Hurricane Irma

Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization
Sept 21, 2017

David Ricks
Hurricane Irma

- PBC declared state of emergency on 6 Sept, midnight
- Emergency Operation Center - Level 2 operation on 7 Sept at 0700
- EOC Level 1 operation on 8 Sept at 0700
- Curfew put in place 9/9/17
- Hurricane Irma struck 9/10/17
- Evacuation lifted and curfew modified 9/11/17
- Curfew lifted 9/13/17
Hurricane Irma Watch (3-5 days)
Hurricane Watch (3-5 days)

Road & Bridge

• Stage equipment throughout the county for post hurricane cleaning
• Secure and lockdown Sand Transfer (dredging) Stations at North and South County Inlets
• Assist in moving cots to shelters in preparation for hurricane

Traffic Operations

• Take down 343 Signal heads (have inventory and reduce windload)
• Take down 22 Blankout Signs
• Prepare stop signs
• Secure Warehouse
• Secure Yard
• Secured vehicles in Vista garage
• Stage bucket trucks (based on wind direction)
Hurricane Warning
(12-24 hours in advance/Wind speed 40mph)

• Road & Bridge: Coordinate with Coast Guard to lock all bridges down
• Traffic Ops: Take bascule/drawbridge gates/signs and signal heads down
• All equipment ready to go (fueled up and charged)
• Employees informed to report to work as soon as it is safe to come back to work
During Hurricane (Wind speed >40MPH)

• All equipment ready to go (fueled up and charged)

• Employees informed to report to work as soon as it is safe to come back to work

• Staff stay at Road and Bridge and Traffic Operations Buildings to check on buildings and be deploy as soon as hurricane passes
Post Hurricane

- Fallen trees, blocked roads and down power lines
- 40% of the 3,500 lane miles PBC maintains had some level of road blockage
- 600 out of the 1200 signals without power
Post Hurricane

Road & Bridge:

• 120 + staff reported back to work
• Clear Thoroughfare and secondary roads for emergency vehicle
• Clear large debris from side of roads
• Partner with FPL to clear any open lines
• Haul debris throughout County to all SWA sites
• Inspect and clear ditches
• Monitor control structure water levels
• Check bridges, reset gates, signs, and signals
• Check dredging stations
Post Hurricane

Traffic Ops:

• 60+ staff reported back to work
• Clear roads and secure devices (major roads 1st)
• Damage assessment
• Install STOP signs at intersections w/o power
• Band-Aid phase: Restore signals with the minimum signal heads (2 for primary movement)
• Restore signals as power comes back
• Work with PB Sherriff's Office to use 15 Generators at major roads without power
• Within 5 days, 80% of traffic signals were restored and operational
Questions?