



EMERGENCY MEETING AGENDA

October 7, 2024

4:30 P.M.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. PRAYER AND FLAG CEREMONY

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ADOPTION

A. Update from John Blanchard, Emergency Management Director

B. Resolution 2024-36: Declaring a Local State of Emergency; Hurricane Milton

IV. ADJOURN

RESOLUTION 2024-36

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY; ADOPTING EXECUTIVE ORDER 24-215, ISSUED BY THE GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO THE CLERK; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the State of Florida and Baker County are experiencing an imminent threat of personal injury and property damage due to Hurricane Milton approaching Florida and the Baker County area; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Milton poses a potentially serious and imminent threat to the Baker County area, based upon the potential to create excessive rainfall which may pose a serious threat to public health and safety, and cause serious flooding, and property damage within Baker County; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of State of Florida has issued Executive Orders Numbered 24-215, declaring that a State of Emergency exists throughout the State of Florida, including Baker County as a result of the imminent threat of injury and damage from Hurricane Milton; and

WHEREAS, Baker County must take timely emergency measures, because of the heightened potential for injury or damage to life and property within the County, and the length of time required to evacuate residents from the hazards of a hurricane; and

WHEREAS, the margin of error of the National Hurricane Center's meteorological forecast does not allow for confident prediction of the location of Hurricane Milton relative to the time period required to complete an evacuation of Baker County; and

WHEREAS, certain additional specialized equipment and personnel may be required to assist in evacuation and to take protective action with regard to life and property; and

WHEREAS, other measures may have to be taken in order to mitigate the potential for causing further threatening conditions as well as extensive damage to public utilities, public buildings, public communication systems, public streets and roads, public drainage systems, commercial and residential buildings and areas; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, authorizes a political subdivision such as Baker County to declare a local state of emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Declaration of State of Local Emergency.

1. The imminent approach of Hurricane Milton, along with anticipated heavy rainfall and flooding, poses a serious threat to the health, safety, and welfare of people and property of Baker County, Florida, and that a state of local emergency is hereby declared, effective immediately, for the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Baker County.
2. The evacuation of areas or zones so determined by the County Manager as an evacuation area or zone may be ordered by the County Manager.
3. A. The County Manager is hereby given authority to:
 - i. Determine whether any specific areas or zones of the County are to be evacuated.
 - ii. Order the evacuation of all persons from all areas of Baker County designated as evacuation zones.
 - iii. Direct the sequence in which such evacuations shall be carried out, including the time any evacuations are to begin, as well as the time such evacuations are to be completed; and
 - iv. Regulate the movement of persons and traffic to, from, or within any location in Baker County to the extent needed to cope with this emergency.

B. Any evacuation order issued by the County Manager shall be in writing; immediately disseminated by all practical means so as to inform the public in the effective area; filed with the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners; and attached to and become part of this Resolution. An Order of Evacuation shall become effective upon execution by the County Manager. The County Manager shall have the authority to amend, rescind, or terminate any evacuation order.
4. The County Manager is hereby empowered and authorized to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the County by law or Ordinance pertaining to any action designated in Section 252.38, Florida Statutes.
5. The County Manager is further empowered to carry out all emergency responsibilities delegated by the Governor to the political subdivisions of the State.
6. All State and/or local business licenses, vendors, merchants, and any other person operating a retain business in Baker County, are hereby prohibited from charging more than the normal average retail price, for any goods, materials, or services sold during the duration or any extension of the declaration of emergency.
7. State of Florida Executive Orders Numbered 24-215, attached hereto, are hereby adopted, and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Direction to Clerk.

The Clerk shall record this Resolution in the Public Records of Baker County, Florida and shall transmit a certified copy to the Baker County Property Appraiser.

Section 3. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in effect for seven (7) days unless extended pursuant to Section 4. of this Resolution or rescinded by the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 4. Authorization to Extend.

The Board of County Commissioners recognize the circumstances and conditions which necessitate the foregoing Resolution may extend beyond seven (7) days, and therefore, the Board of County Commissioners hereby authorize Chair Croft to extend the local State of Emergency in her sole discretion. Any subsequent extension shall be reported to the Board of County Commissioners at the following regularly scheduled Board of County Commission meeting.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting, by the Board of County Commissioners of Baker County, Florida, this 7th day of October 2024.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMISSIONERS
BAKER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
James Croft, Chair

ATTEST:

Stacie Harvey,
Clerk of Court

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 24-215

(Emergency Management – Amending Executive Order 24-214 – Tropical Storm Milton)

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2024, I issued Executive Order 24-214, declaring a state of emergency for thirty-five counties across the State of Florida due to the dangers presented by Tropical Storm Milton; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2024, Tropical Storm Milton continues to strengthen, and is forecast to undergo significant to rapid intensification over the next seventy two hours as it moves eastward over the central and eastern Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the forecast indicates that Tropical Storm Milton will be at or near a catastrophic major hurricane upon landfall along the Florida West Coast, accompanied by life-threatening storm surge and severe wind gusts for the Florida Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to Executive Order 24-214 is necessary because recovery efforts and those affected by this disaster require the continued support of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, as Governor of Florida, I am responsible to meet the dangers presented to the State of Florida and its people by this emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Florida Emergency Management Act, as amended, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. Section 1 of Executive Order 24-214 is amended to read as follows:

Because of the foregoing conditions, which are projected to constitute a major disaster, I declare that a state of emergency exists in Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Glades, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwanee, Taylor, Union, and Volusia counties.

Section 2. Except as amended herein, Executive Order 24-214 is ratified and reaffirmed.

Section 3. This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall expire upon the expiration of Executive Order 24-214.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 6th day of October, 2024.

RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

2024 OCT 06 10:01:15
STATE OF FLORIDA
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA