



Hurricane Idalia caused widespread flooding across Florida's Big Bend after making landfall on August 30 in Taylor County.

The PSC's Hurricane Response and Support Efforts: Hurricane Idalia

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Hurricane Idalia made landfall as a Category 3 storm with sustained winds near 125 mph on August 30 near Keaton Beach in Florida's Big Bend. Idalia reached Category 4 strength, but weakened before landfall, significantly affecting rural Northern Florida. Idalia was the tenth tropical storm, third hurricane, and second major hurricane of the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season.

In preparation for and after a disaster, the Division of Emergency Management conducts damage assessment surveys and advises the Governor on declaring an emergency and seeking federal relief funds. The division maintains a primary Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Tallahassee. The EOC is the communications and command center for reporting emergencies and coordinating state response activities. Hurricane Idalia was the first EOC activation for the 2023 hurricane season.

During state emergencies, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) provides 24 hours/7 days a week staffing at the EOC for Emergency Support Function-12 Energy (ESF-12). ESF12 coordinates responses to electric and natural gas emergencies and provides information and assistance to various federal and state agencies at the EOC.

Before, during, and after a named storm, the Commission also maintains contact with electric and natural gas utilities serving the affected areas to assess damage and service restoration efforts. Data collected and maintained from these coordination efforts include:



- areas affected,
- number of customers without electrical power or natural gas,
- status of generation fuel supply, and
- estimated restoration time for regular service.

The EOC uses this information to determine the most efficient allocation of resources in response to regional recovery efforts. The PSC tracks these outages and updates the [outage reports on its website](#) every three hours.