



City of Mexico Beach Citizen Update As of 10/29/18

Essential Information

- A mandatory boil water notice remains in effect for Mexico Beach
- Enhanced checkpoints remains in effect for Mexico Beach
- A curfew of 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. remains in effect for Mexico Beach
- A burn ban remains in effect for Bay County
- Early voting will take place in Mexico Beach on 11/2/18 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- For up-to-date county information, go to 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.

Utilities Bill Notice

We understand that this is a very difficult time for us all as we pick up the pieces of our homes and lives after Hurricane Michael. We have been overwhelmed by the love and support we have received, and we are working hard to restore utilities to the City.

All utility bills including water, sewer and sanitation services were suspended as of Wednesday, October 10, 2018. Customers will not receive utility bills until restoration is complete. You will not be billed for any services during the outage period.

Additionally, the October 1, 2018 bill that was issued before the storm (due 10/20) will not be subject to late fees.

We anticipate that services will be restored soon and expect to render the next bill in December for services from September 21, 2018 through November 20, 2018. Again, customers will not be billed for any services during the outage period.



The outage period ends once service is restored to your area. If you do not have any usage, you will not be billed, even after restoration occurs.

For those whose homes were destroyed or are inhabitable, please call City Hall to disconnect your utility services. The City will not disconnect until notified by the owner. Contact us at 1-252-996-0660, 1-252-996-0662 or 850-648-5700.

Please review the City letter posted on our website for more information. This notice is being mailed out to customers.

Again, we thank you for your support and understanding. We are making great progress thanks to the incredible utility crews from across the state who are working tirelessly to restore our City. The next time you see a worker, take some time to thank them for all they have done. They are miracle workers!

Power

Power has been restored to approximately 800 homes between Beacon Hill and Mexico Beach. Most of the East end of Mexico Beach is complete.

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. Debris haulers, volunteers, residents and recovery workers should practice extreme caution around lines

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!

Water and Sewer

Water and sewer has 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. If you are a resident who lives between CR 386 and 22nd Street and want your water and sewer turned on, please call 1-252-996-0660, 1-252-996-0662 or 850-648-5700 to put in a request.

Water should continue to be shut off elsewhere to prevent problems if residents have a broken pipe or connection. If you have not turned off your water, please do so immediately.

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. Please use water conservation measures at this time. Lift stations are on generators or bypass.

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 without boiling it.

- 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

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.

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

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.

Voting

There will be a one-day only early voting event at City Hall this **Friday, November 3** from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

You are not required to bring your voter information card to the early voting site.

Take a valid form of Florida identification bearing your signature, as well as a picture to the polling place since the law requires both signature and photo identification in order to vote.

Approved Forms of Identification (F.S. 101.043):

Florida Driver's License

Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

United States Passport

Debit or Credit Card

Military identification

Public Assistance I.D.



Student identification

Retirement Center identification

Neighborhood Association identification

Veteran health ID card issued by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

A license to carry a concealed weapon or firearm issued pursuant to s. 790.06, F.S.

Employee ID card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the state, a county, or municipality.

For more information on early voting, visit

<https://www.bayvotes.org/Voter-Info/Where-Do-I-Vote-What-Do-I-Need>.

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.