FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler Emergency Management: Follow recommended Hurricane Matthew recovery tips

October 17, 2016 – Flagler County Emergency Management is urging residents to follow the Hurricane Matthew recovery tips provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“We are recommending that Flagler County residents follow the recovery tips that have been provided by FEMA,” said Steve Garten, Flagler County Public Safety Emergency Manager. “They are the experts and the ones who have to sort through the mountain of paperwork, so it makes sense to follow the guidelines they have provided.”

FEMA’s Hurricane Matthew recovery tips:

- If you haven’t already done so, notify your insurance agent of any damages sustained to your home or business as a result of Hurricane Matthew.
- Take photos of any floodwater and damaged items in your home, and keep repair receipts.
- File an insurance claim with your insurance agent.
- Make sure any contractors hired are licensed and carry general liability insurance, workers’ compensation and are bonded.
- FEMA does NOT recommend or endorse any contractors.
- Anyone who suspects fraud should call FEMA’s Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721, or the Florida Attorney General’s fraud and price gouging hotline at 866-966-7226.

Flagler County has created a virtual help center: www.flaglerassist.com. Though a federal declaration has yet to be made to qualify Flagler County for Individual Assistance, residents can pre-register at www.disasterassistance.gov. This site is among those directly linked from the site.

Filling out the “address look-up” currently provides the message: “No disasters declared for Individual Assistance were found for this address.” Despite that message, residents can still apply for assistance: “The system will let you proceed if early registration is open for your state or county. Your application will proceed if your county is added to an active declaration.”
There is also a FEMA Helpline that is available from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week. The number is 800-621-3362, TTY is 800-462-7585.

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