

SARASOTA COUNTY

Planning and Development Services

1001 Sarasota Center Blvd.

Sarasota, FL 34230

Phone: 941-861-5000

Scgov.net

October 22, 2024

Dear Sarasota County Resident,

Based on preliminary damage assessments, it is our understanding that recent damage caused by Hurricanes Helene and/or Milton have caused significant hardship to you and your family, and Sarasota County is here to help you navigate through the recovery process. FEMA requires the County to provide the attached FEMA Damage Inspection Notice about allowing approved county staff to inspect for storm damage at your property, and we request your cooperation with right of entry.

During this difficult time, we understand recovery can be complicated, and we are committed to helping connect you with resources to aid in your recovery. Here are some reminders and resources available to you:

1. **Expedited permitting:** Permits related to storm damage resulting from Hurricane Helene or Milton will be expedited. When applying for a permit in Accela, select the “Storm Related” project type, then select the appropriate storm name from the dropdown menu. For assistance, please call 311 or email: stormpermitting@scgov.net. For residents who have experienced damage to their residential structures due to flooding, removal and replacement of drywall is likely a component of remediation. While the removal of drywall does not require a building permit, a building permit is required for replacing drywall that is greater than 2 feet high from finished floor. Sarasota County has temporarily suspended the building permit fees for this repair work.
2. **Temporary suspension of certain permit fees:** Certain building permit fees have been temporarily suspended if the repair is for documented damage from Hurricane Helene or Milton. For the latest updates, visit scgov.net or call 311. Fees have been temporarily suspended for the following: Re-roofing or recovering, doors and windows (size for size replacement), interior repair from water intrusion, minor electrical repair, electrical service charge, tents, temporary-use permits, pool cage repair, and A/C change-outs. For assistance, please call 311 or email: stormpermitting@scgov.net.
3. **Unlisted contractors:** We’ve heard reports of scammers in our community trying to take advantage of those impacted by the storm. Call 866-966-7226 to report scams. Watch out for unsolicited offers or contractors claiming to perform repairs at a discount with leftover supplies from another job. Research a company and its reputation – look for references online or ask a friend. Check to see if a company is properly licensed, insured and if there are any consumer complaints filed against a licensed contractor at MyFloridaLicense.com.

Never pay the full amount of a repair expense upfront and hesitate before providing large deposits. Do not sign a certificate of completion or make final payment until satisfied with the work performed.

Sarasota County is committed to working alongside you as you recover from this disaster. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us by calling 311 with any questions or concerns. Our dedicated staff are here to assist and ensure that you have access to the support and services you need.

Sincerely,

Steve Bell
Sarasota County Building Official