

Hurricane Milton 2024
10.5.2024 through 10.12.2024

HURRICANE MILTON- AFTER ACTION REPORT/IMPROVEMENT PLAN

October 2024

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

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4. Points of Contact:

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Summary

This is an after action review regarding the Lee County Sheriff's Office IMT activation and response to Hurricane Milton, which impacted Lee County, Florida October of 2024. Operations included initial deployment and manpower, flood water rescues, traffic control operations, management of shelters, site security, interactions with other public safety entities to include EMS, Lee County EOC and Lee County Fire, Incident Management Team operations, employee assistance operations, demobilization and the return to normal operations.

The objective of preserving life and safety, maintaining and sustaining law enforcement operations, pre and post storm, with the return to normal operations as soon as practical were the primary target goals. Additional mission objectives included, maintaining safe environments for Lee County residents during the restoration of county operations while quickly handling all law enforcement or public safety related issues, assisting county partners with damage assessment throughout the community, and provide continuous public communication and information relating to recovery efforts.

The purpose of this report is to analyze operations results, identify strengths to be maintained and built upon, identify potential areas for further improvement, and support development of corrective actions.

Major Strengths

The major strengths identified during this operation are as follows:

- Pre-storm mobilization of the Employee Assistance Program which provided hurricane preparations to on duty personnel, allowing them to focus on the mission objective.
- Lee County Sheriff's Office Incident Management Team effectively staged necessary assets within the precincts, which lead to immediate availability without mission delays. The implementation of the Major Asset Log provided accurate tracking of assets throughout the mission. Additionally, live asset accountability through tracking devices for real time and accurate locations of major assets immediately alleviated any miscommunication.
- Assigning agency personnel who have special skill sets and who are needed for specialized missions, such as the CDL drivers, to the Incident Management Team provided an immediate response to critical missions.
- The Incident Management Team efficiently obtained any requested assets, personnel, equipment and sustenance needs, providing continued mission progression.
- Agency personnel, at all levels, quickly adapted to significant operational challenges with very few mission disruptions.

- Communication between Lee County Sheriff's Office personnel and government entities, Emergency Operations Centers and Public Safety Partners, remained open, active and consistent throughout the mission. Professionalism between Lee County Sheriff's Office personnel and the responding government entities was recognized.

Primary Areas for Improvement

Throughout the operation, opportunities for improvement in Lee County Sheriff's Offices operations were identified. The primary areas for improvement, including recommendations, are as follows:

- The Lee County Sheriff's Office would benefit by obtaining digital anemometers to have real time, and accurate, measures of wind speed by a specific geographical location versus inaccurate estimated wind speed for a large general area. The accurate reading of wind speed, for the specific area, would improve the Incident Management Teams ability to safely recall and redeploy personnel and assets.
- Supervisors should conduct daily inspections of their subordinates Hurricane Logs to ensure forms are thorough, accurate and turned in daily, with the corresponding hours properly reflected into the Time and Attendance program.
- During an emergency activation, ensuring the Incident Management Team has the full ability to schedule and reassign personnel, as determined by mission needs.
- The Incident Management Team member coordinating shelters should attend the walk through of the designated shelters. This will provide the Incident Management Team member a clearer understanding of the shelter needs and would establish efficient communication between IMT and the shelter liaison. Due to the high amount of personnel seeking shelter within Lee County, it is recommended to staff at least one supervisor at each shelter for the accurate and continuous reporting of shelter needs.
- The need for additional assets throughout the county, and the frequent movement of assets during the emergency due to the rapidly changing environmental conditions provided the need for additional agency pickup trucks for more effective asset movement.
- Due to the large geographical area of coastal and barrier islands subject to flooding, there was a need for additional prearranged high water vehicles for rescue mission operations.

Operation Details

Operation Name

Hurricane Milton 2024

Type of Operation

Full scale IMT activation/operation

Operation Start Date

October 5, 2024

Operation End Date

October 12, 2024

Hurricane Milton Landfall

October 9, 2024

Duration

8 days

Location

Lee County, Florida

Mission

Life, safety and property preservation. Disaster response and normalization of operations coupled with large event management involving multiple local, state and federal government entities.

Participating Units

Incident Management Team full activation, full mobilization of Lee County Sheriff's Office resources and all personnel.

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