

**Administration**  
1769 E. Moody Blvd Bldg 2  
Bunnell, FL 32110



[www.flaglercounty.org](http://www.flaglercounty.org)

Phone: (386)313-4001

Fax: (386)313-4101

Julie Murphy  
Flagler County  
Public Information Officer  
(386) 313-4039  
Email [jmurphy@flaglercounty.org](mailto:jmurphy@flaglercounty.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Operations support staffers deploy to Calhoun County

**October 16, 2018** – Along with deploying members of fire rescue to assist in recovery efforts in the aftermath of hurricane Michael, Calhoun County also needed operational assistance. The County is facing monumental challenges of no electricity, limited phone and internet, severe structural damage throughout and massive amount of debris. Conditions are expected to remain in this state for months. A number of Flagler County employees were deployed and have hit the ground running in Blountstown providing operational assistance.

Working in the makeshift Emergency Operations Center and often sleeping in their vehicles, Flagler County staff is doing whatever it takes to support Calhoun County. With a population of about 14,500 residents and land area of 574 square miles, Calhoun County is a small rural community with limited staff and limited resources. For comparison purposes Flagler County is 571 square miles.

“It is important that we help other counties in their time of need. Our County has received help in the past and we will need help again in the future. The good thing is our staff can easily fit in and immediately start working because of their training, professionalism, and recent experience with our own disasters. County Administrator Craig Coffey said. Out of these experiences, they will bring back new lessons that will make our County better prepared and more resilient.”

To date, Flagler County has deployed thirteen employees to the panhandle to assist with the recovery efforts. Employees deployed to assist so far, include Emergency Management Chief, Jonathan Lord, Public Information Officer Julie Murphy, Emergency Management Planner Lea Tardanico, Special Project Coordinator Michael Esposito, Library Director Holly Albanese, IT/E-911 database specialist Suzanne Eubanks. Emergency Management Nealon Joseph will be deploying next week. Four employees from Fire/Rescue have been deployed. Additionally, one employee from Fire/Rescue and one from IT have been mobilized through their military reserve units to assist in hurricane relief/recovery efforts.

Charles Ericksen, Jr.  
District 1

Greg Hansen  
District 2

David Sullivan  
District 3

Nate McLaughlin  
District 4

Donald O'Brien, Jr.  
District 5

“Continue to keep everyone in the panhandle and the Gulf Coast in our prayers,” said Commission Chair Greg Hansen.

###