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Hurricane Irma Business Damage Assessment and Recovery

"YOUR BUSINESS IS IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY AND TO ME. I WANT YOU TO KNOW OF THE RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO YOU WHILE YOU WORK TO RECOVER FROM HURRICANE IRMA. PLEASE SEE DETAILED INFORMATION BELOW."

Mayor, Rick Kriseman



Assessment and Assistance

Report any damage or economic injury via the Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center. This will assist to allocate necessary federal funds for local recovery.

1. Register your business at the Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations (FLVBEOC.org)

- The FLVBEOC is a partnership between the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Florida State University's Center for Disaster Risk Policy, designed to provide disaster resource for businesses, before, during and after a storm.
- Registering with the FLVBEOC is mandatory in order to receive assistance on most applications. Registration also enables the state to track storm impact, in order to assess damages and deploy funds from the federal government.

2. Complete a Damage Assessment with the Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center (FLVBEOC.org)

- The FLVBEOC Damage Assessment is for businesses that were damaged during Hurricane Irma. This is the primary portal for private sector damage assessments and recovery. The information provided in this survey will be shared among various state and local agencies to expedite implementation of appropriate disaster relief programs for businesses.
- In order to complete the Damage Assessment, you will first be required to register your business with the FLVBEOC
- If you do not yet have power or internet access, the [Greenhouse](http://Greenhouse.org) has paper copies available and can assist you with filing the assessment online.
440 2nd Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Disaster Loan Assistance

- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loan Assistance**

- SBA Disaster Loans are low-interest loans from the SBA for individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations. The loans can be used for loss and damages not fully covered by insurance.
- Currently there are four (4) programs provided by SBA for businesses in a declared disaster area:
 1. Home + Personal Property Loans
 2. Business Physical Disaster Loans - geared for physical loss and damage of your business
 3. Economic Injury Disaster Loans - geared for economic injury regardless of physical damage
 4. Military Reservists Economic Injury Loans

If you are interested in learning more about these programs, please contact our partners at Florida SBDC at Pinellas County: (727) 453-7200 or [PCED.org/SBALoan](https://www.pced.org/SBALoan)

- **Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan**

- The purpose of the Emergency Bridge Loan Program is to provide a source of expedient cash flow to Florida small businesses impacted by a disaster. These short-term, interest-free no capital loans are intended to "bridge the gap" between the time a major catastrophe hits an when a business has secured longer-term recovery resources, such as sufficient profits from a revived business, receipt of payments on insurance claims or federal disaster assistance. There is a capped amount to this loan program.

For more on the Emergency Bridge Loan program, call (727) 453-7200 or visit [PCED.org/bridge](https://www.pced.org/bridge)

- **FEMA Disaster Assistance**

- Survivors with losses due to Hurricane Irma in Charlotte, Collier, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee Miami-Dade, Monroe, **Pinellas**, and Sarasota Counties may now register for disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, according to state and federal officials.

Individuals can register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or through the FEMA App.

Localized Assistance for Business

- **City of St. Petersburg**

- The City of St. Petersburg can assist with downed trees, street debris, pot holes or similar concerns. Please call the Mayor's Action Center at (727) 893-7111 or report directly with the *See Click Fix St. Petersburg* app at www.stpete.org/action-center
- **Tree Removal:** The City of St. Petersburg is waiving the requirement to get a permit for any tree significantly damaged by the storm. Contact Zoning to discuss further or if a permit is needed for a tree that was not damaged, 727-893-7471
 - If a tree is located in the public right-of-way (street, sidewalk, etc.):
 - If it is not imminent danger, please use "See Click Fix", www.stpete.org/actioncenter or 727-893-7111
 - If it is an immediate hazard, contact Eileen Conte 727-892-5873
- Helpful Numbers:
 - Police Non-Emergency (727) 893-7780
 - Downed Power Lines 1-800-228-8485

- **The Greenhouse**

Unsure of where to go for assistance? Call us at (727) 893-7146 and one of our Business Liaisons will be glad to assist you.

- Tweet **@STPGreenhouse** with any business news or information and we will retweet to the community to help get the word out!
- Create a disaster plan for your business
 - The Greenhouse offers a Disaster Preparedness workshop quarterly. You can also schedule an appointment to meet with a counselor to develop a continuity plan for your business with our partners at SBDC. Please call The Greenhouse at (727) 893-7146 to learn more.

- **St. Pete Chamber**

Are You Open for Business?

If your business is open and providing specials or discounts in the wake of Hurricane Irma, please email details to mlatimer@stpete.com. We will share the information via our blog and on social media. Be sure to tag us in your social media posts as well. Our account handle is **@StPeteChamber** for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

- **CareerSource Pinellas**

Hurricane Irma Employment Recovery Assistance

CareerSource Tampa Bay and CareerSource Pinellas can immediately provide job placement to anyone who has lost their job or self-employment due to hurricane Irma. **Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance is also available for individuals.** Please visit www.careersourcepinellas.com for information

City of St. Petersburg Temporary repairs and Permitting Information

Permitting Procedures:

Priority permitting will be given for required permits for electrical riser/service repairs and roof damages resulting from storm damage, including downed trees. Please limit requests for new building, renovation and service permits until Monday, September 18 if possible.

Permits will NOT be required for temporary repairs to roofs or similar repairs of 100 square or linear feet for roofing, soffit, fascia, siding, sign faces or windows. No permits are required to install temporary tarps to protect damaged openings from causing additional destruction.

To expedite permitting for storm damaged structures, permits may be obtained on-line by mobile devices for registered contractors. On-line permits available for both commercial and residential electrical riser/service/meter permits and "Post Disaster Emergency Permits," which will include; roof damage, wall damage, siding repairs fascia and soffit exceeding an area or board feet exceeding 100. Extreme structural damage may require engineered drawings prior to inspection approval.

Registered contractors may apply for these permits on-line beginning Wednesday, September 13. Home Owner approved permits per Florida Statutes 489 must be requested in person.

Required Notice of Commencement is required prior to an inspection.

Approved active permit inspections may be requested beginning Thursday, September 14. Previously requested inspections will be performed beginning Wednesday, September 13. If you need to cancel an inspection please call 727-893-7231 for assistance. **For additional information please call 727-893-7231 or visit www.stpete.org/permits**

Damaged Signs:

No permit is required to replace a sign face.

If there was structural damage or the sign cabinet needs to be replaced, please contact a Licensed Sign Contractor.

You can apply for a Temporary Banner Permit for up to 60-days if you need to replace your permanent sign damaged by the storm.

To find out more about the sign code, please call 727-892-7471 or email us at DevRev@StPete.org