



Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency

Baldwin County Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BALDWIN COUNTY MEDIA ALERT RECOVERY UPDATE #5

BALDWIN COUNTY, AL, (Sept. 23, 2020) – Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency (BCEMA) asks for the media’s help in sharing the following new information. Please note previously issued – and still accurate – information is after the line break below:

- **Daily EMA updates**

- Baldwin County EMA is doing twice daily live updates via Facebook Live at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The video is recorded and available on the EMA [Facebook](#) page at [@BaldwinCountyEMA](#).
- Follow active updates from Baldwin EMA on our other social media channels – [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) (@BaldwinEMA).
- Important information is also available on the Baldwin County website (www.baldwincountyal.gov) and on the Baldwin EMA app that is free to download on your mobile device.

- **Cleanup Assistance Hotline**

- Residents needing help removing trees and debris should call the Crisis Cleanup Hotline at 1-800-451-1954. Volunteer groups coming to the county will work from needs documented in this database.
- The hotline is getting close to 1,500 calls per day and the phone lines are overloaded. If your call is not answered, please keep trying.

- **Beaches**

Alabama Gulf Coast beaches remain closed and are expected to reopen on Friday, Oct. 2.

- **Boil Water Notices**

- The boil water notice for Orange Beach has been lifted.
- Riviera Utilities customers north of County Road 24 are still under a boil water notice until Friday, Sept. 25 at 5:00 p.m. The notice has been lifted for customers south of County Road 24.

- **Charity Organizations Offering Assistance**
 - Baptist Association
 - First Baptist Church Gulf Shores – Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Fort Morgan residents apply in person for cleanup assistance
 - First Baptist Church Robertsdale – Elberta, Foley, Robertsdale and Summerdale residents apply in person for cleanup assistance.
 - Feeding America/Feeding the Gulf Coast (food distribution efforts)
 - Red Cross (assisting across the county)
 - Samaritan’s Purse (First Baptist Church Foley) – Taking applications for cleanup assistance and installing temporary roof tarps.
 - People requesting assistance from Samaritan’s Purse must call the Crisis Cleanup Hotline at 1-800-451-1954 to get into the database. DO NOT call the church in Foley.
 - Salvation Army (feeding people across the county)

- **County Offices**
 - **County Commission Offices** – County Commission Offices are open, and Court Offices/Circuit Clerk reopens Thursday, Sept. 24. Some offices in Foley are unable to reopen at this time, specifically Foley DA, Baldwin County Sheriff’s Office, Probate, Revenue and ALEA.
 - **Courts** – Baldwin County 28th Judicial Courts/Circuit Clerk will reopen Thursday, Sept. 24. All jury trials scheduled through the end of September are cancelled, per Judge J. Clark Stankoski, Presiding Circuit Judge of the 28th Judicial Circuit.

- **Curfew**
 - Many curfews have been lifted. Those still in place include:
 - Fort Morgan and Orange Beach from 10:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Orange Beach curfew will end Friday, Sept. 25 at 5:00 a.m.
 - Gulf Shores from 10:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
 - Loxley from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
 - Summerdale from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

- **Disaster Assistance**
 - **FEMA**
 - FEMA has issued a disaster declaration for Baldwin, Escambia, and Mobile counties as well as the Porch Band of Creek Indians. To file a claim for assistance, you must first register with FEMA in one of the following ways:
 1. Call 1-800-621-3362 (TTY# 1-800-462-7585)
 2. Register online at www.disasterassistance.gov
 3. Download the FEMA app on your mobile device and register using the app.
 - Details on what is covered by [Individual Assistance](#) can be found online.
 - It is important to understand that by law, FEMA assistance cannot duplicate the assistance you receive from your insurance company, but you may receive assistance for items not covered by insurance.

- FEMA does not offer assistance for your secondary home. Federal guidelines only allow FEMA to provide housing assistance when your primary residence is impacted by a presidentially-declared disaster.
 - **SBA**
 - The SBA has disaster assistance available for individuals (homeowners and renters), businesses, non-profit organizations, churches, small aquaculture businesses, and small agricultural cooperatives impacted by Hurricane Sally.
 - These are low-interest disaster loans for uncompensated losses, such as if insurance were not enough or there is no insurance.
 - Apply online at www.disasterassistance.sba.gov or contact your local Chamber of Commerce for assistance.
 - **DON'T FALL FOR SCAMS**
 - Any email correspondence from FEMA or SBA will come from official email addresses – fema.gov or sba.gov
 - DO NOT give personal or case number information via email to anyone claiming to be with FEMA or SBA if they are using a Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, or other email service (gmail.com, hotmail.com, yahoo.com).
- **Fraud/Price Gouging/Scams**
 - Baldwin EMA is receiving multiple reports of price gauging for tree removal services and other home repairs.
 - Report fraud or price gouging concerns to your local law enforcement agency. You can also report issues to the Alabama Department of Insurance Fraud Bureau at 334-241-4166.
 - Legitimate contractors must have a business license for each city and county in which they are operating. Ask to see proof of this license as well as bonding and insurance.
 - Always get written estimates from multiple contractors to make sure you get the best price and before any work is done.
 - DO NOT pay cash for work nor for advanced deposits. Always pay by check or credit card so you have a record of the transaction.
 - Never pay a contractor in full up front.
- **Food Distribution Locations for This Week**
 - Feeding the Gulf Coast will be holding community food distributions on the following days:
 - Thursday**
 - Foley – Calvary Chapel
 - Robertsdale – Catholic Social Services
- **Garbage Dropoff and Pickup**
 - Baldwin County Solid Waste Management has scheduled staging sites for this week throughout the south end of the county for residents to drop off household garbage.
 - This is anything that would normally go in their green county garbage cart, and will not accept vegetation, white goods, or construction and demolition material.
 - If you are cleaning out the refrigerator or freezer, these items must be bagged in garbage bags. Unbagged items will not be accepted at these drop off locations.
 - Citizens with questions should call Baldwin County Solid Waste at 251-972-6878.

- Schedule for locations:

Thursday

Perdido Beach Fire Dept.
8450 Escambia Ave.
Perdido Beach, AL 36530
Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Old Foley Highway Barn
1013 N. Juniper St
Foley, AL 36535
Hours: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- **Points of Distribution for Essential Supplies**

As power and other utilities have been largely restored and more stores are opening, all Baldwin County Points of Distribution (PODs) will close by end of business on Friday unless supplies are depleted before the time listed.

- **Closing today (Wednesday):**

Summerdale (closing at 4:30 p.m.)
502 West Lee Ave.
Summerdale, AL

- **Closing Thursday:**

Bay Minette (closing at 6:00 p.m.)
First Baptist Church Bay Minette
1201 Hand Ave.
Bay Minette, AL

Lillian (closing at noon)
Lillian Community Club
34148 Widell Ave.
Lillian, AL

- **Closing Friday:**

Elberta (closing at 5:00 p.m.)
Elberta Fire Department
13125 Chicago St.
Elberta, AL

Foley (closing at 4:00 p.m.)
Foley Soccer Complex
18507 US Hwy. 98
Foley, AL

Perdido Beach (closing at 6:00 p.m.)
Perdido Beach Fire Department
8450 Escambia Ave.
Perdido Beach, AL

Robertsdale (closing at 7:00 p.m.)
South Baldwin County Coliseum
19477 Fairground Rd.
Robertsdale, AL

Seminole (closing at 7:30 p.m.)
Seminole Fire Department Station 22
32268 Hwy. 90
Seminole, AL

- **Moving locations Friday**
 - Gulf Shores – moving to Gulf Shores United Methodist Church on Hwy. 59
 - Orange Beach – moving to the Orange Beach Event Center at The Wharf
- **Power Restoration**
 - Baldwin EMC reports that north Baldwin County is fully restored, though there are some individual meters still out. All extra utility crews are still in town and working across all other areas of the county, especially Fish River, Foley, Fort Morgan, Gulf Shores, Loxley, Magnolia Springs, Orange Beach and Summerdale.
 - 90% of power has been restored across the county.
 - Riviera Utilities reports 83% of power has been restored.
- **Volunteer Registration Centers (VRCs)**
 - The location in Gulf Shores has changed to the Gulf Shores United Methodist Church on Hwy. 59. Hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - Volunteers wanting to assist with cleanup and repairs need to register at an official Volunteer Registration Center to be matched up with residents who need help.
 - These centers are for individual volunteers; if with an organized group, the group leader should coordinate with the VRC.
 - Volunteers will be issued a Volunteer ID by the VRC so that residents know the person has been approved to assist.
 - Another Volunteer Registration Center is located in Robertsdale at the PZK Hall on Hwy. 104. Hours at 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Previously issued information that is still accurate:

- **Debris Cleanup**
 - Baldwin County is still under a burn ban until October 31. Residents clearing yard debris should not burn because outdoor burning can get out of control very quickly, and water pressure issues caused by Hurricane Sally can impact water flow at fire hydrants.

- Yard and home debris should be sorted properly and set out by the road.
 - Sort your piles into appropriate types such as vegetative/tree limbs, construction & demolition (C&D), white goods (appliances and furniture), hazardous (paint/chemicals/poisons) piled at the edge of your property along the street. Click here for a handy [debris sorting chart](#).
 - Do not put your debris piles under power lines, blocking fire hydrants, or impeding traffic.
 - Do not bag your debris. Cleanup crews will only pick up loose debris.
 - Debris cleanup crews have been deployed and will only pick up debris along your street that has been sorted.
- **Donations**
 - Individuals wanting to support Baldwin County residents recovering from Hurricane Sally are encouraged to use the official local United Way Hurricane Sally Relief Fund at www.unitedway-bc.org.
- **Food Safety**
 - Power outages associated with hurricane storm force winds can cause concerns about the safety of frozen and refrigerated foods. As a general rule, a full upright or chest freezer will keep foods frozen for about two days without power.
 - A partially full freezer will keep foods frozen for about one day. This time may be extended by keeping the door shut. A refrigerator will keep foods cool for four to six hours if the door is kept closed as much as possible.
 - Any thawed foods that have been at room temperature for more than two hours should be discarded. Foods still containing ice crystals can be refrozen, although the quality of the food may decrease. Foods that have thawed to refrigerator temperatures (that is, no more than 40 degrees Fahrenheit) can also be cooked and then refrozen.
 - Additional resources (including infographics):
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/keep-food-safe-after-emergency.html>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/food-safety-during-a-power-outage.html>
 - <https://www.fda.gov/food/buy-store-serve-safe-food/food-and-water-safety-during-power-outages-and-floods>
 - <https://www.fda.gov/media/72124/download>
- **Generator Safety**
 - While the use of a generator can help you get on the road to recovery, it can also pose danger to your health and safety if not used correctly – especially carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire.
 - Generators should not be operated indoors, should be set at least 20 feet from any structure, and should not be used in rain or wet conditions.
 - More extensive generator guidelines can be found [online](#), but always consult your owner’s manual.
- **Schools**
 - Baldwin County Schools – will open on Wednesday, Sept. 30
 - Gulf Shores City Schools – will open on Monday, Sept. 28
 - Coastal Alabama Community College – opens Wednesday, Sept. 22

Additional information on post-storm safety is available on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/be-safe-after.html>.

For more information, contact Jenni Guerry or Sherry-Lea Botop, Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency at jguerry@baldwincountyal.gov or (251) 972-6809.

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