



## City of Mexico Beach Citizen Update As of 10/25/18

### Essential Information

- A mandatory boil water notice remains in effect for Mexico Beach
- A curfew remains in effect for Bay County from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- A burn ban remains in effect for Bay County
- Enhanced checkpoints remains in effect for Mexico Beach
- No power, water or sewer service available in Mexico Beach at this time
- For up-to-date county information, go to [www.recoverybaycounty.com](http://www.recoverybaycounty.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.

### Water and Sewer

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. Crews from all across Florida are trying to get us up and running and are turning off water at the meter if they can access it. However, if you are home, we encourage you to turn the water off to your house so you don't get water unexpectedly.

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.

Do not use sewer at this time. Nothing should be going down drains. We are actively working to restore the water and sewer service. As a result, they need to pressurize the system and if your water is on, it can lead to problems.

### 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

### **Power Restoration**

Duke Energy and the many different crews from all over the country are working together to establish the two main feeder lines along Hwy. 98 that provide the backbone for power in Mexico Beach. Once this is complete, they will begin to hook up through the neighborhoods. Depending on where your home is, and if your home can safely receive power, it is possible that you will begin to see restoration by early next week.

When you do, please give the utility teams and the City of Mexico Beach team a shout out. It's taken tremendous partnership to coordinate so much debris removal, road reconstruction, and total infrastructure rebuilding to get to this point.

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!

### **Weather Alert**

The National Weather Service is predicting a 100 percent chance of rain on Thursday, October 25 continuing into Friday, October 26 with new rainfall amounts of up to two inches and wind gusts that could dislodge damaged trees and limbs, causing falling debris.

Tarps in Mexico Beach are available at First Baptist Church (823 N 15th St).

Shelters in Bay County remain open to the public at Deane Bozeman School, Breakfast Point Academy and Surfside Middle School.

### **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 Tummys, 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**

Shower and Laundry: Facilities are available at Under the Palms Park (7th St.) beginning 10/24.

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.

### **Personal Safety**

There is a curfew in effect in Bay County from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. We are currently without electricity, water or sewage. For public health reasons, it is not a good idea to stay in your homes overnight.

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

### **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.

### **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.