

Post Hurricane Response / Re-entry

Introduction:

As soon as reasonable after the storm passes, an assessment of the Town will be made. Depending on the level of damage, hazards, and other factors, a decision will be made to facilitate re-entry to the Town of Longboat Key. Re-entry will occur in phases based on health and safety issues as well as damage assessment. Immediately following landfall of a catastrophic hurricane, a rapid and orderly movement of essential personnel and services into the impact area is important to aid in rapid recovery. Re-entry will occur in a “tiered approach” based on key roles in restoring normal operations after the disaster. Prior to allowing residents to re-enter, Town officials must consider the safety of the areas affected by the storm, and the safety of the roadways throughout the key. Emergency crews will be deployed to begin clearing roadways, assisting any people who might be injured, and begin clearing downed power lines and restoring vital services such as phones, electricity and water.

The scope of this portion of the post-hurricane response referred to as “re-entry” will not include strategies or protocols for immediate life-safety response missions, search and rescue (SAR).

Residents of the Town must be able to provide proof of residency before they will be permitted onto the key and into the areas where they live or work. Before evacuating, it is important to have photo identification, such as a driver’s license or employment photo identification. Proof of Longboat Key residency, such as a phone or electric bill, a rental agreement or a copy of a homeowner’s insurance policy will also be accepted. Checkpoints will be established at locations where safety is a concern due to debris or other hazardous conditions. It is the goal of the LBK Police Department and all emergency responders to permit residents and business owners to return safely to their properties as soon as possible. Being prepared is the key; if you plan to evacuate, bring your identification and proof of residency with you so you can get back home or to your business as quickly and safely as possible.

Curfews may be enforced to limit the duration of the re-entry period. The police department will maintain roadblocks and checkpoints as well as establish security for all areas within town limits. Any conflict at designated check points will be routed through the local Incident Commander as appropriate for resolution. The safety of personnel will be the ultimate deciding factor in all cases.

The media will be granted access to impacted areas when conditions are safe and their presence does not hinder response operations. The media plays a vital role in raising awareness about conditions within impacted areas.

Re-Entry:

Re-entry will occur by a tiered approach based on an assessment of the level of damage and impact to the general infrastructure throughout the community, as well as common areas of transportation providing accessibility. The general parameters of this approach are as follows:

- 1) Tier I: Tier I re-entry will apply to Town of Longboat Key employees and other authorized federal, state, and local agencies that need immediate access to the area to ensure restoration of critical services such as water, electrical, and communications. The primary objective of personnel operating in this condition is to render the area safe for first responders conducting life safety operations.

Planning Assumptions for the First Tier:

In most situations, members of the initial rescue teams will be co-located immediately before re-entry operations begin in defined staging areas inland. These teams will be the first officials to enter restricted areas, therefore re-entry passes would not be required as law enforcement officials will be imbedded in this response element or will not be posted to restrict access due to operating conditions. Nearly all elements of this group will likely be operating emergency response type vehicles with conspicuous agency or company markings.

At the initial identification process during Tier II and Tier III, agents will confirm residency or business affiliation. Once this is established the agent will affix a symbol "Decal" to the authorized vehicle that will provide a visible identification permitting future access without lengthy delays.

- 2) Tier II: This phase should consist primarily of those individuals from the public and private sector that support the re-establishment of critical infrastructure to support the re-entry of the general public.

Tier II re-entry will apply to relief workers, healthcare agencies, insurance agents, banking organizations, suppliers of food, and other business operators that are considered critical to the recovery effort. This includes condominium/hotel leaders and their staff that are critical to the recovery effort.

- 3) Tier III: Tier III will apply to businesses that are not considered part of Tier II and town residents. Where an official emergency declaration and mandatory evacuation has been made by the Town of Longboat Key, and remains in effect, re-entry of businesses and the public will be permitted based on an assessment by Emergency Preparedness officials of the threat to public safety and security and the availability of sustainable living conditions.

All personnel granted access under Tier I or Tier II must be self-sustaining (food, water, medical supplies and secure quarters) and prepared to comply with movement and curfew restrictions issued by the Town Manager or his designee. Town of Longboat Key (TLBK) identification Tier System:

Tier I ~ Response Support: Individuals/agencies that provide critical services to assist First Responders in execution of their duties and those in direct support of critical infrastructure. These individuals/agencies include federal state, and local agencies and those who provide critical services to the government and public agencies such as; government contractors, and their subcontractors, and major utility companies and their pre-designated sub-contractors who restore electricity, natural gas, and potable water service. Also included are volunteer rescue and response organizations and certain private business and industry disaster assessment teams provided they remain on site and are self-sustaining/securing.

Tier II ~ Recovery Support: Core assessment teams of major employers or businesses deemed to be essential to the future return of residents or the economic vitality of the Town of Longboat Key. These teams include major employers or businesses that are essential to the return of residents and the Town's economic viability such as financial institutions, maritime operations, food suppliers, and other businesses as determined by the Town Manager of Longboat Key or his designee to be essential to the return of residents and/or to the economic vitality of the town.

Tier III ~ Resident/Business Admission: This phase includes all residents, property owners and business owners. Tier III access may come one week or more after Tier I and may be the most difficult to control for various reasons. Residents and individuals entering during this phase for the first time should expect to have their residency or affiliation with a local business challenged. Public safety officials will require those attempting to gain access to produce the aforementioned identification or proof that they have a reason or interest to enter the impacted area. Once affiliation is confirmed the vehicle will be issued a "Decal" permitting future re-entry.

SUMMARY PLAN

Summary Plan for All Conditions

Phase I

The first priority of the Police Department is to provide security within the town limits, institute roadblocks and check-points as directed by the Chief of Police or his designee; establishing patrols to prevent looting. Patrols will be coordinated with the removal of hazardous debris so as to minimize tire damage and equipment problems. Foot patrols will be implemented until vehicle patrols are practical. It will be necessary to implement a shift rotation schedule to allow personnel to address personal needs. Requests for mutual-aid resources can be coordinated through the EOC. Once initial steps have been taken, the police department will take inventory of supplies, equipment and manpower. Throughout all operations, the police department will have to be prepared to take action to enforce curfew and access restrictions. It will be essential to maintain accountability for all personnel including location, assignment and status.

George Turner, Police Chief