



## NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 12, 2017

Volusia County Media Line: 386-226-7890

### Hurricane Irma Update 23

#### Post storm safety tips

- Breakers – If you do not have power, turn off your breakers. When the power is restored, energize them one-by-one. If you smell smoke after power is restored, turn the breaker off. If you smell smoke and think there is a fire danger at your home or business, call 911.
- Gas – If the gas was turned off or if you lost gas service, check for the odor of gas when power is restored. If you smell gas, go outside and notify your utility provider.
- Minimize flushing – Residents should conserve and minimize water use. Hold off on showering and bathing, doing laundry, and flushing toilets.
- Refrigerator – If you have lost power for at least four hours, even with minimizing opening the door, discard and replace items.
- Generators – Read the owner's manual and keep the generator a safe distance from the home. Do not place the generator inside the home, including a garage, even if you ventilate it. Also, check the wind in your area to see if fumes are being pushed into your home. You may need to move the generator to prevent wind blowing fumes in your home. When fueling the generator, allow it to cool down (at least 20-30 minutes) before refueling.
- Propane – Read the owner's manual and do not use propane grills inside the home or in the garage, even if you ventilate it. Use the grill at least 15 feet from the home or garage.
- Downed trees and power lines – Assume any downed power line is energized when driving or walking in your neighborhood. Do not attempt to move or pick up limbs or trees that could be in contact with a downed power line. If you are without power, the downed power lines could be in your yard, so use caution as you pick up around your home or business. If possible, wait until power is restored to remove trees and limbs from your property to make sure they are not intermingled with power lines.
- Intersections without traffic signals – If coming to an intersection without a traffic signal, treat it as a four-way stop.
- Cleaning up debris in the yard – When picking up your property after the storm, wear the proper safety gear, including gloves, safety eyewear and closed-toe shoes. Use sunscreen and drink water frequently. If you move debris, please keep it 3-4 feet from the road and away from storm drains. Debris placed between the sidewalk and the home will not be picked up. Debris should not be placed near trees, poles or other structures. It also should not obstruct the roadway, storm drains, mailboxes, water meter vaults and fire hydrants.
- Debris should be separated into four categories:
  - Normal household trash and bagged debris
  - Unbagged vegetative debris, including leaves, logs, plants and tree branches
  - Construction and demolition debris, including building materials, carpet, drywall, furniture, lumber, mattresses and plumbing

[www.volusia.org](http://www.volusia.org)

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- Appliances, including air conditioners, dishwashers, freezers, refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers and water heaters.
- Chainsaws – If using a chainsaw, wear proper safety gear, including gloves, safety eyewear and closed-toe shoes. Do not attempt to cut limbs that are over your head or out of reach. Do not use a chainsaw while standing on a ladder. If possible, have someone work with you, so they can watch where the limbs fall.