



Santa Rosa County Public Information ▪ 4499 Pine Forest Road ▪ Milton, Florida ▪ 32583 ▪ (850) 983-5254

April 3, 2009
Update #16
11:30 a.m.

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Weather Update #16

Flooding

- According to the National Weather Service, all rivers have crested. No additional flooding is forecasted.
- Blackwater crested at 7.6 feet and is currently at 6 feet.
- Levels on the Blackwater River and its basins are expected to remain at current levels for approximately two days and then slowly recede.
- Coldwater Creek had a reading of 8 feet this morning. Flood stage is 11 feet.

Preliminary Damage Estimates

- Damage- this list is not complete, building inspectors are still inspecting the affected areas:

Tornado Damage

- Homes with minor damage- 7 (March 27)
- Homes with major damage- 1 (March 27)
- \$20,000 damage to the Blackwater Fish Hatchery (March 31)

Flooding Damage

- Homes with minor damage- 6
- Homes with moderate damage- 1
- Homes with major damage- 1
- Estimated flood damage on county roadways is \$400,000. This number may increase significantly as flooded rivers recede and more damage becomes evident.
- Residents with flooding damage are asked to call (850) 981-7000 to arrange for a building inspector to complete a flood damage assessment. This **free** assessment will advise you of the safety of your home and will give you the necessary paperwork to complete insurance claims.

Actions by Santa Rosa County

- The emergency operations center is no longer activated and is at a level 3 or monitoring level.
- Dangerous road conditions can be reported to the Santa Rosa County Road and Bridge Department at (850) 626-0191.
- County staff are continuing to assess damages and make repairs as possible.
- The declaration of local state of emergency was signed at 10 a.m. March 31. A declaration will allow the county to implement protective actions if needed.

Road Closure/Impassable Roads- current

- Wells Pond Road, between Highway 89 and Cobbtown Road- culvert washout
- Riverwood Road
- Lakeside Court
- River Landing Road
- River Road

Bridge Closures- current

The listed bridges and any other county maintained bridges that are flooded, should not be crossed until public works inspections have been completed, after the water recedes. Motorist should always avoid crossing flooded streets and should never attempt to cross flooded bridges.

- Burnt Grocery Creek
- Deaton Bridge Road

General Cleanup Safety Tips

- Be careful when using a power saw or tools to clear tree limbs and debris. Watch out for fallen power lines in trees or standing water.
- Never stand on the top rung of a ladder. Have a second person “spot “you when using a ladder and power tools.
- Work smart. Wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen during clean-up. Take periodic breaks and drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- Standing flood waters pose possible health dangers. Basic hygiene is critical. Avoid contact with flood waters if at all possible and Keep children away from flood waters.
- Take this time to restock and supply your personal disaster – supply kits.

Florida Division of Forestry

- Due to damage sustained during recent storms, many roads and bridges on Blackwater River State Forest are impassable. Additionally, Coldwater Recreation Area and Hurricane North Recreation Areas are temporarily closed.
- Bryant Bridge and Peaden Bridge are closed temporarily due to flooding; Kennedy Bridge is closed until further notice; Cotton Bridge, located on Hwy. 4, is open.
- Primary paved roads are generally open; however, continued rainfall and temporary flooding may occur at any time. Secondary roads are approximately 50% open, except around creeks and drains.
- Repairs are underway but restoration to full access will take several weeks due to the extent of the damage.
- Coldwater Recreation Area will be closed at least until April 12 and Hurricane North Recreation Area will be closed until further notice due to infrastructure damage.
- For more information, contact the Florida Division of Forestry at 850-957-6140.

General Safety Information

- Please monitor your home weather radio and local media outlets for the most up-to-date information.
- Your best defense in any disaster is a NOAA Weather radio.
- Citizens can sign up to automatically receive breaking news alerts from Santa Rosa County Emergency Management via e-mail or as a text message on their cell phone at:
<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency/publicwarning>

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