

Hurricane Matthew Damage Assessment by Manufactured Housing Section

The Manufactured Housing section is tasked with making assessments of damage to manufactured homes after high wind events. On October 8, 2016, Hurricane Matthew passed along the coast of Florida getting close enough to cause damage to both manufactured homes and site built homes.

The staff of manufactured housing was in constant contact with the building departments for updates on areas affected by Hurricane Matthew. This proactive team did not waste a moment and were at the affected mobile home areas and parks to assess the damages and to ensure residents were safe.

The Manufactured Home Installation Section immediately travels to any area in Florida affected by Hurricanes and severe storms to begin performing storm damage assessment. Damage assessment is done in order to determine the effectiveness of current department administrative rules governing the installation of mobile/manufactured homes. The effectiveness of newer anchoring systems is assessed.

The HUD built manufactured home manufacturers are also regulated by the manufactured housing section through a contract with HUD. The damage to these homes is also assessed. Any severe damage or separation of components caused by wind forces would be reported to the manufacturer of the home and also HUD.

The general performance of the manufactured homes was good. The main structures generally performed well, with only minor damage to roof shingles, edge flashing, windows, or siding being evident. In a few locations, underlayment or sheathing damage was observed. Wind-borne debris and trees toppling onto homes caused additional damage, sometimes significant. The performance of the appurtenant structures was, unfortunately, not so healthy. Most of the damage encountered was to carports, screen rooms, sunrooms, and sheds. In many cases, these structures experienced total failure. The spread of the damage from carports to host structures, however, was not significant in the newer homes but was for the older ones.

The majority of the damage to older manufactured homes from Hurricane Matthew was from carports that were blown off which in turn pulled off the attached "Roof Over". Many older mobile homes have had a "Roof Over" installed. A "Roof Over" is a secondary roof installed over the original roof. These are usually attached to the carport or screen room. When high winds cause the carport or screen to rise up, in many cases this will also pull up the roof from the mobile home. Additions to mobile homes such as but not limited to carports and screen rooms fall under the jurisdiction of the local Building Department. One other major contributor to damage of these homes was from trees as many parks have very big and vintage trees with either the limbs or the trees themselves falling on the homes.

The newer homes fared very well with minor damage to vinyl siding and roof shingles being blown off. Some had damage to their porches and screen rooms but no major damage to the structure caused by these additions seen by the assessment team. The HUD standards for the construction of manufactured homes changed after Hurricane Andrew and the Florida Building code also changed which required new and more stringent requirements for the additions that go on manufactured homes.

Safety Program Consultant Blaine Fort noted in his assessment report that he is very impressed with the performance of newer homes and homes installed using newer installation guidelines; making him proud to be part of the tremendous improvement in the safety of manufactured homes and their installation.



Mobile home damaged during Hurricane Matthew.



Mobile home s damaged by Hurricane Matthew in Flagler County.