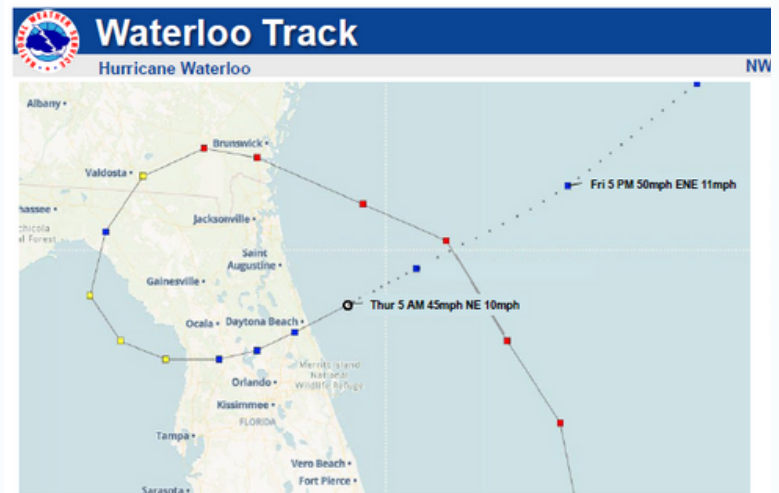


2025 ST. JOHNS COUNTY HURRICANE EXERCISE



On May 29, 2025, St. Johns County Emergency Management led a hurricane preparedness exercise to strengthen the county's response to major storms. The training brought together more than 40 local, regional, and state agencies to simulate emergency operations during a powerful storm.

The fictional storm, Hurricane Waterloo, struck just north of St. Johns County as a major hurricane.



The storm lingered over the region for days, bringing sustained winds up to 100 mph, more than 15 inches of rain, severe flooding, tidal surges and storm damage, and major road closures, including impacts to the S.R. 312 bridge. This scenario challenged participants to respond to a wide range of realistic disaster impacts that would affect thousands of residents, infrastructure, and public safety operations.

The training focused on four key objectives:

1. Using WebEOC, a real-time emergency management platform, to coordinate across agencies and track essential information.
2. Testing communication systems and operational tools used in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
3. Developing missions and response priorities to support recovery efforts.
4. Validating financial procedures outlined in the county's Emergency Financial Plan.

To ensure broad participation, the exercise was conducted twice, giving various staff members and partners an opportunity to practice their roles.

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Dozens of agencies that support local response and recovery efforts came together for the exercise to collaborate on efforts in response to Hurricane Waterloo.

At the end of the simulation, participants joined debriefing sessions to identify what went well and where improvements can be made. Feedback and observations will be used to create an After-Action Report, helping St. Johns County continue to strengthen its emergency plans and community resilience.

