made to give as much advanced warning as possible so that preventative measures can be taken to protect the facilities.
    - Provide regular updates via email to staff and the local governmental agencies and Critical Facilities.
    - Assemble complete EOC staff and brief at the initial stages of Level 2 Activation, depending on the anticipated severity of the event.
    - Monitor the flooding event and disseminate details of the impacts via all means identified in the CEMP as well as other plans, policies, and procedures.
    - Continue to collaborate with both the National Weather Service Office in Tallahassee and the State Watch Office on the flooding event potential and adjacent counties.
    - Pre-identify and coordinate shelter openings, as required.
    - Initiate actions for a Local State of Emergency, if warranted.
    - Alert response teams regarding impact reporting and first responder assistance requirements.

- Gulf County School District representative will be asked to remain either at the EOC or available by phone while school delay/closing decisions are made.
- American Red Cross
  - Open shelters as requested.
  - Provide humanitarian services, as necessary.
  - Provide a liaison to the EOC, as requested.
- Gulf County Sheriff's Office
  - Provide liaison to EOC when requested.
  - Coordinate traffic activities
- Public Works
  - Provide a liaison to the EOC to maintain an accurate, current listing of affected roadways.
  - Take reports from the public regarding flooding and maintain flooding records.
  - Barricade flooded roadways as necessary.
  - Submit projects and mitigation initiatives to the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group
- Other support organizations
  - Emergency Alerting System: The EOC depends on the NWS, Tallahassee, for activating the Emergency Alerting System. That system transmits warning and instructions via the weather radio, TV, radio, and cable media.

## EXERCISE PROGRAM

Generally, during the Statewide Hurricane Exercise, elements of the Flood Warning Program will be tested and the Post-Exercise Report will highlight those relevant portions of the plan. If the State opts not to conduct a Statewide Hurricane Exercise in the course of a year, then the County Emergency Management Director will develop and conduct it. Exercises and drills must be conducted at least annually to verify the flood warning program and the skills of emergency response personnel. Results of these exercises and drills provide a basis for changes to the flood warning program, implementing procedures, and for further scheduling of training for response personnel. A real-world flooding type event can fulfill the exercise requirement providing a written After Action Report was accomplished and timelines for corrective actions were established. All

exercises will be held in accordance with the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

#### Concept of Operations:

An exercise is an event that tests the integrated response capability and major elements within the flood warning program. The emergency preparedness exercise will simulate a flood emergency that may result in massive evacuation and sheltering. Exercises will be conducted as part of the FEMA 4-year exercise plan and/or the Statewide Hurricane exercise scheduled between April and June of each year.

- There are four types of exercises that Gulf County uses for our flood response program:
- Drills
  - A drill is a supervised instruction of a supervised instruction period aimed at developing, testing, monitoring technical skills necessary to perform emergency response operations. In addition to the required exercise, drills will be accomplished at the frequencies listed below:
  - Communications between the shelters and the EOC will be conducted at least annually before the hurricane and/or flood season. Communications between agencies, State and other EOCs are conducted daily. The tests of communications with on-scene teams will be part of the flood exercise.
- Table-top
  - A simulation in which response activities are discussed. There is no mobilization of emergency personnel and resources.
- Functional
  - Designed to demonstrate one or more functions or capabilities specified in the flood warning program. Mobilization of local personnel and resources will be limited.
- Full scale
  - Designed to fully demonstrate the emergency capabilities of appropriate agencies and organizations. Mobilization of local personnel and resources will be demonstrated.

#### Scheduling and Scenario Development

Exercises will be scheduled jointly by the response agencies and GCEM. Scenarios will be developed with inputs from all participating agencies. Scenarios will be varied from year to year such that all major elements of the flood-warning program are tested during a four-year period. The scenarios will include, but not be limited to the following:

- Objectives of the exercise and appropriate evaluation criteria,
- Date, time, place and participating organizations,
- The simulated event,
- A time schedule of real and simulated events,
- A narrative summary describing the conduct of the exercises, and
- A description of arrangements for advance materials to be provided to observers.

### Critiques and Reports

A critique will be conducted after each exercise to evaluate the capability of each participating agency to implement plans and procedures. When written, a copy of the After Action Report and/or critique will be provided to each floodplain manager.

## ADMINISTRATION

### RECORDS PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

All County departments must ensure the protection of vital records so that normal activities may continue after the disaster. These records may also be necessary for the rapid recovery from the effects of a flood disaster.

Damage to important records and documents is most often the result of fire and water damage. These records can often be saved by prompt salvage actions. Technical guidance for records preservation can be obtained from the internet. There are several companies that specialize in document salvage and restoration.

### FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING

Gulf County may allocate and expend funds as deemed appropriate to meet the requirements of local emergency operations.

Complete accurate accounts of emergency expenditures and obligations, including personnel and equipment costs must be maintained. Despite the difficulty in maintaining such records in the stress of an emergency, accurate accounting is required to identify and document:

- Funds for which no federal reimbursement will be requested should a presidential declaration be made and,

- Those funds eligible for reimbursement under emergency or major disaster project applications.

#### MAINTENANCE AND AUXILIARY ACTIVATION OF THE FLOOD WARNING PROGRAM

The GCEM will maintain and update this program annually. Program review will be accomplished by May 1st of every other year. Portions of this program will be activated periodically in order to conduct exercises as part of the review process.

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## ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Attachment 1: Sample Media Release – Road Closures
- 2) Attachment 2: Sample Media Release – Shelter Locations
- 3) Attachment 3: Pre-Scripted Messages
- 4) Attachment 4: Radio and TV Script for Flooding Event

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# Attachment 1 Sample Media Release – Road Closures



## Gulf County Emergency Management

1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd. Bldg. 500

Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

Email: [pio@gulfcounty-fl.gov](mailto:pio@gulfcounty-fl.gov)

Website: [www.gulfcounty-fl.gov](http://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov)

Voice: (850)229-9110

Fax: (850)229-9115

### PRESS RELEASE

The following roads are now open with full access

|                   |
|-------------------|
| Lake Grove Road   |
| Warmouth Drive    |
| Byrd Parker Drive |
| Cut Off Drive     |

The following roads are open with limited access

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Red Bull Island Drive | Paradise Lane    |
| Neal Road             | Bryant Landing   |
| Gaskin Side Camp Road | Canning Drive    |
| Cox Landing Road      | Rope Avenue      |
| Bea Bea Road          | Dead Lakes Drive |
| Homestead Street      | Hickory Street   |
| Avondale Street       | Elm Street       |
| Audubon Street        | Oak Street       |
| Johnson Street        | Goodwin Street   |

The following roads remain closed at this time

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Douglas Landing Road                       | Bream Street     |
| Sauls Creek Road                           | E Bass Street    |
| David Whitfield Road                       | Mace Martin Road |
| Nellie Whitfield Road                      | Byrd Street      |
| N Turkey Avenue                            | Orchard Street   |
| Willis Landing at the end of Dalkeith Road | John Dill Road   |
| Bud Brockett Road                          | Bob Little Drive |

Checkpoints remain on Lake Grove Road and on Doc Whitfield Road.

Residents are encouraged to contact the Sheriff's office if they see any unusual or suspicious activity at 850-639-5717 or 850-227-1115.

The Gulf County EOC continues to operate at a Level 2 Activation. Hours are 7:00am-5:30pm EST. The office can be contacted at 850-229-9110.

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

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## Attachment 2 Sample Media Release – Shelter Locations



**Gulf County Emergency Management**  
1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd. Bldg. 500  
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

Email: [pio@gulfcounty-fl.gov](mailto:pio@gulfcounty-fl.gov)  
[www.gulfcounty-fl.gov](http://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov)

Voice: (850)229-9110  
Fax: (850)229-9115

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **GULF COUNTY SHELTER OPENING**

At 2:00 PM ET Red Cross opened a general population shelter at the **Honeyville Community Center 240 Honeyville Park Dr. Wewahitchka, FL 32465** for those who are displaced from their homes due to the flooding event.

The Gulf County EOC continues to operate at a Level 2 Activation. Hours are 7:00am-5:30pm EST. The office can be contacted at 850-229-9110.

**(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)**

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## Attachment 3 - Pre-Scripted Messages

### Pre-Scripted Messages for Staff:

The Executive Policy/ Disaster Managers Group should report to the EOC at [INSERT TIME] for a situational briefing due to the impending weather threat to our area.

### Pre-Scripted Messages for the Public

#### Flash Flood Warning

Flash Flood Warning for [INSERT AREA] until [INSERT TIME]. Rapid flooding in low-lying areas probable. When walking/driving, Turn Around, Don't Drown.

#### Flash Flood Watch

Flash Flood Watch for [INSERT AREA] until [INSERT TIME]. Rapid flooding in low-lying areas possible. When walking/driving, Turn Around, Don't Drown.

#### Flood Watch

Flood Watch for [INSERT AREA] until [INSERT TIME]. Residents should take precautions & monitor local media for the latest info.

#### Flood Warning

Flood Warning for [INSERT AREA] until [INSERT TIME]. Flooding possibility in 12-48 hours. Take precautions now & monitor local media for latest info.

#### Flood Evacuations Ordered

Due to the potential flooding the residents within [INSERT AREA] are being asked to evacuate. Monitor local media for info.

#### Road Closure

[INSERT STREET NAME] is closed between [INSERT STREET NAME] and [INSERT STREET NAME] until [INSERT DATE/TIME] due to [INSERT CAUSE]. The detour is [INSERT DETOUR]. Expect delays. Notice of road opening will not be sent. For traffic updates, visit [www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/traffic](http://www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/traffic) and [www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com), or <https://www.facebook.com/GulfCountyEmergencyManagement>

#### Severe Thunderstorm

Severe thunderstorm warning for [INSERT AREA] until [INSERT TIME].

#### Tornado Warning

Tornado Warning for [INSERT AREA] until [INSERT TIME]. Move to a safe location and monitor media/NOAA Weather Radio.

#### Tornado Watch

Tornado Watch for [INSERT AREA] until [INSERT TIME]. Residents should prepare to shelter. Monitor media/NOAA Weather Radio for latest info.

**Traffic Hazard/Auto Accident**

[INSERT INCIDENT] currently at [INSERT LOCATION]. Emergency crews working to clear the area. Expect delays. Notice of road opening will not be sent. For traffic updates, visit [fl511.com](http://fl511.com)

**Tropical Storm Warning**

Tropical Storm Warning, evacuation ordered for Zones [INSERT EVACUATION ZONES]. Complete storm prep & take shelter by. Monitor media for latest info.

**Tropical Storm Watch**

Tropical Storm Watch. Make final preparations now, check supplies/go bag, bring in outdoor items. Monitor media for latest info/any changes.

## **Attachment 4 – Radio and TV Script for Flooding Event**

### ***Option 1 - Prepare for storm event***

Flooding is expected and has been forecasted by the National Weather Service for [INSERT AREA] by [INSERT DATE]. It is important to make plans for possible evacuation should and order be given now. If an evacuation order is given you will be notified in time to evacuate safely and prior to flooding conditions. You should consider property protection measures such as elevating furniture, sandbagging and considering an alternate location once the order is given. It is always a good idea to have 5-7 days of water and food on hand as well as medications. Be sure to monitor the NOAA alert radio and Gulf County Emergency Management will issue alert notification messages by social media, phone, text and/or email. Be sure you are familiar with evacuation routes prior to leaving. Do not drive on streets already flooded.

### ***Option 2 - Evacuate***

An evacuation order has been issued by Gulf County Emergency Management. If you do not have any place to evacuate too you can use the [INSERT LOCATION]. If you are a registered Special Needs person, you will be contacted for transportation within the hour. It is imperative you evacuate immediately for your own safety. If you delay, you may not be able to leave once roads are closed.

### ***Option 3 - Hurricane preparedness alert***

The National Weather Service has issued a 3 day cone indicating Hurricane [INSERT NAME] will possibly strike our area. It is extremely important you complete your property protection measures such as boarding up windows, moving furniture inside and securing your house or business. The County Emergency Management Agency will continue issuing alerts advising evacuation orders and when roads will no longer be passable. The White City and Highland View Bridges will close when winds reach 45mph and no additional traffic will be allowed to cross which could leave some stranded in Gulf County. Make preparations immediately to leave. Prepare your personal “Go Kit” to include medication, food and water when you evacuate. We anticipate a full evacuation order [INSERT DATE]. Plan ahead, if you can leave do so now.

Storm surge is predicted to be [INSERT HEIGHT] feet high moving inland for [INSERT DISTANCE]. Know your evacuation route before leaving your home or business.

### ***Option 4 - Hurricane Evacuation Alert***

The Gulf County Emergency Management agency has issued an evacuation order for [INSERT EVACUATION ZONES] and any low lying areas. It is important you evacuate immediately and make sure you take all necessary supplies, documents, medications, food and water as you evacuate. Additional information will be disseminated via our Alert Notification System when

to return. It is expected current rain will intensify [INSERT TIMEFRAME] with flooding expected to begin by [INSERT TIMEFRAME].

***Option 5 (Post Storm, Re-Entry)***

Gulf County Emergency Management has issued a [INSERT REENTRY PHASE]. There is a curfew in affect from [INSERT TIME]. Law Enforcement will arrest anyone violating this order. Safe drinking water is a major concern following flooding. The Florida Department of Health – Gulf County has determined if you depend on well water it is not safe due to salt water intrusion. The DOH has issued instructions on how to disinfect wells along the [INSERT AREA]. For now, it is encouraged to use bottled water available at various distribution points or any stores that may now be open. You may contact the Health Department at [INSERT NUMBER] for questions. Remember there may still be downed wires, flooded out roads and mold inside structures.

***Option 5 (Rebuilding & Permits)***

Once you are able to secure materials for repair, it is required you contact the Gulf County Building Department for a permit. It is unlawful to conduct any repairs without a permit. Do not dump any debris, yard waste in storm drains or ditches. Seek assistance at the Disaster Recovery Center for possible grant opportunities to rebuild and mitigate your structure.