

Gov. DeSantis (00:00):

Here today, I'm really happy that we have our First Lady, Casey DeSantis, who's been doing a lot of great work. Our Chief Financial Officer, yeah, she gets

Gov. DeSantis (00:11):

Our Chief Financial Officer, Jimmy Patronis, our head of the division of Emergency Management, Kevin Guthrie, Shevaun Harris, Florida Secretary for the Department of Children and Families, Dane Eagle, uh, Lee County Native Secretary, Department of Economic Opportunity, Melanie Griffin, Secretary of DBPR. And we've got local officials and other folks. And we're gonna announce these, uh, these recovery centers here and elsewhere in a moment. Uh, first I was in Pine Island for the first time today since the storm hit. I had flown over it and seen damage, but we were in a situation where that bridge had been severed from the mainland and there was, um, talk about what to do. Uh, some of those folks were told to just, they're gonna have to get off the main, the island, but that's not the way they live. And so they asked us for support to help devise a solution. And so we looked to do, uh, maybe ferry people, but I'm like, You know what? Let's just patch this bridge. So it turns out, uh, we're gonna have that bridge patch this week, so they're gonna be able to go and access.

Gov. DeSantis (01:22):

And that means, and I, and I went when I visited the Publix. Publix is just giving away all their perishable items. They're gonna open as soon as the bridge is, uh, back. They have generator, they're gonna be back open on Pine Island, and they're gonna be bringing their supplies in. So that's gonna be really, really important to be able to get, get that, uh, component done. I will say probably saw more debris on Pine Island than any place I'd been other than Fort Myers Beach. Uh, the electrical had poles down, you had other, other, um, lines down. And so no one had done anything about the power there. So today when I went, we also had brought over via Chinook helicopters. We brought over linemen to be starting the work on the electrical there. And so that's gonna be,

Gov. DeSantis (02:16):

And that's gonna be important. And we wanna do the same thing for Sanibel as well. So there's a contract now being bid on for a contractor to come and patch the causeway. Now, that's a little bit more difficult fixed than Pine Island, cuz it's broken in multiple ways. But I think you can get a temporary solution there to be able to restore access to Sanibel and Captiva. And I think that will also, uh, help with, with the recovery efforts and the restoration efforts. I've not been on the ground yet in Sanibel, flown over it a couple times. I'm gonna probably go tomorrow and, and look firsthand. But my sense is, is if it's similar to Pine Island, you know, we just need more linemen there. We need to debris clear. I know the, the guards been there clearing the roads, but very, very important, uh, that we do that because you've got all this stuff going on and it's, and, and this, what we're doing here, important. Our view at the state level is you do all this stuff on parallel tracks.

Gov. DeSantis (03:13):

You don't wait until one thing's done and then begin to start the next. We know we have to do all these, so let's start 'em all and move 'em forward. So as part of that effort, uh, Kevin Guthrie, uh, we're gonna start having on each of these barrier islands, Pine Island, Captiva, some of the others, a command and control element on the island so that all this stuff can be coordinated there. They need something, then we obviously can be there. So that's gonna be something that's very, very significant and it'll really help get those barrier islands, uh, going, uh, uh, back in a better direction. So I'm proud that we were able to

do that. I was also in Charlotte County. You know, we've got people from all over this country that have come in to help people all throughout Florida, but particularly in southwest Florida.

Gov. DeSantis ([03:59](#)):

One of the charity organizations, there is a group, uh, outta Kansas City called Operation Barbecue. And if you want barbecue being outta Kansas City is not a bad place to be from. And so they're serving hot meals for people and they're distributing a bunch. People can come in a line individually, and it's really making a big difference. Um, I will say in Charlotte County, you know, in, in Port Charlotte where we're at, you know, there there's debris, there's been damage, and so folks need, need all the help they can get. So I'm really, uh, happy to see the, um, uh, the, the private organizations. And the first lady's been involved, of course, in the FloridaDisasterfund.org, if she's gonna say something about that in a minute. But I think it's been really remarkable, the number, I think Chick-fil-A is here today, right? They have the Chick-fil-A truck in town, uh, if not today, tomorrow.

Gov. DeSantis ([04:50](#)):

And a lot of these other companies have been really, really good. I also, you know, we've been very clear that in situations like this, we're not gonna let bad actors exploit them. Uh, that means law and order will be enforced. That means individual Floridians right to defend themselves and their homes will be honored. And, uh, we've had four looters that were arrested, uh, I guess a couple days ago and, and they need to be brought to justice and we're not gonna tolerate it. But, you know, three of the four are illegal aliens. And so these are people that are foreigners. They, they're illegally in our country. And not only that, they try to loot and ransack in the aftermath of a natural disaster. I mean, they should be prosecuted, but they need to be sent back to their home country. They should not be here at all.

Gov. DeSantis ([05:49](#)):

So we've now had more than 2300 rescues in our urban search and rescue teams with more than a thousand, thousand personnel have gone door to door to 79,000 structures to check on occupants. Um, you know, this is something that's really, really significant. There's more urban search and rescue capability in Florida since this storm than has ever been in one place in one state, uh, since 9/11 when they were in New York City. And so it shows you, I think that the dedication, but part of that is we've actually put money in Urban Search and rescue in Florida on this most recent budget. Did a huge increase for them because we saw with Surfside how important it is to have that capability. So we're glad that we were doing that. Uh, we also did this, this most recent budget year, uh, under my direction and working with the legislature, Florida, we created a disaster relief fund, \$500 million that's in the state budget.

Gov. DeSantis ([06:49](#)):

So we're planning for things like this. You know, you pray that they don't happen, but you've gotta be ready in case they do. So that 500 million is what we're using, is what we use to do the ramp up to pre-stage and do everything we did that it's also where we're taking money from to to, to defray the cost of these additional linemen coming in to get the power back on. You know, in Hurricane Michael, there was like a hissing contest about who's gonna get the reimbursement or who's gonna be on the hook. And so some of the efforts were slower. And what I'm saying is, look, I'll be on the hook for it. That's fine. We'll use our disaster fund to do these reimbursements. We'll work it out somehow, but I wanna surge people here. So you have a thousand linemen statewide from the co-op association throughout

Florida that came, and then Duke Electric, they're doing 2,500 to 3,500 people surging down after they've completed their efforts in other part of the state.

Gov. DeSantis ([07:46](#)):

So this is a massive number of people, and that's what I wanna see. We want to be able to get, get the power back on. I mean, there's been, uh, there's been a lot of progress, uh, on the FPL side. Now we're looking to see, I think you'll see the, uh, LCE start to see some progress. And it's very, very important for people. Uh, there's better water now through most parts of the county. Not, not every part, but they had all these water mains had broke. You know, Kevin Guthrie sent some this engineering firm. You got guys from MIT working on the water down here in Lee County. And that's what we wanna see. If you have, everyone has access to electricity or at least the homes that can receive it, There are gonna be some homes that were damaged so much they can't receive electricity.

Gov. DeSantis ([08:26](#)):

So that's a separate problem. But assuming your home could receive it, you, if you have electricity and the water and all that, you know, that's a huge, huge part of, of being able to be in a better spot. So we think that that's really, really important. We also understand, yes, get those key things, the infrastructure, all that, but then there's individuals that have individual needs for different types of assistance. Maybe insurance claim, maybe it's FEMA relief, maybe you need charity help. So all of that, that is why we work to do what we're doing here today. So FEMA has been working with us, Jimmy Patronis has taken the lead on insurance. Dane Eagle and his team at the Department of Economic Opportunity and really mobilizing all applicable state agencies are here to get today to set up the first Disaster Recovery Center in Fort Myers.

Gov. DeSantis ([09:18](#)):

And just to put this in perspective, this is less than a week from the storm hitting and you have the DRCs that are set up. Uh, so this is something that we move very quickly on. I started paddling about this to Kevin, like literally, um, Friday after the storm. And he's like, We're doing it. And, but I mean, we really want to accelerate because we understand people have apprehension. We want to go in if they need help. Now, you don't need to come to this to get FEMA. You can sign up on the website, you can call the number. And same with your insurance companies. They're all here. You don't have to do that national flood insurance program. I think they have representatives here. If not, they will shortly. You can do that apart from this. But if you have questions and things, and then our programs here will be one stop shop.

Gov. DeSantis ([10:02](#)):

So we have a total of 10 state and federal agencies that are on site to help. Uh, FEMA is helping with individual assistance claims, as well as temporary housing assistance. I met some folks at the shelter last night whose homes were destroyed. I'll tell you though, their spirit was remarkable. I mean, they were thanking me and the Red Cross and everybody more than they were, uh, concerned about their own misfortune. They felt very fortunate to have a lot of support, which was really a great attitude to have. Uh, but it was a really difficult experience. And so there's gonna be some people that are gonna need some solutions, uh, for at least the short term to be able to get in a good spot. And so we understand that and FEMA will be a big part of that. Uh, DEO here in the state of Florida is helping with things like disaster re-employment assistance, small, uh, business damage survey, and small business emergency bridge loans.

Gov. DeSantis ([10:58](#)):

So I activated today the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program. We've made \$50 million available. Um, and we've, uh, put aside 10 million of that for agriculture, uh, businesses, small businesses that have been impacted by Hurricane Ian in Charlotte, your DeSoto, Flagler, Glades Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsboro, Lee Manatee, Monroe, Orange, Ocala, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. John's, and Volusia Counties. So what this program does in terms of the loans, it gives short term zero interest loans to small businesses that experience economic injury or physical damage due to Hurricane Ian. So if your, if your business got damage, you can't be in business until it gets fixed. You can get a bridge loan to get you through there. Uh, some people may not have access to, um, to electrical. Obviously there's certain things with these barrier islands you may not physically be even be able to get there. Uh, although we'll fix that with these bridges. So there's gonna be a great, great, uh, uh, support for that. And we're really happy about that. So you can apply starting right now and that application goes through December 2nd, 2022 or until all available funds are expended. And we'll see if this is something that is a, a bigger need for, you know, we were able to secure because we actually run the state properly and we had the economy open. We've got the largest budget surplus in the history of the state of Florida. So we have the ability,

Gov. DeSantis ([12:34](#)):

So we have the ability to up the ante on that program if we need to. And I know if there's things we need to do, legislatively, I know the legislature will want to be there and will want to help. So, so we'll, we'll meet the needs. Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is here to help Floridians who lost their identification in the storm. You can apply for and get a driver's license and other IDs right here at the Disaster Recovery Center. Uh, our DBPR agency will help Floridians with any individual and business licensure issues. The Small Business Development Council will be to help council small businesses on the ways available to support for support and recovery. CareerSource Florida is here to help Floridians with individual employment and workforce training needs. You know, our unemployment rate prior to the storm was 2.7%. Nationwide is 3.7%.

Gov. DeSantis ([13:28](#)):

There's still an awful lot of opportunity in this state. This area will bounce back, I think, very quickly and we're gonna make sure that, um, but if you need, uh, different different job opportunities, they're there in Florida. Uh, and they're gonna help you put you, put you where you need to be. CFO Patronis, uh, is co-locating his insurance village right here so people can get help with their insurance claims. I saw these trucks of these insurance companies, so you'd be able to go and do that. And remember if you had wind damage, roof damage, things like that, trees falling on your home, that's probably gonna be your homeowner's policy. If your house flooded, that's probably gonna be something under the National Flood Insurance Program. If you didn't have flood policies, your homeowners may not cover. I mean, I think that's gonna be, uh, a difficult thing if you have people that were not in a flood zone, were not required to get it, were told they didn't need it, uh, but then their house ends up flooding anyways. And so, but nevertheless, uh, both of those are here. The private homeowners as well as the flood we have here at the DRC, five of Elon Musk Starlink devices.

Gov. DeSantis ([14:40](#)):

So when you're coming through, you're waiting in line, you're able to, uh, do do the internet. You can make phone calls, text message, all that will be here. Uh, Department of Emergency Management is working to establish additional disaster recovery centers in southwest Florida by the end of the week.

Today's opening, the center is possible because we did a really major mobilization before the storm came to make sure that everything was pre-stage for food, water supplies to be able to do that. Uh, so we had right after landfall on 3:00 AM on the 29th, uh, we had bulk commodities coming in to the most affected community. Charlotte, Lee, Sarasota in particular. We had a pod set up, uh, when Saturday morning, Friday, Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, uh, very quickly after the storm left the state at the end of Thursday. So, so that's a very quick turnaround.

Gov. DeSantis ([15:38](#)):

And you have 27 pods now. Uh, Sarasota actually just closed three and moved their supply. To there is need. That's actually a good sign when the county's saying, we don't, we don't need the pod in this location anymore cuz that means people are, are likely, uh, getting what they need without the pods. Uh, we've relocated two of the pods that Sarasota did no longer need one to DeSoto in an additional one in Lee. And we're seeing if there's any other additional areas with needs across our pods in the impacted areas. There've been more than 3.2 million meals deployed, 18 million bottles of water and 87,000 bags of ice just to South Florida alone. So that's a really, really significant effort.

Gov. DeSantis ([16:27](#)):

Non non-profit organizations, Florida Baptist Disaster Relief, Red Cross, World Central Kitchen, uh, they're here helping, and a lot of them are doing hot meals for folks. They're actually doing hot meals on Pine Island. I saw they're bringing in supplies on the boat and they're cooking hot meals for those. So very resourceful, very happy to see that. I did mention Chick-fil-A. Does anyone know where the Chick-fil-A bus is? I mean, I think a lot of people would want that. So we'll see. Um, Kevin Guthrie at my direction is deployed a mobile fueling station to Dunbar, uh, where they were struggling to find adequate gasoline. So that fueling station, uh, will allow people to be able to fill up their tanks and is, uh, really help. We did want in Arcadia, people were really happy to see that big, that big tanker show up. We have now at our, at our pods, you could get a blue tarp to put on your roof.

Gov. DeSantis ([17:21](#)):

Now fortunately, I've flown over almost every place. Most of the roofs were fine. Uh, there were some, but I thought there'd be a lot more. I think the construction in Florida's built to very good codes. Um, so I think more of the damage is water damage than, than the wind to the roof. Nevertheless, the Army Corps of Engineers has initiated Operation Blue Roof to help homeowners with temporary roof repair. So basically their Blue roof program is what a step up from a tarp, but less than a permanent solution. Yes sir. Yep. I'm prefer to talk about that. Okay, so Kevin's gonna talk about that. So as of I think, um, three o'clock, I think we're down to 3.7% of accounts that don't have power across the state of Florida. And, um, only two counties have more than 50% of their accounts without power. And as of today, Lee County is no longer one of those. So Lee County,

Gov. DeSantis ([19:00](#)):

We are, and, and in some of these other areas that have gotten hit, I mean some people have been without power for a long, long time. And so this is an important effort and wanna keep making progress. We're deploying 375 starlinks total across the impacted areas. And so that may be at a DRC, it may be at a pod, it may be someplace where businesses can use it. We really want, I'll tell you, it's really good internet and I know people have been very happy with, with the performance of it. I mentioned that the, we are gonna do the Pine Island bridge. So yesterday we had 130 FDOT trucks that were there

working to get this temporary bridge fix. And, uh, I, it will be done this week. And so that's gonna be a big deal for those folks.

Gov. DeSantis ([19:51](#)):

I mentioned Sanibel we have a request bid that's out there is gonna be some bids selected soon, and we're gonna commence with that process to do Sanibel on a temporary basis. And it's gonna require a little bit more TLC than what's happened in Pine Island, just cuz there's more breaks. But nevertheless, we're gonna do it. And I, I thought people said, well maybe do a ferry. They used to have a ferry, all this stuff, but honestly, by the time you do all that it, I could probably get this bridge done anyways. And so the state of Florida's taken the lead on that. We're happy to do that and we want to be able to do, uh, we mentioned TECO, Duke, and Florida Electric co-ops deploying the lineman here to Lee County. I think with the deployments of everything that's happened, Lee County is, uh, probably the lineman capital of the United States.

Gov. DeSantis ([20:38](#)):

I don't think there's any place where more of these guys are at, and we need that until we get, um, to as close to a hundred percent as we can. I've directed, um, Kevin Guthrie, we've got the disaster fund, we've planned for this. We will take care of the reimbursements. Don't let that be a deterrent. And don't let anyone not want to do it because they're worried about the cost. We'll handle that and we'll work it out as best that we can. Uh, we now have seen the timelines move up for the county for, for restoration estimates. And I think a lot of that is because we've, uh, we've sent surge resources here. So we're gonna continue to do it. I mentioned the water progress on the water. I want to thank Kevin Guthrie for doing that. You know, I told him he's not been getting much sleep since probably, you know, the 23rd when we did the state of emergency.

Gov. DeSantis ([21:25](#)):

And I was like, you are forbidden to have eight hours of sleep until the, until the water and the electrical are where we need it. And so he knows that. So he's got every incentive to try to get it done as soon as possible. And what, we'll also, because we have all these resources, which are great, but these resources cannot do a hundred percent of what everybody needs. So that's why we want private organizations to step up and fill some of the gap here. And the first lady has a spearheaded Floridadisasterfund.org. People have donated online, they've texted disaster to 20222 to donate that way and total. And the first lady, you'll say a little bit more, it's raised \$32.8 million. And that's, I mean, we're not even a week from when the storm met and already \$32.8 million. So, um, so she's done a great job with that. And I'll let her come up and tell you a little bit more.

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([22:27](#)):

No, thank you Governor. So I was, uh, very excited last night to take a call very late to find out that we got a \$5 million donation on top of what the governor has talked about. And I have to tell you, Governor, since you got your last report, we're now knocking on the door of \$35 million in the dollars in the Disaster Relief Fund. Uh, so listen, he talked about this massive state effort to get all of the resources here from a relief standpoint. We've been out visiting the nonprofits and the faith based organizations and meeting people firsthand. You can see that their needs are being met. Where this fund is gonna be critical is in the recovery process. And I can encapsulate this in a story from Port Charlotte. I was handing out food at a baptist ministry food kitchen, cars were coming by, had a bag in my hand and I gave it to a woman through the window.

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([23:15](#)):

Her name was Mary. And I looked in the backseat of the minivan and there were five small children back there, and they probably ranged in age from one to about six or seven. And I asked her how things were going, and she told me that they were going well, that she was getting food, and she was getting support from her neighbors. And she had the faith-based community to lean on. She went to the pods and she was able to get water and things to help her get by. She broke down into tears when she started talking about her home and the flood waters coming in. And this is why I'm asking everybody across the state of Florida and really the nation to contribute to this fund because we wanna make sure that in addition to the resources that are available from the state and the federal government and from FEMA, that we have these private sector dollars that will be utilized to help folks like Mary get back on her feet. So thank you to everyone who donated. I hope to see that this has doubled in the next week. And thank you to your generosity.

Gov. DeSantis ([24:15](#)):

You know, this is, um, things like this. We obviously pray they don't happen, but in Florida, we prepare as if it's gonna happen every year. And our state, uh, division of emergency management, uh, does the best job of any state, uh, EMs and, uh, Kevin Guthrie's, a big reason why, um, you know, this was a massive mobilization. Uh, you see all the stuff that's been brought to bear that is not easy to do without planning, without preparation, and without good execution. So, um, so he's done a great job and he's here today to give an update.

Dir. Guthrie ([24:53](#)):

Thank you. Thank you, Governor and first Lady for your dedication. I, I know for a fact the first Lady was here about 12, 13 hours on the ground yesterday. The governor's been on the phone with me nonstop. Um, and sometimes very early in the morning, uh, late at night when I'm not sleeping. So, uh, I got quite a few updates, but, uh, again, thank you Governor. Thank you first lady for your leadership to the secretaries and the CFO behind me, the secretaries that are not here. I know that, uh, Jared Perdue couldn't be with us because he's working in the field. Sean Hamilton DEP cannot be here with us today because he is working in the field and many, many others, uh, for state agency heads are actually on the ground right beside their men and women that they work for, work for them on a day to day basis, getting, uh, really great work done.

Dir. Guthrie ([25:41](#)):

Next thing I wanna do is say thank you to the states, the counties, the cities from across the country. I know I'm gonna get fact checked on this, but I'm gonna say it is estimated right now that over half the country has their logo in this state. I have walked around today. I've seen Texas, Tennessee, Ohio, Oregon, New York, and so on and so forth. We have people from all over the country here helping us today and through as long as we need it. So, again, thank you to all of those governors. Thank you to all of those emergency management directors at the state level. My counterparts, my friends, for helping us get this done. The governor's been really, really pointed with me, Kevin, no bureaucracy, no delays, don't worry about the costs, get the right thing done, and we're getting the right thing done. An example of that - reimbursement for electric.

Dir. Guthrie ([26:38](#)):

There's a lot of complicated and complex processes in FEMA to get that done, but the governor said, we're not gonna worry about that. So if you are a electrical entity, a for profit or a municipal electric

authority, send the bill to the Florida Division of Emergency Management. I know that's gonna be important to you guys, but you just need to send it to us. Don't worry about sending it to the Lee Co-op or any of the other co-ops that you're working for. Send that to us. We will take care of it and work out the paperwork on the backside. The Blue Roof mission, The Blue Roof mission for the Army Corps of Engineers. This is going to be a different type of, um, material. It's a little bit thicker. It would stand, uh, the weather a little bit better. It withstand the, um, the tarps a little, or I'm sorry, the, uh, winds a little bit better.

Dir. Guthrie ([27:22](#)):

So that has been turned on for Lee and Charlotte Counties. Another example of the governor's leadership. He had me today start writing a letter to FEMA requesting the 100% for categories A and B to be extended from 30 days to 60 days or beyond. So that will be going up to FEMA from us today. Talk about water. We are ahead of schedule on water. You may recall a few days ago, I said I want within 72 hours, 50% of the communities that can receive water to receive water within, uh, five days, 75% within seven days, a hundred percent. Here's where we're at high level very quickly. We're, we're way beyond that. Uh, 48 hours into this pinewood's water treatment plant. No substantial damage, pushing 3 million gallons, uh, per day. Green Meadows waste, uh, water treatment plant producing 8 million gallons of water per day would discharge against 65 psi.

Dir. Guthrie ([28:19](#)):

Ulga, water treatment plant. Minor flooding damage plant expects to be at 2.4 million gallons per day by the end of today with three point, uh, 3 million gallons in the coming days. City of Fort Myers water treatment plant. These, uh, wells are being run by generator. We currently are pumping 8.6 million gallons per day at 30 Psi. Lee County at the court Screw water treatment, uh, plant. The facility is currently being run on generator power. And uh, we were working to restore the, uh, permanent power that is running 60 to 70 psi. I do not have, I'm sorry, 2 million gallons per day on that particular facility. Green Meadows, we're mobilizing, uh, 4 250KW generators to increase that capacity for an additional 3 million gallons per day. Um, remote booster stations are at Minors Corner, South Reservoir, or US 41, all restoring power of those, those locations. Cape Coral, uh, per our staff is a 100% operational backup to pre-disaster.

Dir. Guthrie ([29:22](#)):

And then we're still working with Southwest, uh, Cape Coral. All the generators for the lift stations, over 100 generators have arrived and they're starting the technical install on those things today. Let's shift over here to the Disaster Recovery Center. 200, uh, 200,000 plus have already registered for FEMA assistant, and millions have already hit the street. We are already registering people on site at this location. The last thing I wanna talk about is, uh, a few things that we're doing on the islands and for some of those, uh, communities here, specifically in Lee County. As a governor's already mentioned, we are gonna establish a command and control coordination element on the Barrier Islands. We believe that that's gonna be imperative to having a very sound structure of recovery. What we will do is, at each one of these following locations, there will be a local individual that is a part of what we call Unified Command.

Dir. Guthrie ([30:18](#)):

There will be a state representative that will be a part of Unified Command. There will be a federal FEMA representative that'll be a part of that. So again, local state, federal government, no light in

between, working off the same sheet of music for everyone's benefit. That'll happen at Captiva, it'll happen at Fort Myers Beach. It'll happen at Pine Island. We're gonna call it the Upper Barrier Islands, which, uh, include Key Acosta, Boca Grande, Cabbage Key, Cepa Island, North Captiva Island. We're talking right now with Sanibel Island, Sanibel Island local government officials to ensure that they want us to do that. That's the only one that we haven't actually been able to contact, but we're confident that we're gonna be able to do the exact same thing on Sanibel Island. And that will give us five command and control complexes on the Barrier islands inside to the interior Harlem Heights.

Dir. Guthrie ([31:08](#)):

We have, uh, we understand that there's about 2,500 people that are dependent on food from a local nonprofit feeding kitchen there. We have stepped in today with Feeding Florida and other partners to pick up the gap and stand in the gap for those individuals. So we have a, we're going, we should be feeding that 2,500 by tomorrow. Uh, those resources are coming in. You've already heard about the governor. Talk about Dunbar. We are doing that as well with the, the fuel station and the food station. The last thing that I'll mentioned is, uh, we did have a request today for hospital, another joint field, ho or I'm sorry, not joint, but a mobile field hospital at the Lee, I'm sorry, Charlotte, Sarasota County line. So we will be announcing in the coming days the opening of a field hospital with emergency room services there, uh, probably within the next 72 hours until Englewood and one other hospital that I can't remember off the top of my head, get back up and running, uh, completely the hospital here in Lee County, the clinic has already opened. They've received probably in the neighborhood about 30, 35 patients. Um, however, they will be there tomorrow opening their regular hospital, which will have a capacity to go from 100 to 1000 beds if we should need that. And I should be on site there tomorrow to, uh, helping the announcement of the opening of that. We've got a soft opening already, but it will do the hard opening tomorrow morning. Thank you again, Governor. Thank you secretaries. Appreciate your help.

Dir. Guthrie ([31:08](#)):

Dane Eagle ([32:38](#)):

Well, I want to thank the governor and the first Lady for their leadership is a southwest Florida native. I've said this plenty of times, but I am just so happy and pleased to know what the response effort, it's one of the quick, quickest, most comprehensive in Florida's history, and I'm just happy to be able to be a part of it. Uh, thank you for the bottom of my heart for all the work that you are doing, and to Kevin and his teams and everybody behind me. Uh, we were tasked CEO working in collaboration with everyone here to get this up and running. So thank you to my team, uh, back home and who are here. We have dozens of people on the ground, uh, working closely to make sure that you have what you need. As the governor said, you don't need to leave your home and come here. You can do stuff from the comfort of your home.

Dane Eagle ([33:12](#)):

Uh, you can access the internet. Feel free to do so. If you can't or you wanna talk to someone in person, come here. We have the resources available, FEMA, Department of Financial Services and the, and the Office of Insurance Regulation, Department of Economic Opportunity, Department of Business and Professional Regulations, uh, represented by Secretary Griffin behind me. Uh, Department of Children and Families, represented by Secretary Harris, CareerSource Southwest Florida. I know Pam Millmore is

here. And they are gonna be instrumental helping people get back on their feet. I know a lot of people are displaced. They might not even have a business to go back to. Well, we are here to help. There are opportunities available. We have other career sources locally, uh, uh, CareerSource Southwest Florida, Pasco, Hernando, Standing buses here. And just talking with Kevin Guthrie. There are a lot of needs for current work.

Dane Eagle ([33:55](#)):

There are people on the ground, businesses, vendors who are helping with cleanup, and they are hiring. So we're gonna direct them to go to Career Source. And if you need help, you wanna get back on your feet, go to CareerSource. We'll make that happen. So, uh, stay tuned for Future Announcements. Enterprise Florida. Florida Rural Legal Services, USSA, Florida, Veteran Statistics, Memorial Healthcare. And then insurance. Thanks to Jimmy Petros, an organizing this auto owners insurance as Progressive, American, Integrity, SPDC and SBA are here. Tower Hill Insurance, Universal Property, Ver Olympus Insurance, uh, AA Citizens Property Insurance. Frontline security. First Florida Peninsula at Geico. Monarch South, though People's Trust. State Farm, Allstate, uh, Florida Family Insurance, Edison. And that list is growing. People are coming in. Governor, I'm proud to say that Chick-fil-A is on the ground.

Dane Eagle ([34:48](#)):

Chick-fil-A is, uh, is stage here. They are helping with, uh, um, uh, providing foods to shelters and through our face base and nonprofit, uh, initiatives. You can't just walk up to the bus and get it, but it's a giant rig. The day after the storm hit. Kevin turned to me and through the governor said, Get Chick-fil-A on the ground. They're here. They're producing thousands to tens of thousands of meals every single day. Uh, from DEOs perspective, we are here to help with economic recovery. Again, we realize that people are are without work. They're no fault of their own. Uh, DUA has been initiative thanks to the governor, and we've cut red tape, that's disaster Unemployment assistance. Uh, the governor has waved the work search requirements. Uh, wave the waiting week, waved registration process. Go to [Floridadisaster.biz](#) and you can register. Now, that's temporary. That's to help you get back on your feet.

Dane Eagle ([35:31](#)):

There are jobs you want to connect you with. If you are in a line of business, there are other jobs. If you want to do something completely different, again, we can help in career sources standing by with that. And as the governor just announced, for businesses looking to get back on your feet, the, uh, the emergency bridge loan has been announced. That is a short term zero interest loan to help you get back on your feet. \$50 million is available, 10 million for agricultural businesses. And, uh, we are standing by to assist [Floridadisaster.biz](#) is where you can go for economic resources or come here and talk to one of our people. Thank you, Governor and first lady, the saint.

Gov. DeSantis ([36:11](#)):

Our Chief financial officer really leaning in on the insurance, uh, and has set up his insurance villages right here to co-locate Jimmy Patronis.

CFO Patronia ([36:33](#)):

Thank you, Governor. Your efforts, uh, really over the last week have been amazing. The response, uh, people I've never seen. Yeah,

CFO Patronia ([36:44](#)):

And I'll tell you, and what the first lady's doing with the Floridadisasterfund.org. This is gonna help so many that fall in the cracks. There's gonna be people that are just going to be, there're gonna be ineligible here or ineligible there, and this is gonna be able to help people out. So when she asks for that money, it's going to significantly help to folks that, that have nowhere else to go. All right? And what I love about it, I I was doing an interview the other day and they're asking, where's the money going? They're publishing on their website where the dollars are going and where to be in distributed. It is totally transparent. So you know exactly where your dollars are going. Unlike GoFundMe, do not touch GoFundMe.

CFO Patronia ([37:24](#)):

There's GoFundMe has absolutely zero transparency when you give a a dollar to GoFundMe. Somebody could take an image off of a website, create a tragic story, and now that donation goes somewhere and there's no verification. It helps anybody other than maybe the fraudster who put it out in the first place. So again, Floridadisasterfund.org. Um, to all the, the staff that are here, all the department heads. Governor, thank you for your mobilization of this. Kevin has done an amazing, uh, amazing job. And, uh, Congressman Donalds, thank you for being here too. I know you, you're going through hell also, but, uh, I just wanna give everybody again, a thanks. Out of our office, what you've seen has been thrown together in the last really half a dozen hours. Uh, the governor's team has worked, you know, through, through challenging circumstances to make sure this is a one stop shop that you can show up.

CFO Patronia ([38:13](#)):

It's safe, it's secure. There's internet or cellular providers are providing internet here in addition to Starlink. And to speak about Starlink- Governor, when soon as you made that available, I contacted our Urban search and rescue teams. Now those men and women have touched 72,000 structures since the storm has hit. They're doing the hasty searches, They're going, going in, and literally, you can go to my Facebook or Twitter page and you can see what they're doing. And they're going from building to building with chainsaws, looking for people. But they have to have internet in order to report that data back. Governor, I'm proud to say, if it's not for Starlink right now, at those sites, it said, they told me it's a game changer. So thank you for doing that.

CFO Patronia ([38:59](#)):

16 teams. 16 teams from around the United States have responded at Urban Search and Rescue, helping this. And it's, uh, these men and women are working tirelessly cuz they look sometimes, sometimes there's bad news, but you know what they live for. I was sitting there, I was talking about, I said, you know what year they live for, they live for the life they save, they find people. And it's a game changer. It's nourishment to their soul. It makes 'em work that much harder. So the fact that they're doing this effort is, uh, it's, it's again, they're, they're saving lives and they're doing everything humanly possible. So pray for them. Pray for their safety. And understand if you have not talked to your loved one, it's, look, communications are challenge. I know that is the, that is the one thing people are looking for. I wanna know if mom or dad, if my grandparents are, are alive and safe promise you, as we get communication established, as these men and women are doing their job, we will reunite you with your loved ones.

CFO Patronia ([39:54](#)):

Now, this is the part I've been talking about coming up to the storm. I appreciate wfla, y'all here, y'all have helped us turn up. The volume on this is is the pre the pre-event fraud. So as long as you try to

listen and you do some preparation, you can be protected from the fraudsters. These fraudsters that come here, they're no different than looters. Okay? Hear me? The fraudsters that come in are no different than looters. They're going to want to take advantage of you and your insurance policy. The governor and Kevin spoke to Operation Blue Tart. That is a free service if you need a tarp. Do not let anybody make you pay for a blue tarp on your house. Okay? If they do and somebody tries to, to, to extract dollars from you or say, Hey, your insurance company's gonna pay for it, run 'em off your property.

CFO Patronia ([40:40](#)):

That's illegal. That is a service that is free available to you. So you don't want to ever take, be taken advantage of by that. I tell people if it's too good to be true, it is. Listen to your gut. If somebody's being too nice to you, run 'em off your property cuz they're trying to take advantage of you. These insurance companies here, you know why they're here. They're here to write you a check, okay? They're here to close claims, They're here to do advanced payments. So look, you don't need to go call anybody other than your insurance agent, your carrier, most of 'em are here. Or my office 1, 877 myfl cfo. If you're calling one of those three for your first phone call, I promise you there's no chance of being taken advantage of. And then if you have a problem with your carrier, there's dysfunction, lack, communication, you call me.

CFO Patronia ([41:27](#)):

That's what we do. That's why you pay us. We are paid to break through the monotony, The challenge of the communication barriers, the overwhelming stress you're dealing with right now. Hurricane Michael leveled my hometown of Panama City. This is no different, it's just a much bigger scale. So we know how to fix what you're dealing with right now. So again, these carriers here, when you show up, they will help you piece together your claim. And, and most cases, you're gonna walk away with a check to go put a roof over your head so that adjuster can get out to your property, assess the damages, and start the claims process. And look, just because you may get a check, that may not be exactly what you're looking for. You know what you can do. You reopen the claim. It's not that hard, folks, I promise you, we are here till you're made whole. So again, please, if it sounds good too good to be true, don't take the bait. There's a lot of really bad people out there that wanna take advantage of some really vulnerable folks. In the state of Florida we're here United and we've got, we've got an amazing governor that's holding us together. Thank y'all.

Gov. DeSantis ([42:44](#)):

Thank you. And I, and I will just put, look, it's not gonna be for me, but for everybody, you know, I'm putting in a plug that, uh, the Chick-fil-A van come to the DRC here, help people. Um, you know, we also had Culvers, all these others, so they all can come as well. We'd love to have 'em. Uh, but I appreciate the effort in getting this stood up so quickly because we understand that, that people, uh, have questions, have needs. A lot of people have registered and there has been money dispersed already by FEMA, by the first lady with some of the charities for sure. But, but this is important to be able to do. We got a lot more work to do. But I'll tell you, you know, I've been working with Jimmy in the aftermath of Michael, which happened right before I became governor.

Gov. DeSantis ([43:25](#)):

You know, it's not an easy thing. And in some ways Michael was like a sledge. Anywhere in that path was, you know, as bad as anything. You know, you, you see, um, and, and it took a lot of effort and

there's still effort that's going on. But I'll tell you, they bounced back. I mean, there's a lot that's going on. That's great. People want to be there. People understand it's a great community and that's what's gonna happen here. It will definitely happen here. I think it's gonna happen a lot quicker than some people may think. But, but it will happen. So in any event, yes,

Reporter ([43:53](#)):

I know the state response has been massive on Island. Saw that question is about property insurance people damage and right now can Sure,

Gov. DeSantis ([44:13](#)):

Well I think that, um, Jimmy, you want to take about, you know, we have obviously layers of coverage and cat fund and everything like that.

CFO Patronia ([44:20](#)):

There's, there's multiple redundancies in the state of Florida. We have known since we learned a lot through Hurricane Andrew. So the CAT fund exists, FGA exists. We create a number of redundancies. That's why David Alt Myers boots on the ground right here where we have to educate and explain. That's exactly what we do. So the state of Florida, thank God we're in the best fiscal health we've ever been, in case we have to make some type of a fiscal audible call. But again, we have built to prepare for storms like this. But I can't stress enough a claim that an insurance policy has a set amount of value. Call it 200,000, 300,000, 400,000. Whatever your policy is, is what you purchase. If you allow predators to get between you and that claims process, you are given away dollars. You're entitled to. Okay? So all I want to do is make people as whole as quick as possible. And let me just reassure you when a claim is filed, just because maybe the expenses, maybe you discovered three months later, you've got problems in your house that are water related that you didn't know were there. Because you know what? You're overwhelmed and you know what? You're not a contractor. You reopen the claim. It's as simple as that. So there's good solutions there, but again, the governor's leadership to make sure that the state has the fiscal health is the, is the best thing that we've got going for

Gov. DeSantis ([45:34](#)):

Us. Yeah. And our, our CAT fund I think has never been this high. Has it ever been? Yeah. So we have the highest cat fund. So obviously that's another layer of redundancy. We also, in the special session, we probably would've had companies go out a business this summer I called the legislature in the special session. One of the things we did was create uh, or we call it the wrap program, which also provides additional coverage. Some of these companies, uh, I I think there may be some problematic, a lot of these big companies, you know, I think you should feel pretty comfortable. I mean these are big companies now. I know there was an effort 15 years ago to drive a lot of companies out of Florida. That was a huge mistake that we're still paying for to this day. Nevertheless, we have taken action to stabilize and we will do more if we need to.

Gov. DeSantis ([46:16](#)):

I mean, I will call, um, another special session. But I, I think it's premature to know kind of exactly cuz there is wind damage. There's no question. But I've toured up and down the state and I would say the flood far exceeds the wind damage in terms of what I'm seeing. I mean, you know, you're going like Cape Coral, I'm driving through these neighborhoods. Honestly, you wouldn't even know because like if unless they're standing water that the structure looks fine. But then, you know, they had four feet of

water like two days, three days ago whenever storm. So that's the issue. So I think it's gonna be a combination, but I think it's gonna be probably more of a flood event where it's like Hurricane Michael was almost entirely a wind event cuz it was a buzz saw that was ripping through. Yes sir.

Speaker 7 ([46:55](#)):

Governor, a great news for Sanibel, Pine Island. I know people watching are probably gonna ask, is there any guesstimate to when that they may be able to come back on

Gov. DeSantis ([47:05](#)):

Pine Island's Bridge will be done this week. So that will be open to traffic. It'll be open to commerce, it'll be open to a lot of the first responders. I mean we are bringing them in by helicopter and boat, but it's much easier. I mean, I, we, we dumped um, ATVs on the Chinooks. We brought ATVs with linemen and now they're going around buzzing around the island inspecting the electrical damage, which is fine. We're happy to do it, but how much easier it's gonna be when they just take their trucks. Right on. So that is absolutely gonna happen this week. And I just met with Publix there while we were out there. Publix will open as soon as the bridge is open, Publix will open. So they're gonna have Publix. Some of these gas stations I saw there. You know, there's this beautiful seven-11.

Gov. DeSantis ([47:51](#)):

Like honestly, if you didn't see anything else on Pine Island, you would not have known there was a storm. It's like such nice construction and everything. Um, and it's closed because I don't think they have adequate power. Uh, so we can, you know, Kevin can help. We told the residents generators, all this stuff, you know, get some of these things up, I think is important. The power situation, we wanna surge linemen there. Now obviously the FPL and, and the co-op, they focused on the non-Barrier islands because the damage was a little less extensive. So that's understandable and if you get all that up. But again, we believe in working in parallel, they're doing that. Now. More people are coming online in, in some of these areas. I think there's a lot more work to do in Cape Coral, some of the others. But let's also work on whatever reconstruction needs to happen on these islands.

Gov. DeSantis ([48:38](#)):

I mean, why wait a month before you even get in there? So we're basically, um, reconnecting the islands to the mainland, both with that bridge, the Sanibel bridge. I cannot tell you when the temporary bridge for Sanibel will be done, cuz I don't have the, there's someone's gonna win the bid, they're gonna have a proposal. But basically the good news about Sanibel is that where it was severed was on land, basically. There's a sandbar where you can probably fortify, but then it's the rest, the place is in the water. Those, those poles held and they look really good. You wouldn't know even there was a storm just looking there. So I think we'll be able to have a solution there, hopefully in the not to the future. But, you know, you got seasonal residents, you got people that want to come back and look at their property. You got other folks. I mean, if you have transport and you can get some handle on the, what, what it's gonna take for the electrical, you know, that's a huge, huge thing. So we think it's very, very important. And other barrier islands too. I mean Kevin's talking about putting that C2 element on these other barrier islands and uh, we want to definitely do that.

Reporter ([49:42](#)):

Yeah. Governor, you just mentioned this morning, I'm sure the numbers have changed, but as of this, 90 of the city still in that power, you've been calling on I c to accept that mutual a are you satisfied with their

Gov. DeSantis ([49:55](#)):

Response? Let, let let Kevin take that. I mean, I think for, for me, when we, um, when I told him, I said, I don't want bureaucracy, I don't want complaints about who's gonna pick up the cost share. Just, just do it. Because I saw that you had this massive community, we're almost nobody had power, you know, three or four days after the storm and we needed to do better. Uh, so, so that was one of the main reasons why we've searched. So Kevin, you want to go over that?

Dir. Guthrie ([50:20](#)):

Yeah, I, I talked to Melissa last night when we did the, uh, press conference, uh, from Duke Energy. Um, I've talked to a couple other of our big power electric companies, um, FPL and so on. Again, I think one of the biggest issues, uh, is again, I say this publicly, FPL, Duke, Teco, these private sector utilities, municipal electrical utilities, people that have individuals that are done with your stuff, the governor's pleaded with you. Do not leave. Get involved in the fight, coordinate with us so that we can coordinate with Lee, uh, cooperative. And then that bill's coming to us at the division and we're gonna pay it. So it is, we've already got 4,500 or so in the fight now. I intend to, the governor said he wants to see a linemen on every block. I'm gonna put a lineman on every block. All right, that's gonna happen. You won't be able to go out your front door and Cape Coral without seeing a lineman very quickly.

Gov. DeSantis ([51:12](#)):

You know, the thing about, um, you know, we did the event yesterday in Cape Coral. We're coming in and there's power lines that you have to dodge just to get back to where we were going at the pier. And so that, that needs attention now. And that's just gonna require manpower. It's gonna require bodies. And so that's what we're doing.

Reporter ([51:30](#)):

Governor, Governor, Governor, President Biden is visiting tomorrow. You're set to meet with him. What are you hoping comes from that meeting and is the federal government

Gov. DeSantis ([51:37](#)):

To figure out? So, uh, if there's any request, I will, I'm gonna talk with Kevin about it tonight, figure out where we are. If there's more that FEMA can do, we will put that in. But I will say we did one of the earliest emergency declarations. The storm was a disturbance when we did it the next day. Fema the White House through FEMA approved our pre landfall declaration. So that was huge because everyone was full SEMA ahead. They knew they had the ability to do it. Um, and then they've done category A and B. So, so we, we appreciate, I think FEMA's worked very well with our, with our, uh, with the state and local. And we want to continue, uh, continue to do it and, um, have all hands on deck.

Reporter ([52:17](#)):

Governor, Governor, the president, He's be on the ground walking with

Gov. DeSantis ([52:20](#)):

Him. I don't know if I, so I think he's gonna maybe tour the air. I don't know if I'm gonna do that, but I know I'm gonna have a briefing with him. Um, and, and we are gonna meet.

Reporter ([52:27](#)):

Governor. Governor, you brought up the issue of immigration. Uh, there are Venezuelan immigrants, asylum seekers in New York that are being reportedly recruited to come to the state of Florida and work on the hurricane recovery. I'm wondering what your response is to those reports and whether you would turn them away.

Gov. DeSantis ([52:42](#)):

So first of all, our program that we did is a voluntary relocation program. I don't have the authority to forcibly relocate people. Um, if I could, you know, I would take those three looters, I'd drag them out by the collars and I'd send them back to where they came from.

Gov. DeSantis ([53:06](#)):

But that's a federal government. Unfortunately, that's the federal government's view. I think states should be able to be more active in that regard. Unfortunately, states have lost court decision after court decision on that. Uh, so, so that's just kind of where we are. But I do think that what has happened by having massive numbers of people coming across the border has not been good. For this country. I had to go and I met with, I met at the EOC, we're doing planning out yesterday. And then I leave that and I didn't come here. I had to go to Tampa. Why? Cuz there was a memorial service for a Pinellas County sheriff's deputy who got killed by a twice deported illegal alien from Central America. Someone was operating heavy machinery, was not eligible to work, and had fraudulent documents, did not have the proper license and ran over our deputy. How is that something that should be acceptable? I mean, it's just shows you, it, it, we don't have rule of law throughout this entire, we have it in Florida, I'll tell you that, but we don't have it.

Gov. DeSantis ([54:16](#)):

We, we don't have it throughout our country. And, and I think it's, I think it's been, been really, uh, problematic. And to see somebody look when I, the way I view having the, the border like it is, you know, you have a criminal alien come across and then end up in a situation where someone gets killed. We can say without a shadow of a doubt, had you just had control of your border, that wouldn't have happened. And that's why they're very preventable, very preventable crimes. And so, so it was sad that that happened. It was really sad to have to, to have to, uh, see somebody buried. Uh, well actually they're gonna bury him in Arlington Cemetery cuz he's a veteran. But it was just really sad and I'm, I'm talking to his, uh, you know, his mother and it's like, you know, why did this have to happen? So, so it's really, really sad the situation that our country finds itself in with respect to our open border. Okay. Thanks everybody. Appreciate