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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEMA Officials Are In St. Lucie County Working to Register Residents for Disaster Assistance

ST. LUCIE COUNTY – St. Lucie County officials have been working with representatives with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to make sure residents are getting the services and assistance that they need, following Hurricane Irma.

St. Lucie County has been declared as a disaster area for Individual Assistance. ***All residents are encouraged to register for assistance, even if they do not see immediate damage, as once the deadline passes – residents will not be able to file for or receive assistance after the fact.*** Residents can register for assistance by visiting:
www.disasterassistance.gov.

Residents that need help with the online filing process for FEMA assistance can visit the following St. Lucie County locations:

- St. Lucie County Community Service, 437 North 7th St., Fort Pierce; Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Lakewood Park Branch Library, 7605 Santa Barbara Drive, Fort Pierce; Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday from noon to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- St. Lucie County Veterans Services, 1664 SE Walton Road (Suite 205), Port St. Lucie; Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Morningside Branch Library, 2410 SE Morningside Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Residents with roof damage can have the Army Corp of Engineers help secure a temporary roof through the Blue Roof program by calling 1-888-ROOF-BLU (1-888-766-3258) or visiting: www.saj.usace.army.mil/BlueRoof. (This registration is separate from general public assistance.)

FEMA representatives are out in communities encouraging residents to register for assistance; however, residents should be cautious of scammers and fake representatives. All FEMA workers will carry an official FEMA photo/ID – residents shouldn't hesitate to ask for identification. If residents see fraudulent representatives or suspicious activity, call 911 or the FEMA Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721.

Private non-profits and community organizations are also eligible for public assistance through FEMA. Through the Private Non-Profit (PNP) Public Assistance Program, FEMA provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly-owned facilities, and the facilities of certain organizations. The program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process. For details visit: www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit. The deadline for the PNP program is noon, Thursday, Sept. 21 – those organizations interested in apply should email pio@stlucieco.org.

St. Lucie County is working with FEMA and the State of Florida's Division of Emergency Management to establish a Disaster Recover Center, which will serve as one-stop shop for residents and businesses to register for assistance, check on claims and file for low-interest loans from the Small Businesses Administration (SBA). SBA loans are available to both residents and businesses.

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