

# Frequently asked questions

## Now that the city has restored water service, can I drink the water?

You can use the water for showers, but do not drink it until an announcement has been made. The city has been testing samples of the water, but cannot deem the water as safe for drinking until the complete system has been tested. The storm inundated many of the city's 24 water wells, which required extensive repairs to each. All but one is operating at this time.

If you see water escaping from a broken water line or from a fire hydrant, contact the Public Works Department at 435-6271 so repairs can be made. Leaks such as this will diminish the city's water pressure, which handicaps firefighting capability.

## Can I flush my toilet?

Yes. The two wastewater treatment plants in Biloxi and the 120 lift stations that pump wastewater to those plants have been repaired sufficiently enough to operate the wastewater infrastructure in Biloxi.

## When will traffic signals be restored?

MEMA is planning to assess traffic signals citywide and repairs will be made after that assessment. Some signals on Pass Road and on Cedar Lake Road are operating now.

Motorists approaching intersections with downed signals should treat those intersections as four-way stops. The city has worked to erect Stop signs or have officers direct traffic at intersections with heavy traffic. Motorists are asked to try to use direct routes when traveling, drive defensively and remain patient.

## Why are barricades blocking some areas of the city?

The city has positioned barricades to keep traffic off U.S. 90, where sections of the road were eroded by the storm surge and to allow debris-removal trucks and utility vehicles to operate safely.

The city has also positioned barricades on Caillavet Street, to limit traffic into east Biloxi, where heavy machinery is being used to clear public streets. Only

property owners, relief workers and debris-removal crews are being allowed to cross Caillavet Street.

The city is also limiting traffic into the Eagle Point area to property owners and relief or debris-removal workers.

Police warn that any person moving or driving around a barricade is subject to being issued a ticket or being placed under arrest.

## Will the city clear storm debris from my private property?

The city is prohibited by law from doing work on private property, unless an eminent public safety hazard exists. Once the city completes the second of its planned four debris sweeps of the city, private property owners will be asked to move debris from their property to the roadside so debris-removal crews can remove it.

## I want to rebuild or make major repairs to my home or business. What permits will I need?

Before doing any new construction, you should contact the Community Development Department at 435-6280 or in person at 676 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. A permit is needed to do any structural work such as sheet rocking, etc. Anything that is done cosmetically to a building does not need a permit. Fees for more permits have been waived during the storm recovery process.

## If my house is marked as unsafe or condemned, who is responsible for removing it?

The City of Biloxi marks a structure unsafe by placing a



The Biloxi Lighthouse stands tall and proud amidst the devastation.

green piece of paper on the building. It is the property owner's responsibility. The U.S. Search and Rescue marks the buildings as condemned, it is the property owner's responsibility to take care of the building.

## When are the Biloxi Public Schools going to resume?

The Biloxi Public Schools asks for their staff to return on Sept. 21 through 23 to prepare the school for classes which will resume on Monday, Sept. 26. All public schools will resume except Gorenflo and Nichols. Gorenflo students will be housed at Beauvoir Elementary and Nichols students will be at Jeff Davis Elementary. The bus routes will be posted on the BPS website.

## When does BFI provide residential garbage service?

BFI has resumed its regular schedule of trash pick up on Tuesday and Friday for household trash only. Trucks will run on streets where possible, if a street not allowed, please take household trash to a street that allows BFI trucks to go down.

## When will the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park classes resume?

Classes at USM Gulf Park will begin on October 10. Call USM at 228-896-4500 for more information.

## USAR-Urban Search and Rescue Markings

9/9  
BXPDP



9/9  
BXPDP



9/9  
BXPDP



9/9  
BXPDP

### Search Markings

- The "X" is the search marking that indicates that the structure has been searched and cleared by Search & Rescue Personnel. The date and team info is to the left and any hazards discovered are marked on the right.

### Structure Markings

- The "OPEN BOX" is a structure marking that indicates that the structure is safe to enter.
- The "BOX WITH A SLASH" is a structure marking that indicates that the structure contains hazards and is not safe to enter.
- The "BOX WITH AN X" is a structure marking that indicates that the structure is not safe to enter and represents an imminent threat to public safety.

### Additional Hazards

- Underground gas lines
- Propane tanks within debris piles
- Downed power lines and broken power poles
- Standing water



**Important Storm Recovery  
Information Enclosed**

PRST STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 57  
BILOXI, MS 39530

P.O. Box 429  
Biloxi, MS 39533

Mayor A.J. Holloway  
and the  
Biloxi City Council

George Lawrence • William "Bill" Stallworth  
Charles T. Harrison Jr. • Mike Fitzpatrick  
Tom Wall • Edward "Ed" Gemmill • David Fayard

Postal Customer  
ECRWSS

Visit online at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us)