

BROWARD BOUNCES BACK

Broward recovers from impact of Hurricane Irma

Hurricane Irma brought destruction to a multitude of islands in the Caribbean and parts of South Florida the weekend of Sept. 9. Although Broward County luckily evaded the center of the storm, the aftermath of the hurricane brought power outages lasting up to a week for certain cities, including Parkland and Coral Springs, and left public services closed and littered with debris for days.

Power plants, fire stations, public safety buildings and training centers all went under emergency generator backup during Hurricane Irma. Throughout the duration of the storm, five businesses in Broward County were recorded to have burglaries, but arrests were made thanks to special response teams.

Some public facilities remain damaged weeks after the hurricane. For example, Pembroke Pines was left under a boil water order due to the contamination of the city's water source. Pembroke Pines locals were recommended to boil all water used for consumption. In contrast, the water treatment plant for Coral Springs and Parkland was left operational and continued to perform properly, preventing Coral Springs and Parkland locals from having to go under a boil water order.

Unavoidable power outages loomed over a majority of Broward County as well, leaving students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas in fear of Hurricane Irma since many locals heavily rely on technology and air conditioning systems.

"At first, I blew it off. I figured it would be like past hurricanes where nothing much happened where we live," senior Julia Salomone said. "But as the news showed more of the potential effects, I got more and more nervous."

In preparation for the inevitable, city

officials prepared thousands of crews from around the United States and Canada to help get Broward County back on the grid.

"We appreciate Gov. Rick Scott's forward-leaning decision to declare a state of emergency, which well-positions FPL as we execute our pre-storm efforts," president and CEO of Florida Power & Light (FPL) Eric Silagy said in a press conference on Sept. 5 in Juno Beach.

Hundreds of traffic signals were down due to the hurricane with only 45 percent of signals operating by the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 12 in Broward County, two days after Irma, according to FPL reports. Most roads and traffic signals were expected to be operating regularly by the following weekend.

"Our power was out for about five days," senior Aly Sheehy said. "I ended up sleeping over at my friends' houses a lot too because it was just so hot."

Despite the widespread power outages, three days after the storm, only 34 percent of customers in Broward County remained without power. FPL remarkably restored the entire county back to power by Sunday afternoon and schools were able to resume Sept. 18.

Despite accelerated recoveries, much of Hurricane Irma's damages remain problematic for South Florida residents.

"The city has been faced with a huge amount of debris related to this storm with total costs related to our response estimated at \$13 million," Coral Springs Emergency Management Coordinator Alexander Falcone said. "Of this \$13 million, a vast majority is related to debris pickup, hauling, processing and final disposal."

Not all \$13 million must be paid by the city though. President Donald Trump signed a disaster aid contract prior to Hurricane Irma that gave the Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA) the ability to grant up to 100 percent reimbursement to cities for category B work, which encompasses emergency protective measures. There is additional compensation for category A work, which is debris removal but on a smaller scale of 75 percent.

Emergency protective measures are defined by FEMA as measures taken before, during and immediately after a disaster to save lives, protect public health and safety, and protect improved public and private property.

Examples of category B work include provision of shelters or emergency care, sandbagging, removal of health and safety hazards and emergency repairs.

However, debris removal from private communities and properties cannot begin until there is approval from FEMA.

"Legally, we are unable to remove debris from privately maintained roadways, such as with HOA's and other gated communities. Recognizing that our citizens need help to remove this, we have asked FEMA to provide approval for us to remove these debris," Falcone said. "It looks like removal of this debris, including that on private property will take several weeks to complete. We anticipate FEMA approval to be issued within the coming weeks."

Despite the delay in clean-up procedures for private communities, the major obstructions in Parkland and Coral Springs were taken care of within hours after the daybreak of the storm. Major damage in Parkland included uprooted



Leading the Way. Coral Springs construction worker directs machinery through traffic. Photo by Delaney Tarr

trees and power outages, both of which were taken care of within the following week of Hurricane Irma.

"I am particularly happy with how quickly city staff removed obstructions to our rights of way to ensure emergency responders had unimpeded access throughout Parkland," Parkland Mayor Christine Hunschofsky said. "All power has long since been restored and we are in the process of the massive undertaking of picking up and removing debris from our public streets [and] public areas."

As of Oct. 4, 125,000 cubic yards of debris have been removed. Debris removal in Broward County continues to be a work in progress, and will most likely stay this way well into October.

Broward prepared for the worst of the Category 5 storm and therefore, was able to recover relatively quickly post-Irma. As time goes on and future hurricanes bound for South Florida, officials are continually searching for ways to better equip cities for potential power outages and public obstructions. Story by Christy Ma

DOUGLAS DAMAGE

MSD sustains minimal damage from Hurricane Irma

According to the U.S. National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Irma was the strongest hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic. Irma devastated the southeastern Caribbean islands early on Wednesday, Sept. 6 as a Category 5 hurricane.

In order to prepare for Irma, teachers were asked to shut down computers, turn off all devices in their classroom and disconnect their equipment from any power sources. They also needed to cover all of their technology with garbage bags. Teachers were instructed to lock their doors to prevent theft and move items in the classroom away from the windows and off of the floor.

Before the storm made landfall in Florida, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) made the decision to close schools county-wide on Thursday, Sept. 7 and Friday, Sept. 8 as a safety precaution.

When Hurricane Irma struck South Florida on Sunday, Sept. 10, it was a Category 3 hurricane with wind speeds peaking at 89 mph. Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School was not in the storm's direct path and therefore, sustained minimal damage.

During the hurricane, the most significant damage at MSD was done to the landscaping. Many leaves and

branches were ripped off of the trees due to the high wind speeds.

"The damages were mostly palm fronds, trees that fell down and we had a couple leaks," head facilities service person Eddie Suarez said.

There was also an estimated total of 15 small roof leaks in the 900 building.

Since no one was on campus during the storm, it is unclear when the power was lost, but the generator recorded that MSD was out of power for about 20 hours. The power was restored; however, the air conditioning remained nonfunctional.

"They had the air conditioning fixed within a day," Principal Ty Thompson said. "The district was good about getting out here to assess what was going on."

With the help of a 15-person custodial staff, all of the debris was raked up and collected into trash bags by Thursday, Sept. 14.

Schools remained closed for an additional week after the storm as BCPS assessed the damage to each school, made repairs, cleaned up debris and waited for power to be restored.

When BCPS reopened on Monday, Sept. 18, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) revealed that all Florida schools affected by Hurricane Irma would receive free lunch until Oct. 20.

"BCPS understands that many families are still without power across our community and are dealing with the devastating impact of Hurricane Irma. To



ensure students have access to healthy meals, the district will provide free breakfasts and free lunches to all students at all schools for the next several weeks," BCPS said in a press release on Saturday, Sept. 16.

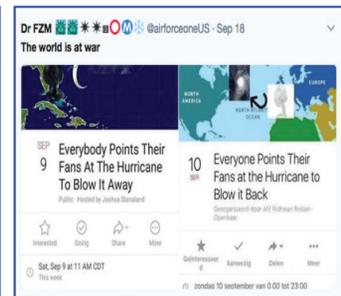
The lives of students and teachers were disrupted by the break from school due to Hurricane Irma. With BCPS closed for a total of seven school days, many things like tests, sporting events and even the homecoming dance had to be rescheduled.

"Hurricane Irma affected my school life by putting my classes behind schedule and forcing the teachers to overload us with work to get back on track," sophomore Jake Fox said.

While only time can tell how effective these measures will be, it is clear that with proactivity and a multi-tiered approach, the MSD faculty has at least created a conversation regarding a pressing school issue. Story by Dara Rosen; Photos courtesy of Ty Thompson

#IRMAGEDDEN

In face of Irma's devastation, viral memes flood social media



Infographic Design by Abby Dowd

HURRICANE SURVIVAL KIT

What you need to survive nature's most catastrophic storms

WATER NEEDS



For drinking and sanitation, store a minimum of one gallon of water per person for three days

- Never ration drinking water unless the authorities say to do so
- Drink water that you know is not contaminated first
- Do not substitute drinking water with carbonated or caffeinated beverages

WATER TREATMENTS

Boiling	Chlorination	Distillation
Boil a large kettle of water for	Using regular household liquid bleach, add	With the lid upside down, boil half a pot of water for
1	1/8	20
full minute	of a teaspoon per gallon and let it stand for 30 minutes	minutes with a cup tied to the handle of the lid

FOOD SUPPLIES

- Ready-to-eat canned meats
- Ready-to-eat canned fruits and vegetables
- Protein bars
- Dry cereal or granola
- Peanut butter
- Dried Fruit
- Canned Juices
- Non-perishable milk
- Comfort/stress foods
- Canned openers

Store at least **3** days of food

FOOD SANITATION

- DO**
- Keep food in containers with covers
 - Keep eating and cooking utensils clean
 - Discard any food that has been at room temperature for more than two hours
 - Discard food that has touched contaminated flood water

- DON'T**
- Eat food from cans that are swollen or broken, even if it looks safe to eat
 - Eat any food that looks or smells odd
 - Let garbage collect inside the house

SUPPLIES



ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES

- Prescription medications
- Glasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash
- Important family documents (such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records)
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Infographic Design by Daniel Williams