

After the Storm: Post-Hurricane Events

Day 1

- Electricity is out
- Water is either unavailable or unsafe to drink
- Government agencies closed, little infrastructure exists
- Gasoline pumps not working
- Banks and financial institutions closed
- Curfew goes into effect at nightfall

Day 2

- Looting may begin, police work 12-hour shifts, National Guard may be called in
- Ice becomes unavailable
- Few stores open and essentials are quickly depleted
- Suppliers and relief efforts hampered by lack of street signs and downed trees
- Pay telephones may be set up
- Limited electricity to essential services restored

Day 3

- Volume of telephone calls overwhelms telephone company capabilities
- First influx of repair crews, building materials, and contractors
- City crews are beginning to make an impact on street clearing
- Electrical service begins to be restored to businesses; banks may reopen

Day 4

- Major streets open; secondary roads are still closed and may not be open for a week or more
- Some public schools may reopen, some may operate on partial day schedule

Day 5

- Local governments pass ordinances outlawing price gouging, complaints of poor and shoddy repairs increase
- Relief efforts have finally been well organized, with shelters and food kitchens operating throughout disaster area
- Phone service should be nearly restored; electrical service still out over much of the area

Day 6

- Additional governmental agencies have recovered, although trash collection will continue to be out for perhaps a week
- Still no mail delivery in most areas, although post office is setting up collection areas
- Hospitals see an increase in disaster related injuries as people attempt repairs, are exposed to insects and snakes, suffer heat exhaustion, and face emotional stress

_____ Adapted from *Hurricanes: How to Prepare and Recover*