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## The Recovery Process Continues

Margate, FL November 17, 2005 – Progress continues to be made daily regarding post-hurricane issues. The following includes a status update and important reminders.

**DEBRIS:** At this time, 211,463 cubic yards of horticultural debris has been collected. It is estimated that there is a total of +300,000 cubic yards of debris from Wilma. The first pass should be complete on 11/18/05 and the second pass is scheduled to begin on 11/21/05. Please remain patient as crews are working from dawn to dusk collecting hurricane vegetative debris. Serino Park Resident-Only Debris Drop-Off Site is open on the weekends only and is another option for residents who are able to drop off debris themselves. For more information on this program visit [www.margatefl.com](http://www.margatefl.com) or call 954-972-8126 weekdays from 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**TRAFFIC:** Since many street signs are down, practice the four-way stop where stops signs are down. Please continue to drive carefully as repairs will likely take time. All traffic lights are operational with two on generator power. Pending the repair of school zone lighting, the Margate Police Department has created a lighting alternative in order for these lights to work and to ensure the safety of school children.

**POWER:** At last estimate 99% of the city had power restored.

**BUILDING:** Currently there are 221 structures still labeled as unsafe. Buildings must be made water-tight after they are tagged unsafe. Also, when using a tarp remember do not cover drains as this could increase the weight on the roof and subsequently increase roof damage.

The Department of Business & Professional Regulations offers the following:

An unlicensed person is **ONLY** permitted to “dry-in” a structure. “Drying-in” a structure means the use of tarps, plastic sheeting, or other temporary materials for the sole purpose of preventing further damage to the structure. **All permanent repairs must be made by a licensed individual.**

**SHUTTERS:** Remember to remove your hurricane shutters. Leaving shutters on long after a hurricane has passed is a fire hazard.

**HOUSING:** If in need of temporary housing assistance because of extensive damage to your home due to the hurricane, register with the Red Cross and FEMA. 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) Red Cross: (954) 763-9900. Also, check the Broward County website at [www.broward.org/hurricane](http://www.broward.org/hurricane) for a list of available housing.

**PARKS:** Athletic fields at Andrews Park, Vinson Park, Oriole Park, Southeast Park and the Sports Complex are open for the public. All non-athletic parks are open for normal use, however, Serino Park, 50% of Southeast Park and Coral Gate Park remain closed to the public.

**DONATE:** With the holiday’s fast approaching many of our local charities may need your help. If you have the means, help your neighbor and donate to reputable local charities in time for the holidays.

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