



**Department of Planning,
Zoning & Building**

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September 6, 2017

To All Construction Industry Partners:

RE: Building Division Operations Pre & Post Irma

You should be aware that a State of Emergency was declared by Governor Scott and President Trump for all of Florida due to the approach of Hurricane Irma. All State of Florida offices as well as Palm Beach County Government Offices will be closed on Friday September 8, 2017.

All contractors are hereby directed to immediately begin taking appropriate actions to prepare to weather the storm, and to limit the possibility of collateral damage while continuing normal operations. If and when a Hurricane Warning is issued for our area, all work must immediately cease except for that work that is necessary to secure your projects and sites. The ePZB system will not allow scheduling, and Division Inspection staff will not be performing inspections on permitted projects on Friday, September 8th, in order to prepare the storm.

You may be aware that the Building Division's primary role in this scenario is Preliminary Damage Assessment, a key step in identifying levels of damage in order to secure state and federal resources to begin recovery activities. As a result, normal permitting operations will be suspended immediately following the storm, and no inspections will be performed on Monday, September 11, 2017.

We will work to resume normal operations and help you to speed recovery efforts as quickly as humanly possible afterwards, depending on the severity of the storm's effects on our area.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we work to ensure your safety.

Sincerely,

Doug Wise, Building Official
Building Division Director