

Charlotte County Sheriffs Office

After Action Report Report

Incident Details

Date Received 10/04/2024

Entered By Law Enforcement
Captain Darrell
Caparo - 230

Date/Time of Occurrence 10/04/2024 08:00

Date/Time Entered 11/26/2024 09:02

Record ID Number 5412

Case No DR-4834-Milton

IA No AAR2024-035

Charlotte SO [Pending
BlueTeam 6 Assigned assignment]

Investigator

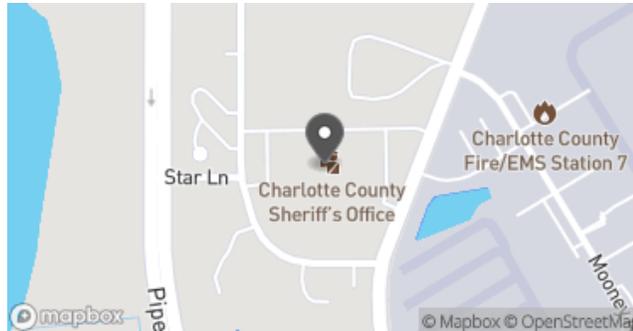
IAPro Assigned Unassigned
Investigator

Incident Location

Location of Occurrence Charlotte County

7474 Utilities Road
Punta Gorda, FL, 33982

-82.00356, 26.92152



Precinct: District 4

Incident Summary

On October 4, 2024, Charlotte County began to monitor and prepare for Tropical Disturbance 38. The reports indicated that the storm would be a very big rainmaker. Predictions were to have 8+ inches and it was not unlikely that we would see double digit numbers and could see winds up to 30mph. There were many areas that were compromised from Hurricane Helene that would see flooding as well as other areas that are prone to flood from heavy rains. This could again cause people to become trapped in homes and vehicles.

At that time, all essential CCSO personnel were put on standby. Depending on what the future forecast were from the storm and calls for service. Those who have trucks were instructed to leave them at their assigned district beginning Sunday 10/06. ERT members were asked to assure that all equipment and gear was ready. We then began to work on trying to get additional assets to assist in water rescues should the need arise.

In preparation of the storm, Operational Support purchased six (6) Jon boats and necessary safety supplies and paddles for each. These were intended for quick deployment to flooded residential areas where families may need rescue from homes like seen with Helene. Two (2) were staged at D3. Two (2) were staged in the jail sally port for D4 and another two (2) were stored at D1.

On October 5, 2024, Tropical Disturbance 38 was upgraded to Tropical Depression 14 as further development had occurred overnight. It was expected

to strengthen to tropical storm intensity the same day and intensify further prior to landfall. Charlotte County was within the 5-day cone and watches were expected within the next 24 to 36 hours. With the increased intensity, storm surge, damaging winds and flooding rainfall were all potential impacts for our area. The cone stretched from the Big Bend to the Keys and rapid intensification was possible.

As of 6:25 pm the storm was upgrade to Tropical Storm Milton and had Charlotte County within the 5-day cone for what it was being forecasted to make landfall on the Florida west coast as a major Hurricane (Cat 3). National Hurricane Center had indicated that several of their more reliable models were indicating further intensification. Storm surge forecasts would not be issued until closer to landfall. Further reporting that landfall did not need to occur in our area to bring about life threatening storm surge.

The Governor signed Executive Order # 24-214.

On October 6, 2024, 12:30 pm, Hurricane Milton had sustained winds at 65 mph moving at 5 mph. It was expected to become a hurricane later in the day. The current track had moved further south with the center of the cone at the Manatee/Sarasota border. Milton was still expected to be a major hurricane and remain hurricane status as it traveled through the state and into the Atlantic. Surge predictions were expected to be at 10+ feet. Mandatory A/B evacuations would begin on Monday, Oct. 7th, and shelters would open on Tuesday Oct. 8th. Schools would be closed Tuesday, Oct. 8th through – Thursday, Oct. 10th.

The Sheriff reported that we would begin A/B shifts the morning of Tuesday, Oct. 8th for all essential personnel. At 6:00 pm both night shift squads would report for duty. Members would be sequestered until released. All Details from Tuesday through Thursday were canceled. Those in specialty units would report to their hurricane assignment.

At 2:00 pm the National Hurricane Center had issued their first storm surge inundation graphic. Storm Surge continued to be the biggest concern, though damaging winds and flooding rainfall remained likely impacts. A good deal of uncertainty remained on the eventual landfall site.

To track storm related issues better, Public Safety Manager, Melanie Bailey developed new dispatch codes.

Dispatch Codes:

FIRE: 54PL - power lines, 54F Flooding of homes and vehicles

LEO: 54A - alarms received during the storm, 54WC – well-being checks for after the storm (people stuck in their flooded homes), 54FV Flooded vehicles.

At 3:50 pm the following sites were announced as shelters:

Kingsway Elementary School - 23300 Quasar Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33980

Neil A Armstrong Elementary - 22100 Breezeswept Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Liberty Elementary School - 370 Atwater St, Port Charlotte, FL 33954

Recreation Center - Harold Avenue Park - 23400 Harold Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33980

New Day Christian Church – Special Needs Shelter - 20212 Peachland Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33954

At 5:30 pm Milton became a hurricane. It had again shifted further to the south. It was expected to reach cat 4 strength on Oct. 7th. Most likely arrival time of storm force winds would begin around 8:00am Wednesday Oct. 9th. It had the potential to grow in size and moved at a speed of 10-15 mph. 5"-10" of rainfall with 15" in some areas.

On October 7, 2024, the National Hurricane Center issued their first Hurricane and Storm Surge Watches at the 0500 advisory, which included Charlotte County. The Peak Surge forecast was issued at that time as well, indicating 5' to 10' for Englewood south and 8' to 10' for areas north.

EOC was activated and was being staffed 24/7. The Sheriff's Office began to prepare and create Mission Requests within EOC in preparations of the storm, this included fuel and personnel.

As of 11:50 am the storm continued to wobble back and forth. It was a cat 4 and would reach cat 5 later in the day and expected to grow in size. The surge for Englewood had been increased to 8'-12' and Charlotte Harbor 5'-10' and might be increased later in the day. The State response was still very much focused on St Pete/Tampa.

As preparations continued the following post storm response was planned for staging and assignments of commanders:

Staging was approved with DOT for the rest area at Jones Loop Rd. and I-75, Campground at Jones Loop Rd. and Piper Rd., Bert's Harley Davidson, Fairgrounds, and District 1 – base camp for responding units.

Post storm: Dowling/Baras/Sousa to staging.

Caparo assigned to EOC & SAR.

Hertenlehner/White/Clemens – S & R, with ERT, Narcs, SRO, and Civil.

Recovery: Hertenlehner/White/Clemens - repair teams & relief efforts.

At approx. 6:00 pm, Hurricane Milton was a Cat 5 with 180mph winds and might go down in history as the strongest and most destructive storm. Surge predictions were increasing and the flooding around our county was thought to be substantial. Search and Rescue plans began for post storm. All hospitals began closing and evacuating. Hurricane Milton was still expected to make landfall on the Florida west coast as a major hurricane sometime Wednesday, Oct. 9th.

On October 8, 2024, 7:00 am briefing from NWS Tampa. Hurricane Milton was downgraded to a Category 4 storm with sustained winds of 145mph. A slight shift south in the track had occurred over the past two advisories, which brought the potential for an increased storm surge threat. The flooding rainfall threat had increased with the current forecast indicating widespread rainfall of 5" to 12" and localized amounts of 18" possible.

Due to the suspected increase in storm surge the following shelters were abandoned: Neil A Armstrong Elementary, Liberty Elementary School, and New Day Christian Church. Additional shelters were opened at Babcock Field House

and Babcock School.

At approx. 11:40 am the center of the storm cone was just below Tampa Bay. The storm continued to wobble back and forth. Surges were estimated to be 10'-15' from Tampa to Englewood and 6'-10' in Charlotte Harbor. At that time there were discussions about a possible Zone C evacuation which was a majority of the County.

At approx. 6:00 pm Hurricane Milton had slowed down and had strengthened to a Category 5 once again. Earliest expected sustained tropical winds were estimated between 5pm and 8pm on Oct. 9th. The storm was expected to grow, possibly double in size before it made landfall. With that, surge estimates were raised. Tampa to Englewood 10'-15' and Charlotte Harbor through all of Lee, 8'-12'.

October 9, 2024, at 5:30 pm Hurricane Milton began interacting with windshear as predicted. It reduced the strength to a strong Cat 3 but had also increased the size of the storm. Landfall was predicted to be Manatee County. The Eye had passed Charlotte County, and the wind began picking up and pushing the water into our area. Tornadoes were reported touching down all over the State. A plan was in place for Search and Rescue efforts. At approx. 6:15 pm emergency response ceased operations during sustained tropical storm force winds and resumed upon the decreasing of TS winds at approx. 3:30 am on October 10, 2024.

Hurricane Milton evidentially made landfall on October 9th at approx. 8:30 pm near Siesta Key in Sarasota, Florida as a Category 3 Hurricane.

On October 10, 2024, at approx. 6:30 am Support Services personnel and other ancillary units met at three staging locations to begin Search and Rescue efforts (See Blue Teams After Action SAR Report). The impacts of the storm turned out to be nothing like predicted for Charlotte County and areas of Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco, were hardest hit. Charlotte County still had much damage and power outages, mostly in West County. A/B shifts were maintained for law enforcement, modified for communications, and the Jail returned to normal operations. A curfew remained in effect as well and non-essential staff were advised to return to work on Monday, October 21, 2024. Ancillary units' schedules were adjusted to provide patrols and security in the areas hardest hit by the storm and flood waters, mainly coastal and Barrier Island areas of District 1.

On October 11, 2024, the curfew was modified from 12:01 am to 6:00 for the county and from 9:00 pm to 6:00 am for the barriers Islands, so that business could began to operate during their normal hours.

On October 12 at 6:00 am A/B shifts were canceled, patrol and investigations returned to their normal schedules. A Watch Commander was also designated for 24-hour coverage throughout the weekend until the morning of October 14, 2024.

On October 16, 2024, the curfew was lifted for the county. An email was sent to commanders to provide feedback regarding any issues we faced during the

storm. Below are the responses:

Concerns

Shelters:

Shelter locations changing. There was concern about the shelters which were opened and then closed, citizens and LEO had to be relocated to another shelter causing confusion amongst the public and law enforcement providing security. Identifying designated shelters with generators in non-flood zones for first responders so that equipment and other items can be secured outside of the public's access.

This occurred because of the elevated storm surge evacuations as the storm track shifted. It was suggested to locate shelters which are outside of flood zones. Unfortunately, these are limited within Charlotte County. This information was passed onto Commanders.

Shelter staffing issues, Bailiffs required to provide security while Justice Center was still operational, Bailiffs did not have enough staff to man all shelters. Suggestion to utilize SRO's in schools designated as shelters until Justice Center closes. May also need to use some SRO's for security as more shelters had opened.

We can work on this to assist all involved.

EMS not stationed at two of the shelters (Harold Recreational Center and Kingsway Elementary).

Will address in EOC After Action Meeting.

No Mental Health Teams at shelters.

Will work with Captain Heck to see if we are able to accommodate with the IRIS Unit.

Communications:

Agency computers within the offices worked well along with radios. There were some communication issues with cellular service and laptop connectivity due to issues with Verizon.

Director Catlin has been working with Verizon to address issues since Hurricane Ian. He continues to attend regular meetings with them and several upgrades have occurred working on solutions.

Equipment:

Watertight boxes to keep documents – Can be obtained through budget.

Waders for protection – Can be budgeted for.

Bailiff's need extra battery they are only assigned one. Also, chargers for their radios.

Can be budgeted for and obtained through Detention.

Recommended Training:

Water Rescue

High Water Vehicle usage (ERT Planning and need to invite other ancillary units)

Body removal and death investigations under critical events

WebEOC

Facilities:

Quieter sleeping space at EOC

JIC needing more room

No proper secured shelter for members in District 5

Staffing:

Communications at District Level – District Commanders were counting on ancillary units for staffing which were pulled for SAR and other assignments post storm. This was discussed during briefings and passed along. The Support Services Commander will also make this part of the All-Hazard Plan for Hurricanes, moving forward.

Overall, Commanders reported moral was good and everyone had good attitudes before, during, and after storm. Everyone was willing to work together for response to the hurricane. Even though we did not get the storm surge we originally thought, we were better prepared for Hurricane Milton. Utilizing purchased assets (Jon boats, UTVs, and ATVs) was a benefit to the Search and Rescue efforts, as most people heeded warnings to evacuate, making the SAR efforts easier to conduct. Commanders also reported that communication with EOC was excellent and the process of completing Mission Request were so much easier and efficient then in the past. Submitted Mission Request were completed and fulfilled in a timely manner making each transition from the storm flow much better before, during and after the storm.

Crisis Details

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Reporting Employees

Law Enforcement Captain Darrell Caparo - 230

(Data at the time of incident)

Assignment	Law Enforcement Captain Law Enforcement/Admin/Finance/Administration- Finance/Administration-Finance
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Video Footage	—
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Role	—
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Height	—
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Weight	—
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Injuries Sustained By Employee

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Involved Employees

Law Enforcement Captain Darrell Caparo - 230

(Data at the time of incident)

Assignment	Law Enforcement Captain Law Enforcement/Admin/Finance/Administration-Finance/Administration-Finance	
Video Footage	Not-Issued	
Policy Outcome	Within policy	
Role	Reporting Employee	
Height	—	
Weight	—	
Additional Snapshot Data	Officer was off-duty	No
	Officer was employed off-duty	No
	Officer was in uniform	Yes

Injuries Sustained By Employee

No injuries noted or visible

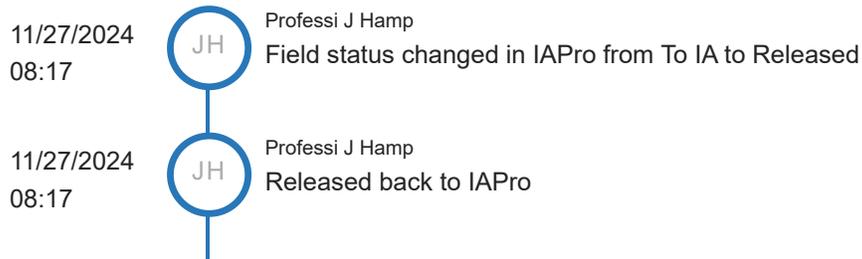
Points

Attachments

Date Attached	Attachment Description	Attachment Type
11/26/2024	LSE extension 2024-175	pdf
11/26/2024	Pending missions	xlsx
11/26/2024	EO 24-214	pdf
11/26/2024	Logistic Phones	pdf
11/26/2024	Initial Push Roads	docx
11/26/2024	Baras Hurricane Milton After Action	docx
11/26/2024	EOC Situation Reports - CCSO - Milton	docx

Date Attached	Attachment Description	Attachment Type
11/26/2024	Casano AAR	pdf
11/26/2024	Hall Hurrigan Milton AAR BLANK	docx
11/26/2024	Curfew Order 2024-174 Oct 11 2024	pdf
11/26/2024	Island School (BG) School Information	docx
11/26/2024	M Bailey After Action Report- Milton 2024	doc
11/26/2024	McDonald Hurrigan Milton After Action	docx
11/26/2024	Milton Calls for Service	pdf
11/26/2024	Curfew Order 2024-173	pdf
11/26/2024	County Local SoE Resolution 2024-171	pdf

Assignment History



Chain of Command History