



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - June 28, 2024

Orange County Government received \$219 million in federal disaster recovery funding (CDBG-DR funds) to help communities in hard-hit areas recover from Hurricane Ian. Orange County aims to provide our residents and community partners with the most up to date information as the County moves forward with its implementation of the CDBG-DR programs.

To do so, a monthly newsletter containing the latest CDBG-DR updates will come out on the last calendar day of each month. You will also be able to access the newsletter on our website listed below. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your friends, family, colleagues, and anyone else who, you believe, might benefit from it. This month, we are focusing on hurricane preparedness for businesses.

Please visit our website at [www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR](http://www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR) for more information about the CDBG-DR Program, timeline, and other related information.



## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS FOR BUSINESSES



Hurricanes are not only natural disasters that affect homes, but they also significantly impact businesses and their infrastructure. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Hurricane Ian was the costliest hurricane in Florida's history and the third costliest in United States history, causing over \$112 billion in damage.

Unfortunately, businesses that are forced to close following a disaster run the risk of never being able to open their doors again. This is true no matter how small or large the company is. The impact of a hurricane can be unpredictable; however, there are critical steps that can be taken to protect your business from nature's fury. Having a hurricane preparedness plan is one of the most important elements of recovery.

## LET'S GET READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON!

It's Hurricane Season, and Orange County Government is here to ensure you have the information you need before, during and after any severe tropical system affects our community. A variety of tools are available online, on the phone, or on your mobile device to help better assist you.

Hurricanes can bring hazards in many forms to coastal and in-land communities. From high winds to tornadoes and flooding, hurricanes can present a variety of severe weather impacts. Your ability to plan ahead will be your best protection against injury and damage to your home and property.



*A stoplight pole at Livingston Street, blown down by Hurricane Ian winds, rests on Orange Avenue in Downtown Orlando. (Willie J. Allen Jr./Orlando Sentinel via AP)*

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## STEPS BUSINESSES CAN TAKE TO PREPARE

(taken from [Alert Media](#))

### **Before the Storm**

- Track the storm's progress from sources such as the National Weather Service (NWS).
- Plan evacuation routes.
- Create an emergency communication plan that includes everyone in your organization (including remote staff) and any third parties that would also need this information.
- Determine a secondary location where business can resume if the main offices are unusable.
- Designate safe sheltering areas for employees.
- Back up and turn off server equipment.
- Inspect structures such as roofing, gutters, windows, storm shutters, etc., and repair if necessary.
- Make sure you have emergency funds available to assist with immediate post storm business needs.
- Check your business insurance coverage. This may include policies that cover damage to property, lost income, and other economic losses caused by a hurricane.
- Disconnect electrical mains in all locations to avoid an electrical fire.
- Double-check that all emergency supplies, backup emergency generators, and emergency kits are readily available and in good condition.

### **During the Storm**

- Observe the storm's movements from a safe place using radio and the internet, if possible.
- Shelter in place and stay safe.

### **After the Storm**

- Continue with the hurricane watch, and pay attention to any warnings from local authorities.
- Reach out to all of your employees and perform a post-storm status check - find out if your people are okay, if they need help, or if they are in a position to provide help to others.
- Initiate your recovery plan and restart business operations once everyone is accounted for.
- Offer support to all employees who might need support beyond immediate disaster relief.

### **Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday**

**Second Exemption:** Saturday, August 24 - Friday, September 6

Visit the [Florida Department of Revenue](#)'s website for a complete list of qualifying tax-free items.



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## Hurricane Preparedness Resources

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### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

Visit [Ready.gov](#) to learn what actions to take in the event of a hurricane watch or a severe weather alert in your area.

#### **Orange County Office of Emergency Management**

Email: [ocoem@ocfl.net](mailto:ocoem@ocfl.net)

Phone: (407) 836-9140

Fax: (407) 737-2489

<https://www.orangecountyfl.net/EmergencySafety.aspx>

#### **Florida Division of Emergency Management**

Email: [FDEM.STO@em.myflorida.com](mailto:FDEM.STO@em.myflorida.com)

Phone: (850) 815-4000

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/>

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Phone: (800) 621-3362

<https://www.fema.gov/>

For disaster assistance, please visit <https://www.disasterassistance.gov> or call the direct line at (844) 875-6446.

### ADDITIONAL BUSINESS RESOURCES

AccuWeather for Business Information - [click here](#)

Minority Business Development Agency Information - [click here](#)

Orange County Vendor Certification - [click here](#)

Small Business Administration (SBA) Hurricane Prep Information - [click here](#)

## CODE ENFORCEMENT

Orange County can only enforce codes for properties located within unincorporated Orange County. If you are located within a municipality in Orange County, please contact the city you reside in by visiting you local municipality's website.

### Unincorporated Orange County

Phone: Dial 3-1-1 or (407) 836-3111

Website: <https://www.ocfl.net/NeighborsHousing/CodeCompliance.aspx>

For additional resources, please contact **Orange County 311** to speak with a specialist who can connect you with the right department or agency within Orange County.

Website: [orangecountyfl.net/Home/311HelpInfo.aspx](https://www.ocfl.net/Home/311HelpInfo.aspx)



## UPDATED CDBG-DR TIMELINE

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The full updated CDBG-DR timeline can be found here: [www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR](https://www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR).

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### Updated CDBG-DR Timeline

- **January 9, 2024:** BCC public hearing for the CDBG-DR Action Plan. Please click [HERE](#) to view the public hearing recording.
- **January 17, 2024:** Orange County submitted the final CDBG-DR Action Plan to HUD for review and approval. Please click [HERE](#) for the final CDBG-DR Action Plan.
- **March 14, 2024:** Orange County CDBG-DR Action Plan was reviewed and approved by HUD.
- **April 9, 2024:** Grant Agreement for CDBG-DR funds executed between Orange County and HUD.

- **August 2024** (Tentative): Request for Applications (RFA) for Public Services, Infrastructure & Public Facilities projects to open for non-profit agencies and local jurisdictions.
- **August 2024** (Tentative): Technical Assistance and Informational Session will be held on CDBG-DR Public Services, Infrastructure & Public Facilities RFA process.

More information will be available in our next newsletter, coming out on **July 31, 2024**.

Stay Tuned!

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## Help us spread the word about CDBG-DR

[Sign Up for our Newsletter Here](#)

[Connect with us on our social media](#)



## Questions? Thoughts? Suggestions?

We're here to help! Contact us here:

**[Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net](mailto:Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net)**

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