



Tropical Storm Idalia | Update #5

REPORT TIME & DATE: 5:00 PM EDT | Friday, September 01, 2023

REPORT DISTRIBUTION: Public

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At approximately 7:45 AM EDT on August 30, the eye of Hurricane Idalia made landfall along the coast of the Florida Big Bend, near Keaton Beach, as a category 3 storm, continuing with high winds into northern Florida, southeastern Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Electricity Sector Summary

- As of 3:00 PM EDT on September 1, there are 146,000 customer outages remaining across Florida and Georgia. This is down from 500,000 across the impacted region during the storm's peak on August 30.
- Damage assessments and restoration efforts are underway. A significant number of customers were restored even as the storm continued to pass through the state. The total number of customers affected during the storm is likely much higher than the storm peak.
- Some customers may not be able to receive power at this time due to damage to customer equipment and/or damage to the customer's structure.
- Utilities are beginning to release restoration estimates; however, estimates for the hardest-hit areas may not be available until damage assessments are complete.

Oil & Natural Gas Sector Summary

- As of September 1, all petroleum ports have reopened including Tampa, Manatee, Jacksonville, Pensacola, Panama City, Canaveral, Savannah, Charleston, and Wilmington.

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS & WAIVERS

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

To provide vital supplies and transportation services to a disaster area in the United States, emergency declarations may be issued by the President, Governors of States, or Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). These declarations trigger the temporary suspension of certain federal safety regulations, including hours-of-service, for motor carriers and drivers engaged in specific aspects of the emergency relief effort. See 49 CFR 390.23 for the actual emergency regulation.

Emergency Declarations and HOS Waivers <i>as of 8:00 AM EDT 09/01/2023</i>				
State/Territory	Details	Effective Dates		Status
		Start	End	
Florida	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	8/28	Until Rescinded	Active
Florida	State of Emergency	8/26	10/27	Active
Georgia	State of Emergency	8/29	9/8	Active
North Carolina	State of Emergency	8/28	9/27	Active
South Carolina	State of Emergency	8/28	9/13	Active
South Carolina	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	8/31	Until Rescinded	Active

Sources: State government websites

- The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles issued an [emergency order](#) in response to Governor Ron DeSantis' Executive Order 23-171 suspending certain regulations and requirements for commercial motor vehicles and drivers in various Florida counties due to the risk of dangerous weather conditions. The hours-of-service requirements for motor carriers providing emergency relief are exempt until September 25, 2023.
- Kentucky's Transportation Secretary, Jim Gray, has issued an [emergency order](#) that temporarily lifts certain regulations for commercial vehicles involved in power restoration and debris clearing after Tropical Storm Idalia. This suspension is meant to support utility and emergency crews in aiding storm victims. The order remains in effect until September 30 2023, allowing commercial drivers to bypass driving time and weigh station restrictions during emergency response.

WAIVERS

- **EPA Gasoline RVP Requirements:** On August 30, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a waiver of Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) requirements in Florida to help reduce fuel supply shortages as part of EPA's response to Hurricane Idalia. Under this temporary waiver, regulated entities may produce, sell, and distribute higher-volatility winter gasoline in Florida with an RVP of no more than 11.5 pounds per square inch (psi), or 12.5 pounds per square inch if the gasoline contains between 9% and 15% ethanol. The waiver is effective immediately and will continue through September 15.
- The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued notices of intent and received confirmation on August 29 from Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina not to object to waivers of certain pipeline operator qualifications and pre-employment and random drug and alcohol testing requirements in support of hurricane response and/or recovery.