

**Florida Coastal Construction Control Line Program  
Post Storm Dune Recovery – Dune Walkovers  
October 12, 2016**

As a result of Hurricane Matthew, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued an Emergency Final Order (EFO) on October 5, 2016. The Order provides relief from the Department's regulatory requirements to minimize environmental hazards and accelerate recovery in areas damaged by the storm. This emergency authorization allows recovery, repair and restoration to begin immediately on storm damaged properties and structures seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL).

A copy of the Department's Emergency Final Order and information on emergency permitting can be obtained from the DEP website (<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/mainpage/em/2016/matthew/matthew.htm>), contacting the CCCL program at (850) 245-7636, or emailing [cccl@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:cccl@dep.state.fl.us). DEP Emergency Final Orders OGC 16-1319 and OGC 16-1327 (stormwater relief), for Hurricane Matthew expire on November 2, 2016.

The DEP Division of Water Resource Management has developed this general guidance to provide property owners and local governments with descriptions of dune walkover construction activities that are authorized in the EFO seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line, starting on page 17. Also, visit the Beaches website ([www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches)) to access [emergency permit application forms](#) and other guidance.

**Note:** This document is for general information only. For the applicable Florida Department of Environmental Protection's regulatory standards and procedures, please refer to the Hurricane Matthew Emergency Final Order OGC 16-1319 and OGC 16-1327, Florida Statute 161.053 and Chapter 62B-33, Florida Administrative Code.

**Post Storm Cleanup – Dune Walkovers**

- A DEP emergency final order (EFO) provides short term regulatory relief for post storm response activities seaward of the coastal construction control line, such as debris removal, returning of sand to the beach and dune restoration, repairs and shoring up damaged structures. Activities must be conducted with the safety of the public, the beach and dune system, and beach dependent wildlife in mind.
- For the period of the EFO, county governments and municipalities can issue permits for certain minor structures and activities for which no companion CCCL permit from DEP is required.
- Local government emergency permits can be issued for repair of surviving beach/dune walkovers provided the structure is substantially intact and the repair allows for adjustments to be made to the seaward end of the walkover steps or ramp if necessary to accommodate changes in the shoreline topography and dune vegetation resulting from the storm.
- Repair or replacement of non-structural members such as deck boards and handrails is exempt from CCCL permit requirements during and after the emergency period.
- Replacement or rebuilding of substantially damaged dune walkovers requires a CCCL permit. Simpler projects following the DEP dune walkover guidelines should be eligible for an emergency CCCL permit issued by DEP. See guidelines at end of this document.
- Walkover construction may need to wait for other storm recovery activities, such as debris removal or dune restoration.

### **Post Storm Recovery – Permit Procedures**

- The DEP emergency order provides regulatory relief during the initial storm recovery phase. In addition to emergency permitting delegated by the EFO to local governments, the state CCCL program can assist with permits during and after the emergency period.
- Once a state of emergency is declared by either Executive Order of the Governor pursuant to Section 252.36, F.S., or by the Secretary of the Department pursuant to Section 120.569(2)(l), F.S., the following emergency procedures are followed by the state CCCL program:
  - a. Designated representatives of the Department shall process emergency permits upon the request for an emergency field permit or the submittal of an emergency permit application. All construction shall be reasonably expected to be completed within 90 days of permit issuance;
  - b. Emergency field permits that are processed pursuant to Rule 62B-33.0014, F.A.C., may be issued for construction, including but not limited to: temporary or remedial activities to protect structures; repair or replace minor structures, including dune walkovers, retaining walls, decks, and gazebos; dune restoration with beach compatible sand; repair or replacement of minor damages to coastal armoring structures, including bulkhead or seawall caps, return walls, tiebacks, individual sheet piles, and individual armor stone; and other similar activities;
  - c. Emergency permit applications may be submitted for the following activities: permanent foundation repair to major structures, repair or reconstruction of major structures, or repair or reconstruction of major damages to coastal armoring structures. The request must be submitted using the form entitled “Emergency Permit Application” available on the website [www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches);
  - d. Processing fees for emergency permits shall be waived;
  - e. Information requirements of Chapter 62B-33, F.A.C, and the Application Form shall be deferred if the delay necessary to gather and submit the information will compound the emergency; and
  - f. Public notice procedures shall be waived.

### **Post Storm Recovery – Sea Turtles**

- Marine turtle nesting season ends October 31. There may still be live sea turtle nests in the beach after that time on beaches south of Brevard County on the east coast, but are also possible in all coastal counties. Marked sea turtle nests must be avoided during all work.
- Please contact [marineturtle@myfwc.com](mailto:marineturtle@myfwc.com) for information on marked turtle nests prior to conducting work that could impact the nest site. Some nests have survived the storm and may hatch. Others will be checked by the FWC Marine Turtle Permit Holder at the appropriate time. Work in that area may commence once the marking stakes are removed by the Marine Turtle Permit Holder.

### **CCCL Program Contact Information**

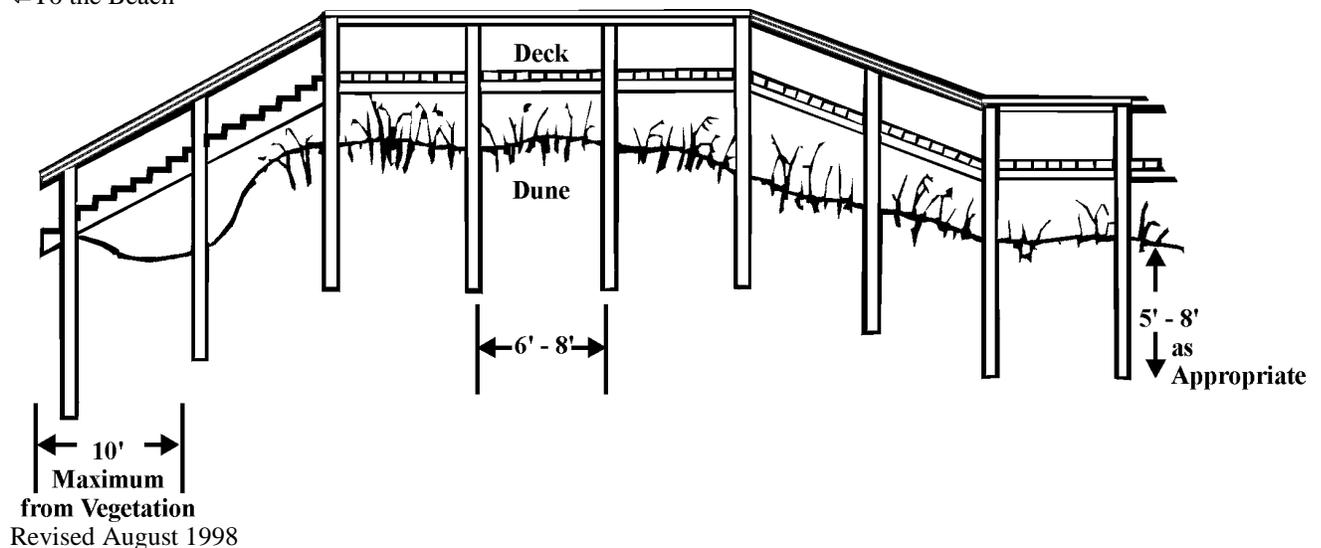
- For staff contact information, visit the website [Beaches and Coastal Systems - Contacts \(http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/programs/contacts.htm#coastal\\_protection\)](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/programs/contacts.htm#coastal_protection).
- Email [cccl@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:cccl@dep.state.fl.us)
- Phone: 850/245-7636 or Fax: 850/245-8459

## Walkover Guidelines

Walkovers to be constructed across vegetated dunes or across heavily vegetated bluffs should be post-supported and elevated a sufficient distance above the existing or proposed vegetation to allow for sand build-up and clearance above the vegetation (this may be several feet depending on the type of vegetation). Walkovers should generally be constructed perpendicular to the shoreline and extend at least to the seaward toe of the frontal dune or the existing line of vegetation but not farther than 10 feet seaward of the vegetation. Where well defined dunes and vegetation are missing, the walkover needs to stop as far back up the beach as possible, landward of the higher tide line and in a location not likely to interfere with people walking down the beach (lateral beach access), and to avoid prime sea turtle nesting habitat.

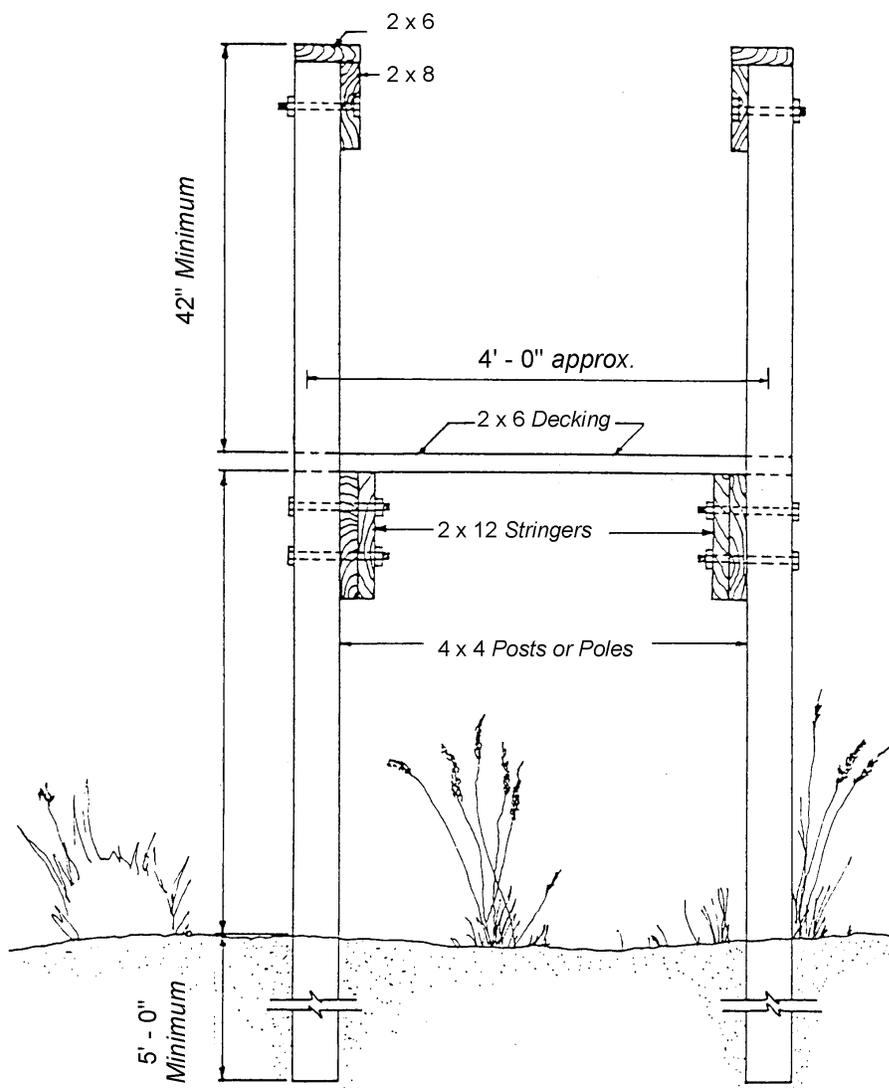
Support posts should not be installed into dune slopes that are steeper than approximately 30 degrees. Whenever possible, stairways leading from the top or crest of a dune down to the beach should be designed to completely span the seaward slope of the dune. Inspectors should consult with the CCCL Program prior to issuing a permit for a walkover that contains switchbacks or other features required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

⇐To the Beach



## Design Criteria for Single-Family Developments

Walkovers should be designed as minor structures and need not meet specific structural requirements to resist wind and wave forces, but should be designed to produce minimum scour of the beach and dune topography during a storm event and to reduce the potential for damage to upland structures as airborne or waterborne debris. The width of the walkover structure should not exceed 4 feet. The railing should be limited to a handrail and one center guardrail. The posts for the walkover structure should be 4-inch by 4-inch (although 6-inch posts may be allowed), should be embedded deep enough to support typical live and dead loads (minimum of 5 feet), and should not be encased in concrete. Typical spacing between post bents should be 6 to 8 feet. Supporting beams, bents, and stair stringers should not be greater than 2-inch by 12-inch pressure treated lumber. Connections may be fastened with bolts or nails hot dipped galvanized or stainless steel. All lumber should be pressure treated. A typical section of a walkover for a single-family development is shown below.



Single Family Dwelling  
TYPICAL SECTION  
Scale : 1" = 1' - 0"

## Design Criteria For Multi-Family Developments

The number of walkovers within the development depends on the expected volume and type of traffic; however, the width of each walkover allowed should not exceed 6-feet. Where more than one walkover is authorized within the development, a minimum 150-foot spacing should be provided between authorized walkovers. The piles for the typical walkover are 6-inch in diameter and should be embedded approximately 8 feet to account for both structural stability and possible dune deflation losses. A typical section of a walkover for a multi-family development is shown below. Since the structural design guidelines provided herein may not apply to many of these structures, designers of such structures are encouraged to consult with the CCCL Program staff.

