

Florida Hurricane Recovery

Oct. 14, 2024

How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

If you sustained damage or loss from Hurricanes Milton, Helene or Debby, [FEMA may be able to help](#). You may be eligible for financial assistance for displacement, serious needs, temporary lodging, basic home repairs, personal property losses and other uninsured disaster-related expenses.

- ✓ Quickest way to apply is online at DisasterAssistance.gov.
- ✓ Or use the [FEMA App](#) for mobile devices.
- ✓ You can also call the FEMA helpline toll-free at **800-621-3362**.
- Please be patient if you choose to apply by phone. FEMA is increasing staff at call centers but wait times may be longer because of increased volume for multiple recent disasters. Lines are open every day, and help is available in most languages.
- If you are approved for FEMA assistance, you may receive \$750-\$770 initially for immediate needs. After that award, you may be eligible for more financial assistance for temporary housing, basic home repairs or other disaster-caused expenses. Applicants should stay in touch with FEMA to ensure their application continues through the process for additional assistance.
- Application deadlines: **Hurricane Debby Nov. 12, 2024; Hurricane Helene Nov. 27, 2024; Hurricane Milton Dec. 11, 2024.**
- To date, FEMA has approved **\$188 million** to help Floridians with losses from Helene, **\$41 million** for Debby and **\$11.8 million** for Milton.
- **If you applied for FEMA assistance** after Hurricane Helene, Debby, Idalia, Ian or previous storms, you must apply separately for assistance after Hurricane Milton.
- **FEMA has created a Rumor Control page.** Know what's true and what isn't. [Hurricane Rumor Response | FEMA.gov](#)



Cleaning up after a Hurricane?
Stay safe with these tips:

- ✗ Wear long pants, goggles, gloves and sturdy shoes
- ✗ Contact local officials if power lines are down
- ✗ Use face coverings if cleaning mold
- ✗ Stay out of damaged structures
- ✗ Photograph your damages



FEMA

- **Be Alert to Fraud:** FEMA personnel working in areas impacted by the hurricanes carry official photo identification. FEMA representatives never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections or help in filling out applications. Don't believe anyone who promises a disaster grant in return for payment.
- If you believe you are the victim of a scam, report it immediately to your local police or sheriff's department or contact Florida's Office of the Attorney General by calling 866-9-NO-SCAM (866-966-7226) or visit myfloridalegal.com. To file a fraud complaint, go online to Scam Report (myfloridalegal.com).
- **Follow the direction of local authorities** as you clean up. Be aware of safety concerns and separate debris for collection as instructed by local officials. Before cleaning up, make sure to document any property damage with photos and receipts. Use generators only outdoors and at least 20 feet from windows, doors, and attached garages. Make sure to keep the generator dry and protected from rain or flooding.
- **Disaster Recovery Centers:** Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and FEMA are urgently reopening centers that were in place for Debby and Helene prior to Milton and these centers can serve people affected by all three hurricanes. New locations are being assessed to meet the needs in areas heavily impacted by Milton.
- A center opened Oct. 13 at **Botanical Gardens-Magnolia Room in Pinellas County**. To find other center locations go to fema.gov/drc or text "DRC" and a Zip Code to 43362. All centers are accessible to people with disabilities or access and functional needs and are equipped with assistive technology.
- FDEM and local communities are establishing **Multi-agency Resource Centers** to assist residents with storm recovery. FEMA specialists are available at the centers. These centers are in addition to FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers.
- **The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** offers low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply online at SBA.gov/disaster. Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955.

Additional Resources

- **For help with cleanup:** Call 833-GET HOPE
- [Tips for Mold Cleanup](#)
- **Florida Division of Emergency Management Updates:** floridadisaster.org/disaster-updates/storm-updates/
- **Disaster Legal Hotline: 833-514-2940**
- **Crisis Cleanup: 844-965-1386**
- [IRS announces tax relief for victims of Milton; various deadlines postponed to May 1, 2025 in all of Florida | Internal Revenue Service](#)

Debris Removal Guidelines for Private Residential Properties

In efforts to expedite the debris removal process, please follow these rules.

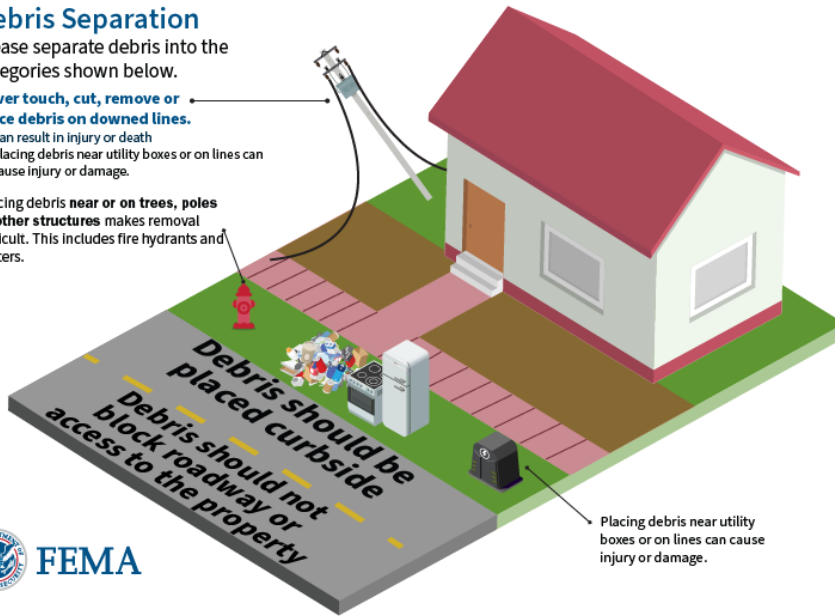
Debris Separation

Please separate debris into the categories shown below.

Never touch, cut, remove or place debris on downed lines.

- Can result in injury or death
- Placing debris near utility boxes or on lines can cause injury or damage.

Placing debris **near or on trees, poles or other structures** makes removal difficult. This includes fire hydrants and meters.



Check with your local office of emergency management for more information on debris removal.



Large Appliances

Refrigerator, washer/dryer, air conditioner, stove, water heater, dishwasher. Do not leave doors unsealed or unsecured.



Construction Debris

Building materials, drywall, lumber, carpet, furniture, plumbing.



Vegetative Debris

Tree branches, leaves, logs, plants.



Hazardous Waste

Oil, battery, pesticide, paint, cleaning supplies, compressed gas.



Electronics

Television, computer, stereo, phone, DVD player.

Placing debris near utility boxes or on lines can cause injury or damage.