

## Hurricane Hermine - Update from the Emergency Operations Center

### **Individual Damage Assessment Process**

The individual damage assessment (IDA) of homes and businesses was completed by FEMA, State and local officials on September 9, 2016 with the following results: 62 with major damage, 128 with minor damage, 136 were affected, and zero structures “destroyed”. Residents should keep in mind that this was only a visual assessment to determine if the County had sufficient damages to be included in the request for a federal disaster declaration from the President. Only a structural engineer or building official can make the final determination concerning the habitability of a structure. Residents may contact the building division at 352-754-4050 with questions about their specific property.

Based on the cumulative results of the IDA across the State, the Governor submitted a request to the President for a federal disaster declaration on 9/20/16; the decision to grant or deny Florida’s request rests solely with the President. There is no specific timeline; however, as soon as Florida is notified of the decision, we can anticipate that the Governor’s Office will issue a press release to notify all Floridians. Emergency Management will in turn publicize the information locally.

### **Next Steps**

If a federal disaster declaration is made, and Hernando County is included, residents will be able to register directly with FEMA for assistance. Registration will be available online and via telephone but **may** also be available locally if FEMA supports a local disaster recovery center for in-person registration. Certain eligibility requirements must be met in order to qualify for assistance. A helpful resource for frequently asked questions is available on the following websites:

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/Recovery/IndividualAssistance/FAQ.html#individual>  
<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/help/faqs>

Public computers and internet access are available through the Hernando County Public Library system. A printout of the Frequently Asked Questions will be provided to any resident upon request to Emergency Management.

Residents with questions may call Emergency Management at 352-754-4083 during business hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday.