



**State Emergency
Response Team**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region IV
Florida Recovery Office



FEMA

Backgrounder

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FIVE YEARS LATER: HURRICANE FRANCES RECOVERY

Hurricane Frances began its crawl across the Sunshine State at 12:30 a.m. on September 5, 2004, and created the most widespread impact of any storm in the 2004 season. Just three weeks after Hurricane Charley, the Category 2 storm and its sustained 105 mph winds resulted in evacuation orders for 2.8 million people – the largest in Florida’s history. Frances spawned 23 tornados in Florida and caused \$9 billion in damage nationwide. In coordination with Florida’s State Emergency Response Team (SERT), FEMA moved quickly to help people and their communities recover.

Response

- Unified Command Former Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Craig Fugate maintained unified command following Hurricane Frances. This unified command system – used for the first time in Florida after Hurricane Charley - merged state and federal response teams so they solved problems together. The unified approach led to a faster and more agile response and was pivotal to the success to subsequent statewide responses for Ivan and Jeanne.

- Basic Needs Immediately after the storm, at the request of the governor, FEMA partnered with the State Emergency Response Team and local responders to deliver and distribute about 100 trucks of water and 900,000 ready-to-eat meals.

Overall, 368 shelters served 186,620 people.

- Safety Almost 150 members of Urban Search and Rescue Teams completed reconnaissance missions in coordination with state officials.

- Health FEMA’s Disaster Medical Assistance Teams deployed, treating almost 1,500 patients.

- Fuel Supply FEMA worked with the Department of Energy and the state to make sure the necessary fuel supplies could be distributed to hospitals and other emergency facilities.

- Extra Support In addition to federal personnel who responded to Hurricane Charley, 1,000 additional community relations personnel received orders to report for training and further assignment in Florida.

- Mission Assignments The agency distributed more than \$172 million to other federal agencies, such as the USDA Forest Service and the Department of Defense to assist in response activities.

(MORE)

FIVE YEARS LATER: RECOVERING FROM HURRICANE FRANCES - Page 2

Recovery

Applications	More than 459,000 individuals registered for state and federal assistance.
Individual Assistance	<p>Nearly \$412 million was provided for the Individuals and Households Program, which includes Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance like medical, dental and funeral expenses.</p> <p>The U.S. Small Business Administration approved loans totaling nearly \$445 million, which reached the occupants of nearly 11,000 homes and more than 2,000 businesses.</p>
Housing	<p>FEMA provided temporary housing, in the form of mobile homes or travel trailers, for nearly 2,400 families.</p> <p>To determine eligibility for disaster assistance, the agency inspected more than 333,000 homes.</p>
Public Assistance	<p>FEMA received nearly 10,000 assistance requests from the state, local governments, and certain non-profit organizations to which the agency allocated more than \$651 million.</p> <p>The agency also partnered with the state to develop www.floridapa.org – a Public Assistance Web site that allows local, county and state officials to track Public Assistance projects and reimbursements.</p>
Flood Claims	The National Flood Insurance Program, managed by FEMA, handled 8,900 claims in Florida and paid more than \$153 million to Florida policy holders.

The Florida Four in 2004: Charley (Aug. 13), Frances (Sept. 5), Ivan (Sept. 16) and Jeanne (Sept. 26)

- Four storms in 44 days caused an estimated \$45 billion in damage.
- Each of the storms is still ranked among the top ten costliest hurricanes in the U.S., according to the Insurance Information Institute.
- Florida was the first state to be hit by four hurricanes in one season since Texas in 1886.
- At the time, FEMA's response to the four hurricanes was the largest in the agency's 26-year history.
- Because of the 2004 hurricanes, more than \$369 million in federal funds was set aside for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The program funds projects that will protect Florida communities during future storms.
- FEMA received disaster assistance applications from approximately 1.3 million households and businesses in Florida and provided nearly \$1.6 billion in grants to state residents.
- The agency sent nearly \$2.5 billion in federal aid to the state to reimburse local governments and eligible state agencies for nearly 27,000 recovery and rebuilding projects – that amounts to about half of all public disaster recovery projects *nationwide* for that year.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management and to GET A PLAN!, please visit: www.FloridaDisaster.org. All students, teachers and parents can find educational information and free downloadable materials at: www.KidsGetAPlan.com. And for preparedness information and flash reports go to: www.YouTube.com/FloridaSERT.

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For more information on FEMA, go to www.fema.gov. For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management visit www.floridadisaster.org.