



Making Community Decisions Working with our Meteorological Partners

Mary Blakeney, Director
Palm Beach County
Division of Emergency Management



@PBCDEM

www.ReadyPBC.com

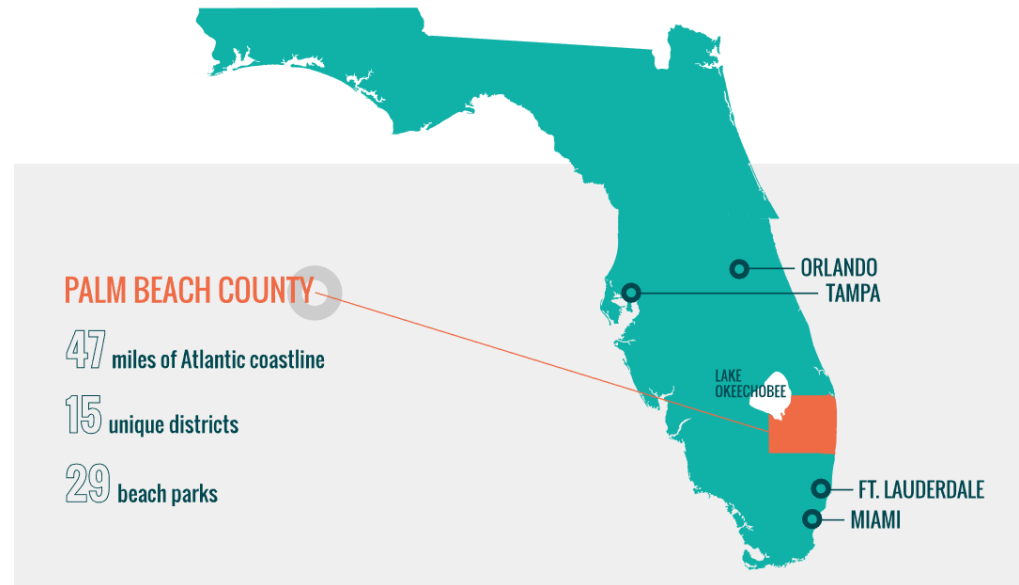
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Division of
Emergency
Management



Palm Beach County

- One of 67 counties in Florida
- 1.4 million population
- 47 miles of Atlantic coastline to the east
- Lake Okeechobee is a 730 square mile lake to the west
- Port and International Airport



TEAM DISASTERS ARE LOCAL

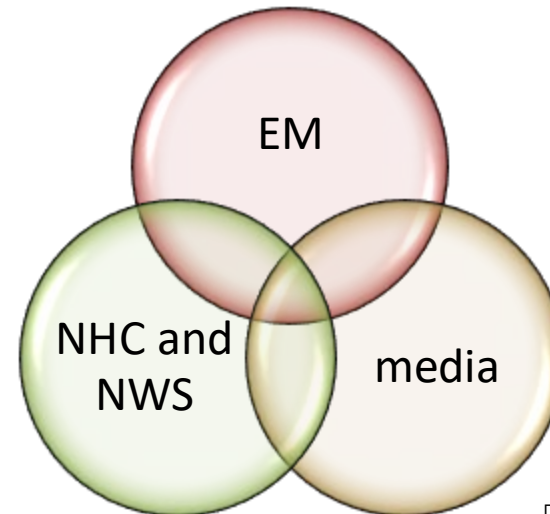
- ▶ Response is not always government centric
- ▶ Coordinate daily with stakeholder organizations (law enforcement, fire rescue, municipal partners, non-profit organizations, business, civic organizations, etc.)
- ▶ Emergency managers must be engaged with the community and be a source of information
- ▶ 24/7 access to emergency management through the Duty Officer





It's all about relationships

- Building relationships and establishing communication
- Emergency Management has established strong relationships with the National Weather Service (NWS), the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and local meteorologists

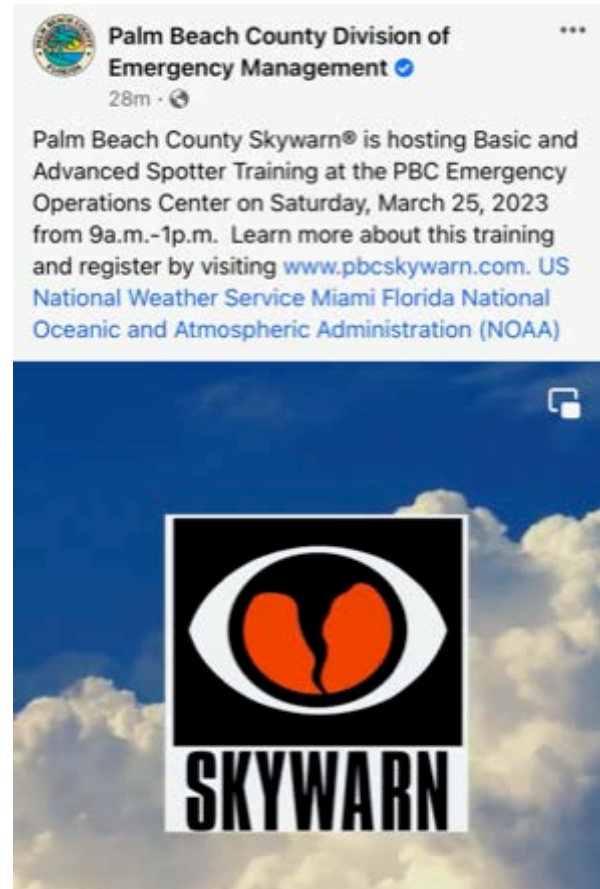


Emergency Management partners closely with NWS-Miami



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Emergency Management partners closely with National Hurricane Center



Emergency Management partners closely with NWS-Miami

3/9/23, 11:33 AM

NWS Spot Forecast

HABEX 2022

Other (Volcano, Earthquake, Special Event)

Forecast Start Time: 2022-03-23 6:00 AM EST

Request Time: 2022-03-22 2:01 PM EST

Deliver Time: 2022-03-23 6:00 AM EST

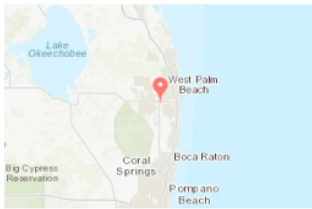
Forecast Complete At: 2022-03-23 5:11 AM EST

Requested By: Palm Beach County Emergency Management

Contact:

Phone:

Fax:



Location Legal:
Lat/Lon: 26.6526 / -80.1648
Quad:
Calculated: 26.6526 / -80.1648



Elevation:
Drainage:
Aspect:
Size:
Fuel Type:

Observations
Site Date Elev Wind Temp WB RH Td Sky Wx Vsbty Sig Wave Rmks
No observations available

Submit New Observation

Requested Parameters

Remarks
X . . Sky/Weather
X . . Surface Wind
X . . Temperature
X . . Humidity
X . . Chance of Precipitation
X . . Chance of Thunder
X . . Heat Index
X . . Wind (20 FT)
X . . Mixing Height
X . . Tides
X . . Surf Conditions
X . . Sunrise/Sunset

Forecast:

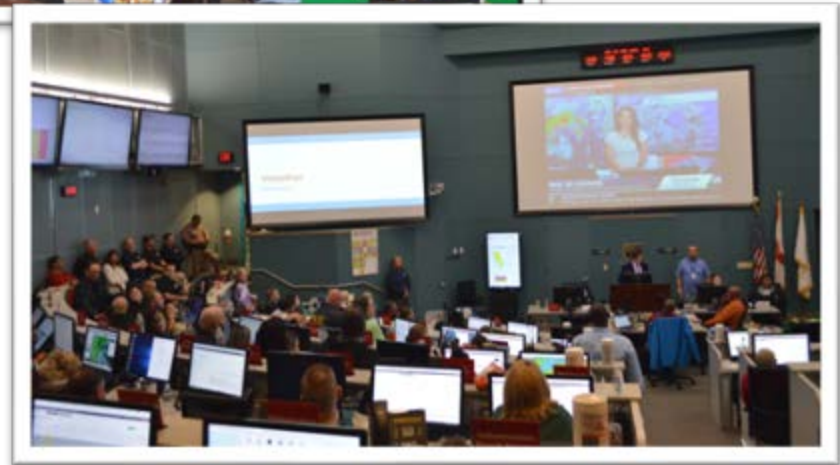
Spot Forecast for HABEX 2022...Palm Beach County Emergency Management
National Weather Service Miami FL
609 AM EDT Wed Mar 23 2022

Forecast is based on forecast start time of 0700 EDT on March 23.
If conditions become unrepresentative...contact the National Weather Service.

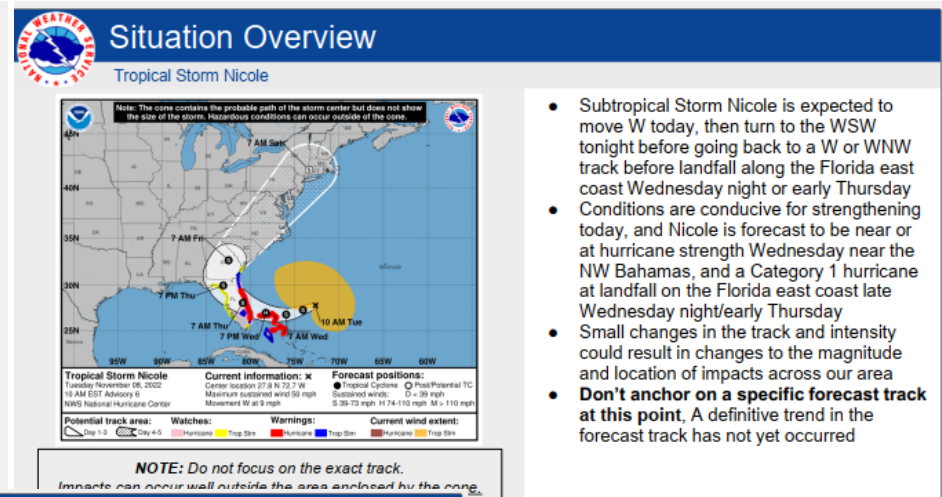
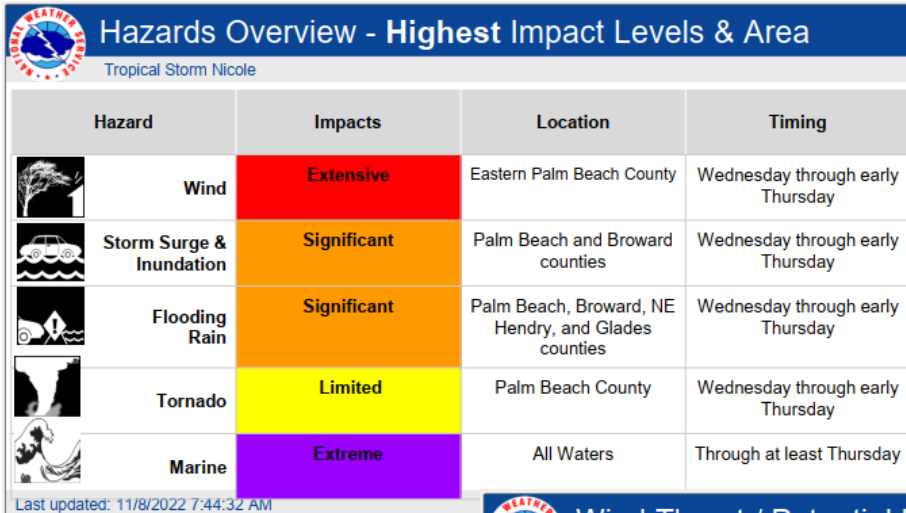
Please contact our office at (305) 229-4522, if you have questions or concerns with this forecast.

.DISCUSSION...

Mainly dry conditions expected today with partly to mostly cloudy skies. Highs will reach the mid 80s with a heat index near 90. A

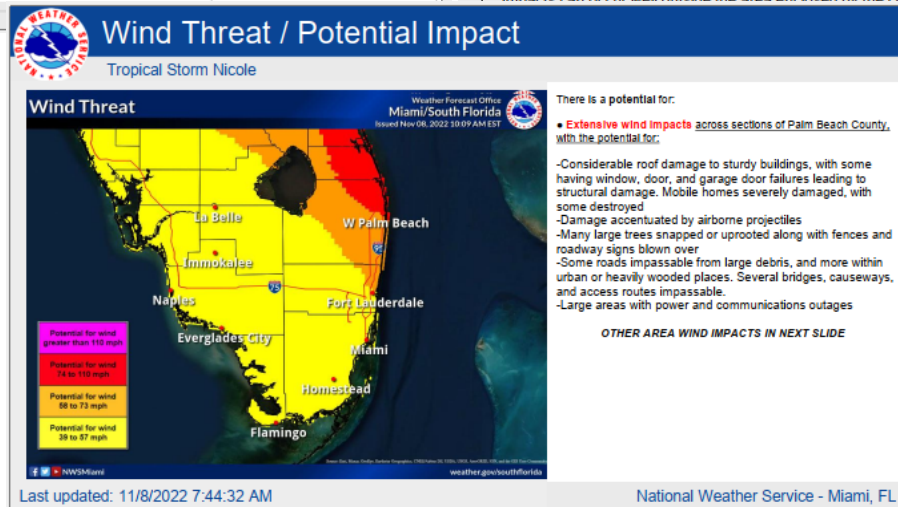


How we used information for decision making




- Subtropical Storm Nicole is expected to move W today, then turn to the WSW tonight before going back to a W or WNW track before landfall along the Florida east coast Wednesday night or early Thursday
- Conditions are conducive for strengthening today, and Nicole is forecast to be near or at hurricane strength Wednesday near the NW Bahamas, and a Category 1 hurricane at landfall on the Florida east coast late Wednesday night/early Thursday
- Small changes in the track and intensity could result in changes to the magnitude and location of impacts across our area
- **Don't anchor on a specific forecast track at this point.** A definitive trend in the forecast track has not yet occurred

National Weather Service - Miami, FL




National Weather Service - Miami, FL

How we use information in our product development



Palm Beach County
Department of Public Safety
Division of Emergency Management
 Mary Blakeney, Director

Daily Operational Report
 561-712-6428
 CountyWarningPoint@pbcgov.org



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This message is intended for State, Local, and Federal government employees and authorized response partners only.
 Information and incidents in this message may be EXEMPT from mandatory disclosure under §119.071 F.S.

Issue Date/Time: Friday 03/03/2023 08:13:14	Duty Officer	Communicators
Operational Period: 03/02/2023 0800 to 03/03/2023 0800	Mike Jankowski	Edward Ayala/Brad Boland
Activation Level: Level IV - Normal Operations		Felisa Jackson/Jamie Zensen

Highlights of Previous Operational Period

Activation Level IV (Normal Monitoring).


0922 hours - HazMat Incident - 13221 Ellison Wilson Rd, North Palm Beach - Palm Beach County Fire Rescue responded to a possible chemical emission originating from a trash can within a residential area. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office assisted with closing off the northbound and southbound lanes of Ellison Wilson Rd. No injuries or fatalities were reported. The chemicals were later identified as pool acid and chlorine. The hazard was mitigated at 1021 hours and roadways were back open by 1118 hours.

1250 hours - School Lockdown - 1300 Barnett Dr, Lake Worth - Lake Worth Middle School was placed on a code red lockdown due to police activity on campus grounds. No injuries were reported. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Palm Beach County School Board Police, and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue responded to the scene. The lockdown was downgraded to a code yellow at approximately 1420 hours and was then lifted by 1638 hours.

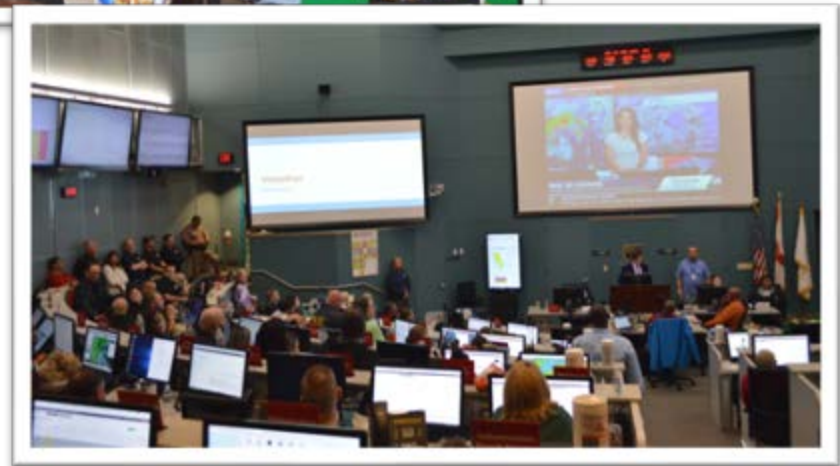
1518 hours - Wastewater Release - 4280 Military Trl, West Palm Beach - The City of West Palm Beach reported a sewage release of approximately 15 gallons due to equipment failure. This incident occurred on 3/1 at 1945 hours and cleanup actions were reported as completed by 2145 hours.

1521 hours - Rip Currents Statement - The National Weather Service issued a Rip Currents Statement for Coastal Palm Beach County, in effect until 03/05/23 at 0700 hours.

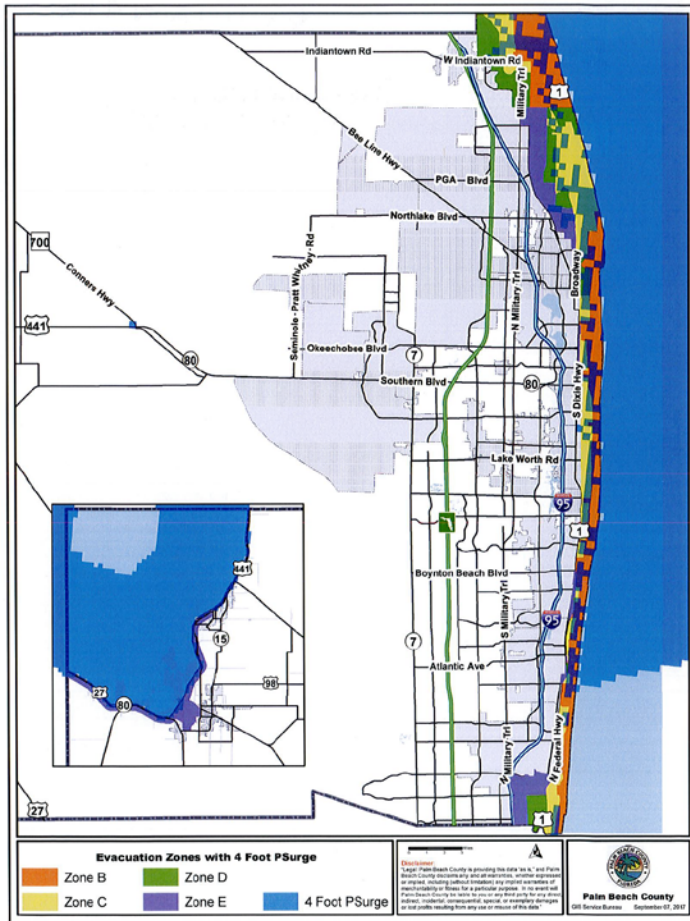
Notifications:
 State Watch Office, Duty Officer, and HazMat Incident group reference Hazardous Condition.
 State Watch Office, Duty Officer, and School Incident group reference School Lockdown.

Current Situation	
Activation Level IV (Normal Monitoring).	
Operational Objectives	
Monitor news, traffic, and weather for potential hazards.	
Current Hazards	Radar
High risk of rip currents. Hazardous marine conditions developing late tonight.	

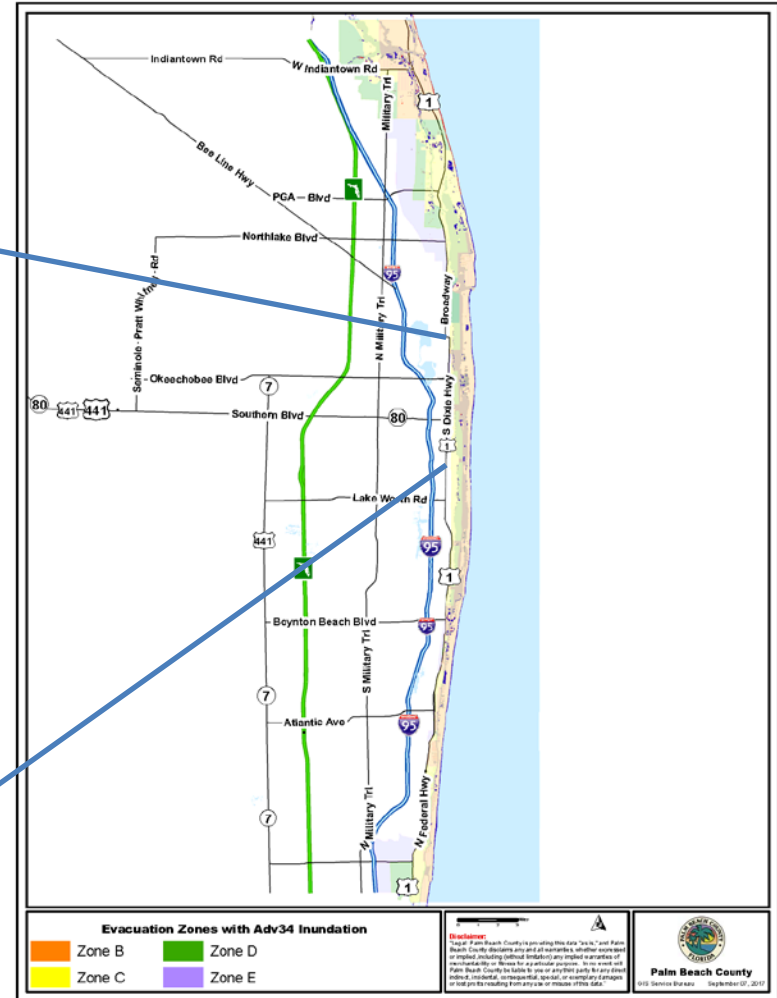
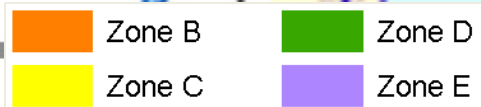
Number of Calls	Drought Information	Current Weather Conditions
Telephone 174	Lake Okeechobee Level 15.46 ft	West Palm Beach: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87.
Radio 44	Feet Above/Below +0.94	Windy, with a south wind 13 to 21 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Pages 2	K-B Drought Index 550-599	
Text Message 220	Fire Danger Index 2-	Belle Glade: Mostly sunny, with a high near 90. Windy, with a south wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to 16 to 21 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.
Email 632		
Faxing 0		
Other 16	Detailed Water South Florida Water	



How we used information for decision making

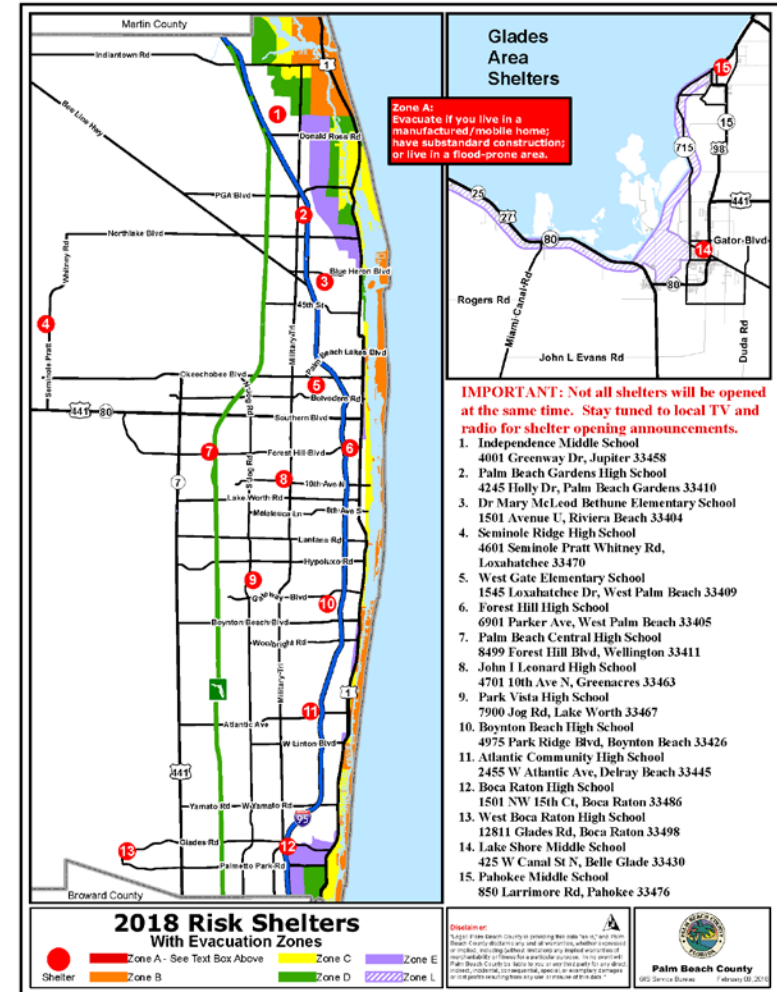


Evacuation Science



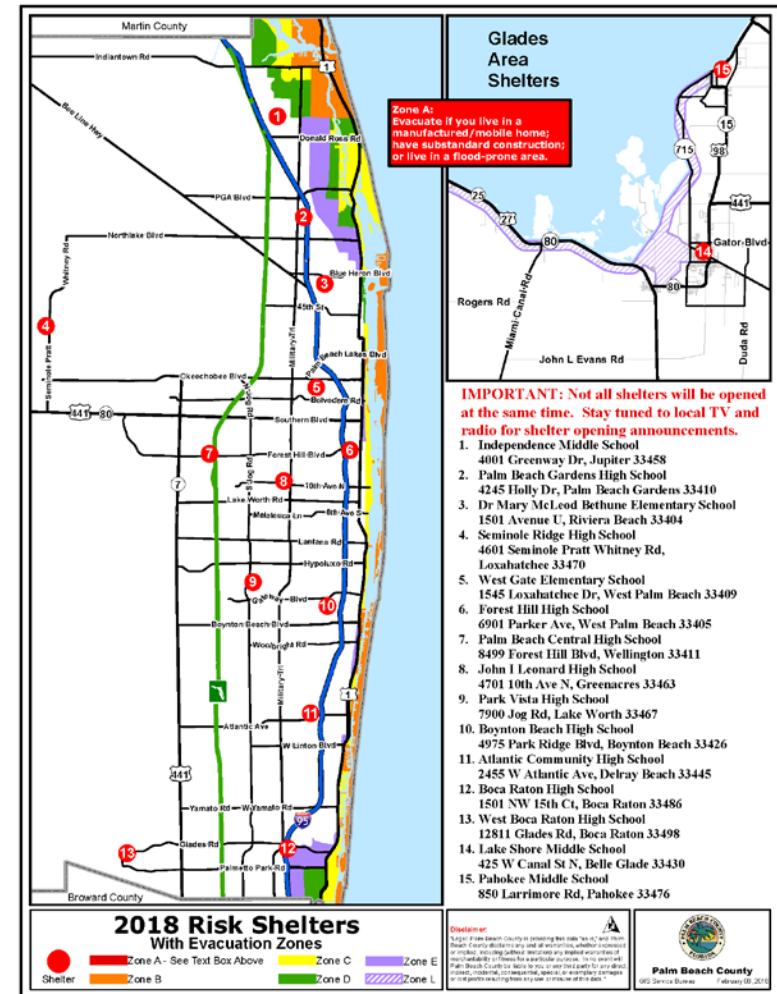
Evacuation Firsts

- 2 of the largest evacuations since 2005;
- Two of five (5) zones
 - Evacuations zones A & B
 - ≈300,000 people
 - Evacuated all of Lake Okeechobee
- NHC Surge models
 - Saved evacuation of ≈63K people

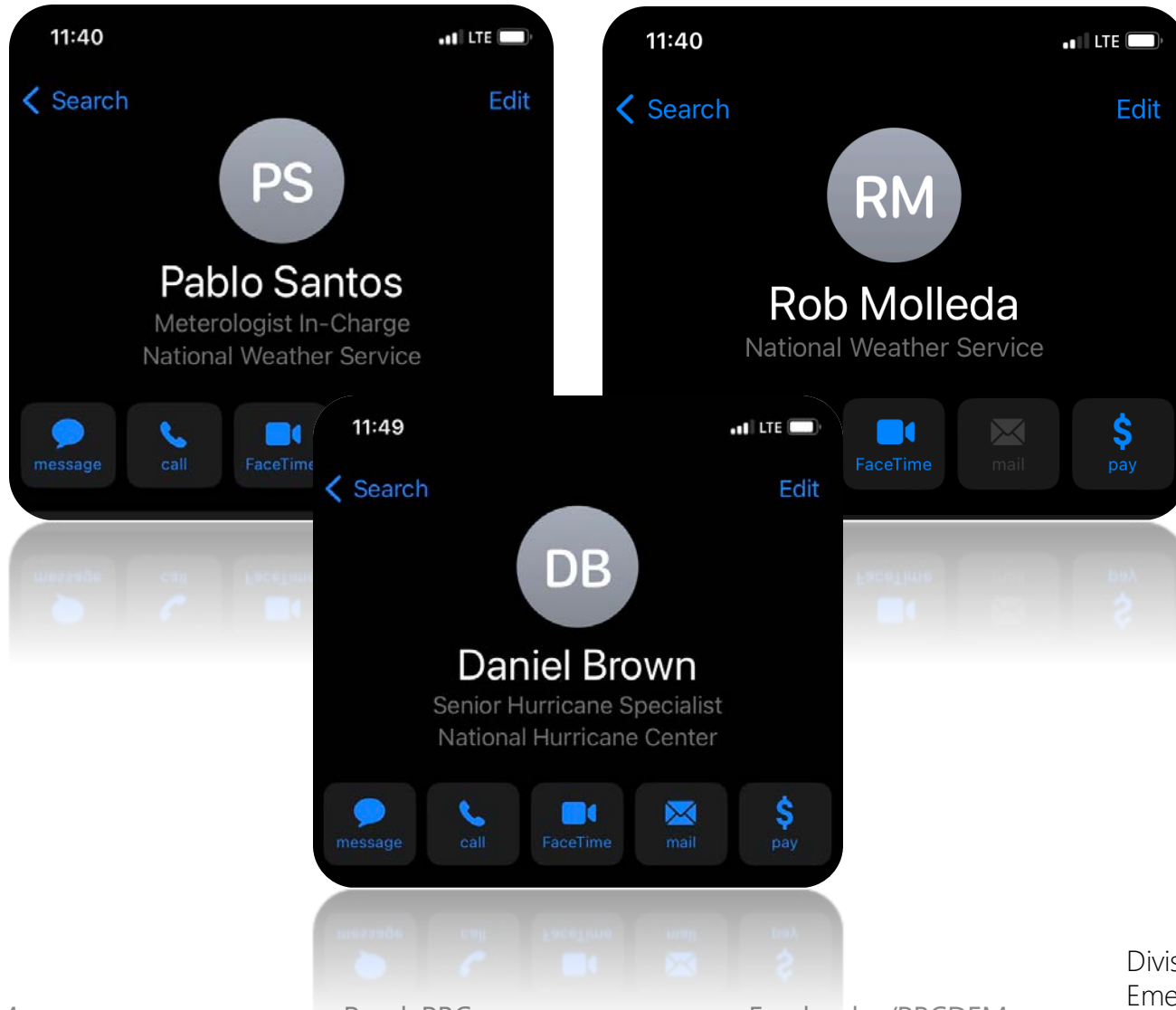


Evacuation by the Numbers

	Guestimate	NHC Surge
Zone A	49,000	49,000
Zone B	74,100	74,100
Zone C	138,163	138,163
Zone D	170,738	170,738
Zone E	210,059	210,059
TOTAL	642,064	642,064
Irma	432,005	123,104
Lake O.	→ →	32,000
		≈155,000



Phone a Friend.....



Messaging is still our challenge

Hurricane Irma - 2017

- In Florida, 6.8 million evacuated
- Only 3.8 million needed to evacuate
- 51% of Floridians were unprepared for Irma
- 129 deaths in Florida



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Hurricane Ian - 2022

- 2.5 million needed to evacuate
- 149 deaths in Florida
- Were Floridians comparing this storm to Irma?



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- Simple
- Intuitive
- Graphical
- Multiple levels of user-friendliness (e.g., from web addresses → QR codes)
- **www.readypbc.com**



PBC DART



Disaster Awareness & Recovery Tool

- Smartphone application available *free* at Google Marketplace and Apple iTunes
- Evacuation tool
- Shelter location tool
- Building Supply and Grocery Stores with Generators
- Gas Stations with Transfer Switches
- iDART (Individual DAmage Reporting Tool)
 - To report individual homeowner damage and flooding
- bDART (Business DAmage Reporting Tool)
 - To report business damage and flooding





Palm Beach County's Emergency Notification System

AlertPBC allows you to opt in to receive notifications via **phone calls, text messaging, e-mail and more** based on locations you care about. The system will be used to notify you about **imminent threats to health and safety**, such as:



**severe
weather**



flooding



gas leaks



**police
activity**

and more

Sign up for notifications at
www.AlertPBC.com

Thank You!

Any questions?

Mary Blakeney- Director

Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management

Email: mblakene@pbcgov.org

Phone: 561-712-6321

