



State Emergency
Response Team



FEMA

Backgrounder

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HURRICANE IVAN: PART THREE OF FLORIDA'S HISTORIC 2004 STORM SEASON

Hurricane Ivan was the strongest southern hurricane on record while traversing the Atlantic and Caribbean, reaching Category 5 strength with sustained winds near 160 mph. The storm weakened to a Category 3 before moving onshore, but still devastated Florida's Panhandle as it felt the brunt of the hurricane. The storm, with its 60-mile-wide eye and 10-15 foot surge, caused \$14.2 billion in damage nationwide. The figure makes Ivan the sixth costliest hurricane on record in the U.S.

Nearly 545,000 people left their homes after the state issued voluntary evacuation orders for ten counties. In coordination with Florida's State Emergency Response Team (SERT), the Federal Emergency Management Agency continued its response to help Florida recover from a third hurricane in more than just one month.

Response

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| Unified Command | Merged state and federal response teams formed a 'unified command' to solve problems together. The unified approach led to a faster and more agile response and was pivotal to the success of the statewide response to the 2004 storm season. |
| Basic Needs | <p>Within days of landfall, at the governor's request, FEMA coordinated the delivery of more than 2.5 million gallons of water and 7.2 million ready-to-eat meals.</p> <p>In all, the agency funded emergency response and protective measures totaling nearly \$329 million.</p> <p>In addition to the 31 Disaster Recovery Centers that were already open for Hurricanes Charley and Frances, FEMA established 11 more in the Panhandle region after Ivan.</p> <p>FEMA provided close to 100,000 tarps to local emergency operations centers so that storm victims could protect their damaged homes and businesses.</p> |
| Safety | Almost 650 members of Urban Search and Rescue teams covered approximately 600 square miles of heavily-damaged areas in the Florida Panhandle in less than four days. |
| Health | FEMA deployed approximately 350 medical personnel to create nine Disaster Medical Assistance Teams. Consisting of doctors, nurses, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and other medical specialists, the teams treated more than 3,300 patients. |
| Mission Assignments | FEMA distributed \$259 million to other federal agencies, such as the USDA Forest Service, and the Department of Transportation, to assist in response activities. |
| Applications | More than 151,000 individuals registered for state and federal assistance. |

(MORE)

Recovery

Individual Assistance	<p>More than \$164 million total in approved funds for Floridians under the Individuals and Households program, which was used to pay for lodging expenses, home rental assistance, minimal home repairs, and other needs related to a hurricane.</p> <p>The U.S. Small Business Administration approved loans totaling nearly \$796 million, which reached the occupants of nearly 17,000 homes and more than 3,400 businesses.</p>
Housing	<p>FEMA provided temporary housing, in the form of mobile homes and travel trailers, for more than 5,300 families.</p> <p>To determine eligibility for disaster assistance, the agency inspected nearly 106,000 homes.</p>
Public Assistance	<p>FEMA approved more than 3,700 recovery and rebuilding grants amounting to nearly \$697 million for the state, local governments, and certain non-profit organizations.</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 their Public Assistance projects and reimbursements.</p>
Flood Claims	<p>The National Flood Insurance Program received nearly 13,000 claims—the most of all the 2004 hurricanes—and paid out more than \$964 million.</p>

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, nearly \$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 the latest daily situation 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.