



## City of Mexico Beach Citizen Update As of 10/26/18

### Essential Information

- A mandatory boil water notice remains in effect for Mexico Beach
- Enhanced checkpoints remains in effect for Mexico Beach
- A new curfew of 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. with go into effect for Bay County at midnight, Oct. 26
- A burn ban remains in effect for Bay County
- For up-to-date county information, go to [www.recoverbaycounty.com](http://www.recoverbaycounty.com)

### Important Contact Information

#### Mexico Beach City Hall

To contact City Hall, please call the numbers below:

1-252-996-0660

1-252-996-0662

1-850-648-5700

#### Mexico Beach Crisis Cleanup Hotline

If you are in need of cleanup services, call 850-312-5522.

#### Florida Department of Financial Services Insurance Consumer Helpline

If you have questions about insurance, contact the Insurance Consumer Helpline at 1-877-693-5236.

### Power

BREAKING NEWS - CUSTOMERS ON THE EAST END OF MEXICO BEACH MAY BEGIN GETTING POWER TODAY AND IN THE COMING DAYS.

In an abundance of caution, please:

1. Turn off the main breakers if you can until power is restored. Duke Energy cannot go into your home to do that and they can't see inside your house
2. Properly disconnect generators especially if you have a whole house generator that is hard wired into your home
3. Be aware that power lines are being energized

Each meter has been marked with either a red or green mark. Green means the residence or business is available to receive power. Red means they will not receive power at this time. If you received a red mark, it may be because:



1. House is so badly damaged that it's clear power cannot safely be restored without major work
2. The meter or the components are damaged or missing. If so, you will need to get a state-certified electrician registered with the City (they can register onsite at City Hall but they must first be a registered with the state of Florida). Go to <https://www.myfloridalicense.com/wl11.asp> to check the status of any electrician you may be considering
3. The status was not 100% clear and it needs to be checked further. Call City Hall to schedule an inspection

Red boxes will not be turned on in an effort to prevent fires.

Duke Energy has a goal of November 3 for power restoration for those who can receive power, but the City is hoping it may be even sooner. Cross your fingers and toes, and thank you for keeping our linemen safe!

### **Fire Dept/EMS**

The Fire Department and EMS are back up and running, albeit in a reduced capacity. If you have a fire or EMS emergency please call 911. As we get power, the potential for fire is increased. Please report anything that looks out of the ordinary.

### **Water and Sewer**

BREAKING NEWS - WATER AND SEWER HAVE BEEN RESTORED TO THE AREA EAST OF 20TH STREET. However, we have turned off at the meters to prevent problems if you have a broken pipe or connection between the meter and your home.

Even when your water comes on, please understand that the whole system is not fully up. We are testing the water system for broken lines and leaks. If you have not turned off the water to your house, you should do so at this time.

If you are out of town and would like the water department to turn off your water, please call City Hall or send a private message to the City of Mexico Beach Government Facebook page. We will be working this weekend to receive service requests and to turn water on.

Please do not attempt to turn on the water yourself. We will require that someone be at the residence when we turn the water on.

### **Boil Water Notice**

A boil water notice is in effect until further notice. Do not drink water that may be coming out of the system.



- If you have utility power or generator power, bring the water to a rolling boil for at least three minutes
- If you do not have power, use bottled water or eight drops of regular, unscented household bleach per gallon of water to prepare it for cooking use
- For drinking, cooking, washing wounds, and brushing teeth, use bottled water or boiled water. Water should be held to a rolling boil for one minute.
- Bottled water is widely available throughout the City

### **Enhanced Checkpoints**

The City of Mexico Beach, initiated a series of enhanced checkpoints limiting traffic into Mexico Beach on Tuesday, October 23.

Traffic is limited at:

- Eastbound base of the DuPont Bridge on U.S. 98 in Parker
- The western city limit of Mexico Beach on U.S. 98 in Bay County
- The eastern city limit of Mexico Beach on U.S. 98 at the Gulf County line
- County 386 in the area of 15th Street; north of the City of Mexico Beach
- At the DuPont Bridge, traffic local to Tyndall Air Force Base will be directed to the right lane. Vehicles en route to Mexico Beach are directed to the left lane and must be properly authorized

Drivers to and from Gulf County should take State 22 to State 71 South into Gulf County.

The City will only be open to the following:

- Residents, Property Owners and Property Management Companies: You must have evidence of property ownership or residency (driver's license, deed, utility bill, etc.) to get your credentials. The City will provide you with a pass for your vehicle and a wristband that should be worn while in Mexico Beach. If you are already in the city, you can get a wristband and vehicle permit at City Hall beginning Tuesday, Oct. 23 in the afternoon
- Insurance Adjusters: Insurance adjusters must have a copy of their state-issued license, evidence of the company they work for and the specific appointment they are going to. Insurance adjusters will be given a single day pass
- Debris haulers who are part of the team contracted through the City of Mexico Beach: No other debris haulers will be credentialed or admitted. Credentials will be provided to the main contractor
- Credentialed volunteer teams and charities who have been approved to be in Mexico Beach: Credentials will be provided by the Volunteer Coordinator



Federal, state and local credentialed recovery officials: You will need to show evidence of your credentials but you will not need a specific Mexico Beach credential.

If you are a homeowner with a question about outside contractors, contact City Hall. Exceptions will be made in certain circumstances.

Anyone other than those in these approved groups **WILL BE TURNED AWAY** at the checkpoints.

To facilitate rapid restoration, the entrance to Mexico Beach at Highway 98 and CR 386 checkpoint will only be accessible for Duke Energy and city-contracted debris haulers at this time. We will be closely monitoring the traffic and access, and as soon as we feel it is safe to allow additional access, we will open it up.

### **Feeding/Supply Locations**

- Camp Happy Tummies, 111 22nd St. (next to City Hall) - Hours: Breakfast 8:30 a.m.; dinner at 4 p.m.
- World Central Kitchen, 1011 CR 386, 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. - Hot meals to public, volunteers and first responders;
- Mexico Beach Strong, Love in the Storm, 36th Street & Hwy 98; Hours 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. - Hot meals, water, snacks, non-perishables, bug spray, charcoal, batteries, hard hats, gloves, canned goods, tarps, dog food.
- First Baptist Church (823 N 15th St) - Tarps

Thank you to everyone who has donated supplies to Mexico Beach. The POD located at the Harmon Property is now closed, but there are still many resources in the city available to residents. First Baptist Church has personal care items, water, clothing, etc.

We have been so fortunate that so many people have donated an abundance to us! Thank you to all who did.

### **Human Services**

Showers: Facilities are available at Under the Palms Park (7th St).

Bathrooms: There are port-a-lets located throughout the City. To avoid a health issue, do not use toilets in your homes as our sewer infrastructure has had significant damage.

Medical: A medic station is set up at First Baptist Church (823 N 15th St). CVS in Port St Joe is open for prescription and nonprescription needs. St Joe Hospital is also open.

### **Cleanup Services**



In order to remove debris quickly and efficiently, please keep cars off the road.

If you need help with debris clean-up, chainsaw work, tree removal, or property clearing, call the Mexico Beach Crisis Cleanup Hotline at 1-850-312-5522 to get on the list of addresses for free cleanup.

All debris should be placed to the right-of-way next to the street but out of the road and not blocking fire hydrants, water meters or mailboxes. Do not place debris in the road or ask removal crews to remove debris from your private property. They may only remove debris from the right-of-way.

Separate debris into piles as follows:

1. Construction and demolition debris
2. Vegetation/yard debris
3. Appliances (refrigerators, microwaves, stoves, etc)
4. Vehicles
5. Boats and other types of watercraft

Household trash should be in black garbage bags. Any other type of small debris must be placed in clear garbage bags. Door-to-door trash pick up has not yet resumed.

### **Burn Ban**

Due to the high level of debris and favorable burning conditions, there is currently a burn ban in Bay County. The ban prohibits open burning, to include but not limited to campfires, wildfires, bonfires, trash burning and other similar forms of incineration. State permitted burns, authorized fireworks displays and fireworks sales which are authorized by state law and outdoor cooking in barbecue grills, smokers, or other outdoor stoves located at private residences are exempt. The ban will remain in effect until the fire-borne threat has ended.

### **Garbage**

Pickup has resumed. Place household garbage beside the road in a garbage can for pick up. Do NOT put construction debris in garbage cans - it will not be picked up.

### **Mail**

If you have a mailbox, mail delivery service has started back. If you do not want mail delivered there, you must have your mail forwarded. If you no longer have a mailbox, the Post Office will hold your mail for 30 days from the date of the storm (Oct. 10). By Nov. 10, by law they have to return your mail.

### **Personal Safety**



During national disasters, the risk of disease is increased due to unsanitary conditions and dangerous conditions.

- Use hand sanitizer, wear gloves, and take other measures to avoid infection
- Watch out for nails, sharp objects and be careful where you walk
- Many items, such as rugs and rug backing may have chemicals that will irritate your skin
- Drink plenty of water so you will not get dehydrated
- Take care of yourself and others. Watch for signs of overheating, exhaustion and dehydration

### **Volunteers**

All volunteers have been screened and vetted to protect our residents. They will be identifiable by their t-shirt logos and they will have a team leader with them. Please note that these are volunteers only and no one will ask you for payment or credit card information. Be wary of contractors coming door-to-door. These volunteers will do the same work for free.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Volunteer Florida at 1-850-414-7400 or register with volunteer groups already working in the area.

### **Check for updates on Facebook and Twitter (NEW)**

The City of Mexico Beach will use its Facebook (@CityofMexicoBeach) and Twitter (@MexicoBeachGov) pages to update residents on the latest advisories and information. Like and follow our pages to stay up to date on what's happening in our recovery. Please note that these are the only official city information pages.