



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

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Contact: Susan Smith
850-245-4111

****TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE INFORMATION SHEET ****

IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVING WATER

TALLAHASSEE – Hurricanes, especially if accompanied by a tidal surge or flooding, can contaminate the public water supply. Drinking contaminated water may cause illness. You cannot assume that the water in the hurricane-affected area is safe to drink as water treatment plants may not be operating. Even if they are operating, storm damage and flooding can contaminate water lines. Listen for public announcements about the safety of your specific water supply.

Until services are fully restored every effort should be made to conserve water usage.

- Minimize the use of washing machines and the flushing of toilets; use only as necessary.
- Utilize portable toilets where provided.
- Fix any plumbing leaks as soon as possible.
- While lift stations and sewage treatment plants are out of power, avoid adding water to sewer lines as it may stop the proper function.

Report any sewage spills to proper utility authorities for clean up and sanitation. Such spills may be stabilized with an application of lime (calcium oxide). Restrict access to such areas for 48 hours after cleanup.

For further information, please contact your local county health department or visit www.doh.state.fl.us or www.FloridaDisaster.org.

The Florida Emergency Information Line: 1-800-342-3557

Public Information Emergency Support Function: (850)-921-0384

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