

**AN ORDER OF THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
REQUIRING REMOVAL OF DEBRIS FROM PRIVATE RIGHTS-OF-WAY  
(HURRICANE MILTON)**

**WHEREAS**, the St. Lucie County Administrator has made the following determinations:

1. Pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, political subdivisions of the state have the power during a state of local emergency to provide for the health and safety of persons and property.
2. The Board of County Commissioners of St. Lucie County has adopted Resolution No. 00-277 and Ordinance No. 06-046 authorizing the St. Lucie County Administrator and the St. Lucie County Public Safety Director to exercise certain emergency powers and authority during a local emergency.
3. The Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Orders 24-214 dated October 5, 2024, and 24-215 dated October 6, 2024, declaring a state of emergency that includes St. Lucie County.
4. Executive Orders 24-214 and 24-215, in accordance with Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, authorized political subdivisions to take whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.
5. The President of the United States issued an Emergency Federal Declaration, EM-3622-FL on October 7, 2024 with an incident period starting October 5, 2024 and continuing.
6. The impact of Hurricane Milton has placed St. Lucie County in a state of emergency, exposing the citizens thereof to danger to life and property.
7. On October 7, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., the St. Lucie County Public Safety Director declared a state of local emergency.
8. In order to respond to such emergency, upon this declaration, the County Administrator or his designee is authorized to initiate and take such actions authorized by Resolution No. 00-277 and Ordinance No. 06-046 and 15-015 (copies attached) for and on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners during the term of such local state of emergency.
9. Based on the recommendation of the Public Works Director and on the advice of local law enforcement officials, including the St. Lucie County Sheriff and the St. Lucie County Fire District Fire Chief (copies of memoranda attached), as a result of the effects of Hurricane Milton, there is a clear and

present threat to life and public health and safety as well as a threat of significant damage to improved public and private property and it is necessary to remove debris from both public and private rights-of-way.

10. Additionally, the removal of debris from public and private rights-of-way will ensure the economic recovery of the affected communities to the benefit of St. Lucie County. The County has obtained Right-of-Way Entry permits and agreements from private and gated communities authorizing the County or its contractors to remove debris from their communities.

11. Performing this action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community. Widespread debris is a threat to public health and safety, the debris constitutes a hazardous environment for all modes of movement and transportation of the residents as well as emergency aid and relief services, endangerment to all properties in the county, an environment conducive to breeding disease and vermin, and greatly increased risk of fire. Furthermore, hurricane season remains active and another storm may form in the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic quickly. Existing debris can become dangerous projectiles in such storms, as was the case on the West Coast of Florida with Hurricane Milton, which occurred shortly after Hurricane Helene, before Helene-generated debris could be removed. The removal of debris expeditiously is important to the safety of all residents. As such, it is in the public interest to collect and remove disaster debris from all property whether public lands, public or private roads, and gated communities to eliminate an immediate threat to life, public health and safety to reduce the threat of additional damage to improved property and to promote economic recovery of the community at large.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I am issuing the following Order:

1. Effective October 10, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., the Public Works Director is directed to require the County's debris removal contractors to begin removing debris from private rights-of-way as well as public rights-of-way.

2. This Order shall, within 3 days after issuance, be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and delivered to the appropriate news media for publication and radio and television

broadcast thereof. In addition, this Order shall be available on a dedicated webpage accessible through a conspicuous link on the County's homepage.

Signed this October 10, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

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George Landry  
County Administrator

**CONCURRENCE:**

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Keith Pearson  
St. Lucie County Sheriff

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Jeff Lee  
St. Lucie County Fire District Chief

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Patrick Dayan, P.E.  
St. Lucie County Public Works Director

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Rebecca Olson,  
Director of Public Utilities & Solid Waste