

From: [Kelly Michaels](#)
To: [Mercedes Barcia](#)
Cc: [Edward Lavallee](#); [James Clinch](#); [Kelly Fernandez](#); [Derek Applegate](#)
Subject: FW: FEMA IGA Advisory 11.01.2024 AM
Date: Monday, December 9, 2024 9:36:44 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Mercedes:

For the January Agenda: Mrs. Farrell is looking to get council permission to send a letter signed by the Mayor, all Council members and the Chief Building Official to request for a FEMA Exemption for Health and Safety to specifically include Air Conditioning.

Kelly Michaels, MMC

Venice City Clerk

City Clerk's Office

City of Venice

Tel: [941-882-7390](tel:941-882-7390)

Cell: [941-303-3486](tel:941-303-3486)

Email: kmichaels@venicefl.gov

Web: www.venicegov.com



Need to Report an Issue? SeeClickFix Venice Connect is available as an app for Android and iPhone. Select SeeClickFix from your app store on your device and choose Venice, Florida. There is also a link to the program on the city's website, www.venicegov.com, or go directly to SeeClickFix at <https://venice.seeclickfix.com/venice>

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From: Joan Farrell <jfarrell@venicefl.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 9:22 AM
To: Bott, Jeremy <jeremy.bott@fema.dhs.gov>
Cc: Kelly Michaels <kmichaels@venicefl.gov>
Subject: Re: FEMA IGA Advisory 11.01.2024 AM

Mr. Bott,

Thank you for prompt and clear response. It is encouraging that FEMA is considering this request. I have copied City Clerk Kelly Michaels so that this item can be put on the Agenda for the next City Council Meeting, which will be on January 14, 2025.

Best Wishes,

Joan Farrell
Venice City Council, Seat 1

From: Bott, Jeremy <jeremy.bott@fema.dhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2024 10:08:49 AM
To: Joan Farrell <jfarrell@venicefl.gov>; mbenton@flcities.com <mbenton@flcities.com>; Kipp, Kimberly <Kimberly.Kipp@fema.dhs.gov>; Edward Lavallee <elavallee@venicefl.gov>; James Clinch <JClinch@venicefl.gov>; Derek Applegate <dapplegate@venicefl.gov>; Frank Giddens <FGiddens@venicefl.gov>; Paul Lauffer <PLauffer@Venicefl.gov>; suelang99@hotmail.com <suelang99@hotmail.com>; Ruth Cordner <ruth.cordner@gmail.com>; 146bella@gmail.com <146bella@gmail.com>; Daniel Kuether <kuetherd@gmail.com>; patzanny1533@gmail.com <patzanny1533@gmail.com>; Joan Iacono <jaconoforvenicecouncil@gmail.com>; mariepuma12@gmail.com <mariepuma12@gmail.com>; ssully88@gmail.com <ssully88@gmail.com>; smithharborlights@yahoo.com <smithharborlights@yahoo.com>; prranch22@gmail.com <prranch22@gmail.com>; tperendy@msn.com <tperendy@msn.com>
Subject: RE: FEMA IGA Advisory 11.01.2024 AM

Councilmember Farrell,

This week, FEMA Hazard Mitigation met with the City of Venice's Building Officials on this and other Substantial Damage Determination questions. They informed that they are tracking this. Working with leadership in Tallahassee, a request for FEMA Exemption for Health and Safety to specifically include Air Conditioning would need to be on official letterhead with signatures from the Chief Elected Official/Full Council and Chief Building Official for the City of Venice. The content of the letter would be what you have summarized below explicitly stating the criticality of it. I also recommend addressing it directly to both FDEM Director Kevin Guthrie and FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. This will help elevate it. I work at HQ Washington DC with our Administrator's office during non-disaster times.

v/r

Jeremy Bott
IGA Manager, DR 4828/4834 FL (Helene/Milton)
Disaster Operations Branch | Intergovernmental Affairs Division | Office of External Affairs
Office: (202) 212-4260 | Mobile: (202) 412-6278
Jeremy.Bott@fema.dhs.gov | Pronouns: he/him

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov)



FEMA

From: Joan Farrell <jfarrell@venicefl.gov>

Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 11:10 AM

To: Bott, Jeremy <jeremy.bott@fema.dhs.gov>; mbenton@flcities.com; Kipp, Kimberly <Kimberly.Kipp@fema.dhs.gov>; Edward Lavalley <elavalley@venicefl.gov>; James Clinch <JClinch@venicefl.gov>; Derek Applegate <dapplegate@venicefl.gov>; Frank Giddens <FGiddens@venicefl.gov>; Paul Lauffer <PLauffer@Venicefl.gov>; suelang99@hotmail.com; Ruth Corder <ruth.corder@gmail.com>; 146bella@gmail.com; Daniel Kuether <kuetherd@gmail.com>; patzanny1533@gmail.com; Joan Iacono <iaconoforvenicecouncil@gmail.com>; mariepuma12@gmail.com; ssully88@gmail.com; smithharborlights@yahoo.com; pranch22@gmail.com; tperendy@msn.com

Subject: Fw: FEMA IGA Advisory 11.01.2024 AM

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Ms. Kipp and others:

I am following up on my request of November 1st, 2024 for the FEMA Exemption for Health and Safety to specifically include Air Conditioning. The original email is included below. Air Conditioning is not specifically mentioned, one way or the other.

The City of Venice Permitting Department has taken the strict position that the lack of clear wording specifying air conditioners as a Health and Safety Exemption from the 50% Rule means that Homeowners have to go through a lengthy Permitting Process.

This morning I talked to a Homeowner in her 90's whose unit has no air conditioning nor heat except for a space heater borrowed from a relative. Two other relatives, also in their 90's who also own property in this same 55+ Mobile Home Park, are likewise suffering. I put in another call to a woman in her 80's and have not heard back. It is well known that space heaters cause an inordinate number of fires.

It is understandable that the City of Venice wants to comply with FEMA. However, when the ruling is silent on an issue and public health and welfare are a concern, then moderation and reason should prevail.

You responded to my original email that this request for a ruling clarification had been sent to the

Joint Field Office for State/Region/HQ tracking. Would you please advise as to its progress?

Thank you.

Joan Farrell
Venice City Council, Seat 1

From: Joan Farrell <jfarrell@venicefl.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 1, 2024 12:09 PM
To: Joan Iacono <jaconoforvenicecouncil@gmail.com>; Mary Davis <mdavis@venicefl.gov>;
patzanny1533@gmail.com <patzanny1533@gmail.com>; Lloyd Weed <lweed@venicefl.gov>
Subject: Fw: FEMA IGA Advisory 11.01.2024 AM

FYI - forward as needed, please read my request

From: Joan Farrell <jfarrell@venicefl.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 1, 2024 12:03:01 PM
To: Kipp, Kimberly <Kimberly.Kipp@fema.dhs.gov>; Edward Lavalley <elavallee@venicefl.gov>;
James Clinch <JClinch@venicefl.gov>; Derek Applegate <dapplegate@venicefl.gov>; Lorraine
Anderson <landerson@venicefl.gov>; suelang99@hotmail.com <suelang99@hotmail.com>;
srmershon@gmail.com <srmershon@gmail.com>; nealdrefke@outlook.com
<nealdrefke@outlook.com>; smithharborlights@yahoo.com <smithharborlights@yahoo.com>;
george davis <gqdav@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: FEMA IGA Advisory 11.01.2024 AM

Dear Ms. Kipp,

Thank you for your patience on the phone as I relayed some particular health concerns my constituents have been expressing to me.

As I explained, I am a member of the Venice City Council and have some "skin in the game" with the Hurricane Milton disaster because my 55+ Community, Harbor Lights, experienced storm surge and some flooding. My own damage was limited to siding on the eaves and the air conditioner.

Many homeowners here and in the other affected areas of Venice have an urgent need for Air Conditioning. The air conditioning is needed to retard mold, mold related illnesses, and to avoid heat related illnesses, especially in seniors. **These issues should qualify Air Conditioning as a FEMA Health and Safety Exemption here in Florida.**

Air conditioners reduce both relative humidity levels as well as temperature. In this regard they do act as a de-humidifier.

Recent U.S. Census data show that 61.2% of Venice residents are 65 years old or older. Seniors are more at risk for most health conditions. Mold can cause minor cold like symptoms or even more

extreme responses such as mold-induced asthma, allergic bronchopulmonary conditions, or hypersensitivity pneumonitis.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website states that older adults do not adjust to temperature changes as well as young people. They are more likely to have a chronic medical condition that changes normal body responses to heat. They are more likely to take prescription medicines that affect the body's ability to control its temperature or sweat.

Our Permitting Department at the City of Venice is attempting to balance the needs of the Hurricane victims with FEMA reimbursement requirements. As a City Counselor, **I am asking for FEMA to designate Air Conditioning as a Health and Safety Exemption from the FEMA 50% Rule for the City of Venice.**

Thank you for your consideration at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Joan Farrell
Venice City Council, Seat 1

From: Kipp, Kimberly <Kimberly.Kipp@fema.dhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 1, 2024 9:24:39 AM

To: Kipp, Kimberly <Kimberly.Kipp@fema.dhs.gov>

Subject: FEMA IGA Advisory 11.01.2024 AM

Caution: This email originated from an external source. **Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information**

Good morning..

In this Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Advisory you'll find the following information:

1. Fact Sheet 017 - Permits Required Before Rebuilding [English/Spanish]
2. Daily Fact Sheet 017 - November 1, 2024
3. News Release 022 - FEMA Awards \$1 Billion for Emergency Work in Florida

If you need anything or have any questions or concerns, please give me a call or email. My contact information is below.

Permits Required Before Rebuilding

If your home was damaged by Hurricanes Milton, Helene or Debby, contact your community's local floodplain manager or building and permitting departments to determine what steps you'll need to take before starting repairs.

Rebuilding After a Hurricane

Every part of a building — from roofs, walls, and siding to plumbing, septic systems and heating/air conditioning systems — may require a permit before you start to rebuild. A permit may also be needed for demolition.

Permits protect owners, residents, communities and buildings by making sure repairs and/or construction meet current building codes, standards, floodplain ordinances and construction techniques. Permits also provide a permanent record of compliance with elevation and/or retrofitting requirements, which is valuable information when selling the structure or obtaining flood insurance coverage.

Rebuilding in a Floodplain

Obtaining a development/building permit is required for those whose homes or businesses are located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Building permits are based on current local codes, floodplain management ordinances, and the Florida Building Code that are enforced locally, not by FEMA.

Contact your community's building department to find information on locally approved and licensed contractors. These offices can provide suggestions on consumer protection against unscrupulous contractors, as well as how to protect homes or businesses from future disaster-related damage.

Be Aware

If proper permits are not obtained, residents may be subject to stop-work orders, fines or penalties issued by local authorities. Some communities may choose to waive permit fees but the requirement to obtain the permits themselves cannot be waived.

FEMA does not recommend or endorse contractors, and officials warn people to be wary of contractors who claim they are authorized by FEMA. They are not.

For the latest information about Hurricane Milton recovery, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4834](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4834). For Hurricane Helene recovery information, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4828](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4828). For Hurricane Debby recovery information, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4806](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4806). Follow FEMA on X at x.com/femaregion4 or on Facebook at facebook.com/fema.

Florida Hurricane Recovery

Nov. 1, 2024

Key Messages

- FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) crews are working in Florida neighborhoods helping people apply for FEMA assistance after Hurricanes Milton and Helene. DSA specialists carry federal photo identification and never ask for, or accept, money.
- After the recent hurricanes, local community officials are required to inspect disaster-damaged structures to complete substantial damage assessments in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) to meet the requirements of the Florida Building Code and community floodplain regulations.
- FEMA does not make substantial damage determinations; determinations are made by a community's building official or floodplain manager.
- A mobile Disaster Recovery Center is now open in Charlotte County at the Tringali Community Center to provide one-on-one help to Floridians affected by the hurricanes.
- The Disaster Recovery Centers in Dixie, Gilchrist, Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie and Suwannee counties will temporarily closed for election polling at the sites.
- To date, FEMA has approved a total of more than \$818.7 million to help Floridians with losses from Milton, Helene and Debby, including:
 - \$320.1 million approved for Hurricane Milton
 - \$452.9 million approved for Hurricane Helene
 - \$45.7 million approved for Hurricane Debby
 - 13,303 Households for a total of more than 32,523 people are checked in to Transitional Sheltering Assistance hotels and motels.

FAQ of the Day: What does a FEMA inspector look for?

- After you apply for disaster assistance, FEMA may schedule a home inspection. The inspector checks structural soundness, functionality of electrical, plumbing, and heating systems, and whether the home is safe to live in.
- The inspector doesn't decide your eligibility but verifies your information (name, address, etc.) and notes any disaster-caused damage. Inspectors never ask for bank details or charge a fee. Sometimes, homes have damage but are still safe to live in. For more information on FEMA home inspections, visit [Home Inspections | FEMA.gov](#).

Operation Blue Roof

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is installing fiber-reinforced sheeting to cover damaged roofs until arrangements can be made for permanent repairs to damaged homes across affected Florida communities. The service is free, and the sign-up period has been extended to Nov. 14. Florida Residents affected by Hurricane Milton can sign-up at www.bluerroof.gov, by calling 888-ROOF-BLU (888-766-3258), or by visiting a Right-of-Entry collection center throughout the affected areas.

Salvaging Your Damaged Treasures

- Preservation specialists from the [Heritage Emergency National Task Force](#), co-sponsored by FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution, are in the Manatee and Sarasota Disaster Recovery Centers through Nov. 1 to offer advice about salvaging damaged items such as photos, artwork, textiles and other items.

Disaster Recovery Centers

- Disaster Recovery Centers are open in Charlotte, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Franklin, Gilchrist, Hernando, Indian River, Madison, Manatee, Martin, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota and Taylor counties. To find center locations go to [fema.gov/drc](https://www.fema.gov/drc) or text “DRC” and a Zip Code to 43362. All centers are accessible to people with disabilities or access and functional needs and are equipped with assistive technology. Some centers may close temporarily for election polling. Announcements will be made. Survivors do not need to visit a center to apply for assistance. Survivors are encouraged to apply online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by downloading the [FEMA App](#). FEMA does not distribute cash at Disaster Recovery Centers.

Transitional Sheltering Assistance

- FEMA has activated Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) for Floridians displaced by Hurricane Helene or Hurricane Milton in 52 counties and for tribal members of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians. Residents in these counties who have applied for disaster assistance may be eligible to stay temporarily in a hotel or motel paid for by FEMA. Applicants do not need to request TSA. FEMA will notify them of their eligibility through an automated phone call, text message, and/or email. Survivors who have been approved for TSA can find hotel options here: [Transitional Sheltering Assistance \(TSA\)](#)

Serious Needs Assistance

- Serious Needs Assistance is money to pay for emergency supplies like water, food, first aid, breast-feeding supplies, infant formula, diapers, personal hygiene items, or fuel for transportation. Serious Needs Assistance is available for survivors who apply during the first 30 days after a disaster is declared. If you don't agree with FEMA's decision, you can appeal by showing why you need FEMA assistance. The decision letter you get from FEMA will have more information about the types of documents you should send. Learn more about [Serious Needs Assistance](#).

U.S. Small Business Administration

- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply online at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.SBA.gov/disaster). Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955. Three SBA Business Recovery Centers are open. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.

How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

- If you sustained damage or loss from Hurricanes Milton, Helene or Debby, [FEMA may be able to help](#). You may be eligible for financial assistance for displacement, serious needs, temporary lodging, basic home repairs, personal property losses and other uninsured disaster-related expenses.
- Quickest way to apply is online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).
- Or use the [FEMA App](#) for mobile devices.
- You can also call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362.
 - If you choose to apply by phone, please understand calls to FEMA's helpline are experiencing delays because of the increased volume due to multiple recent disasters.
 - 2024 Application deadlines: Hurricane Debby Nov. 12; Hurricane Helene Nov. 27; Hurricane Milton

Dec. 11.

Additional Resources

- FDEM Statewide Debris Dashboard: [Debris Survey Results \(Milton\)](#).
- Clean & Sanitize: FEMA may be able to provide up to \$300 in one-time financial assistance to help with cleanup. [Clean and Sanitize Assistance | FEMA.gov](#).
- Multi-Agency Resource Centers: Florida Division of Emergency Management and local communities are establishing these centers to assist residents with storm recovery. FEMA specialists are available at most centers.
- FEMA & Citizenship: You or a member of your household [must be U.S. citizen, non-U.S. citizen national or qualified non-citizen](#) to apply for FEMA assistance.
- Be Alert to Fraud: Con artists and criminals may try to obtain money or steal personal information through fraud or identity theft after disasters. [Be Alert to Fraud After Florida Hurricanes | FEMA.gov](#)
- FEMA Rumor Response: Know what's true and what isn't. [Hurricane Rumor Response | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Mental health resources for Floridians](#)
- For help with cleanup: Call 833-GET HOPE
- [Tips for Mold Cleanup](#)
- Florida Division of Emergency Management Updates: floridadisaster.org/disaster-updates/storm-updates/
- Disaster Legal Hotline: 833-514-2940
- Crisis Cleanup: 844-965-1386 available through Nov. 1.

News Release

FEMA Awards \$1 Billion for Emergency Work in Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – FEMA has provided more than \$1 billion to help the State of Florida and local communities with the cost of emergency response to Hurricanes [Milton](#), [Helene](#) and [Debby](#).

To date, FEMA's Public Assistance program has obligated \$608.6 million for Hurricane Milton, \$335.5 million for Hurricane Helene and \$102.2 million for Hurricane Debby. The money reimburses the state, local governments and certain nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures and debris removal.

FEMA's [Public Assistance](#) program provides reimbursement to local and state government

agencies for the costs of emergency response, debris removal and restoration of disaster damaged public facilities and infrastructure. Houses of worship and other nonprofit organizations may also be eligible for FEMA Public Assistance.

For the latest information about Hurricane Milton recovery, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4834](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4834). For Hurricane Helene, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4828](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4828). For Hurricane Debby, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4806](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4806). Follow FEMA on X at [x.com/femaregion4](https://twitter.com/femaregion4) or on Facebook at facebook.com/fema.

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Respectfully,

Kimber

Kimber Kipp

External Affairs Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist
Hurricanes Debbie DR-4806-FL | Helene DR-4828-FL | Milton DR-4834-FL
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Need to Report an Issue? SeeClickFix Venice Connect is available as an app for Android and iPhone. Select SeeClickFix from your app store on your device and choose Venice, Florida. There is also a link to the program on the city's website, www.venicegov.com, or go directly to SeeClickFix at <https://venice.seeclickfix.com/venice>

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