



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 18, 2017

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## **GOV. SCOTT: COUNTIES MUST AGGRESSIVELY PRIORITIZE DEBRIS CLEAN-UP AS WE RECOVER FROM IRMA**

**NAPLES, Fla.** – Today, Governor Rick Scott directed every county impacted by Hurricane Irma to submit a detailed debris clean-up plan to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) by noon on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Following a major storm like Hurricane Irma, it is incumbent on each Florida county to immediately execute its debris clean-up plan so other restoration efforts, such as power restoration, are not hindered by the presence of debris. Plans submitted to DEM will be posted publicly on the Division's website. All plans must include an estimated date of completion. Any county that plans to request reimbursement for debris removal following Hurricane Irma must submit a plan.

Governor Scott said, "Today, I am directing every Florida county impacted by Hurricane Irma to submit a detailed debris clean-up plan no later than noon tomorrow, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Let me be clear – debris removal is a function handled and directed at the local level and following a storm like Irma, it is my expectation that every county immediately and aggressively begins work to clear debris in its communities. That is what Florida families and businesses expect.

"Every county should already have a debris clean-up plan in place as part of its emergency response plan and it should already be executed. Any county experiencing issues with the vendors involved in debris clean-up should immediately execute an emergency procurement to get a different vendor. Today, more than 370,000 homes and businesses in Florida are still without power and while utility companies are working non-stop to turn the lights on, the presence of debris can hinder work and delay restoration which is unacceptable. Within seven hours of the storm leaving the state, the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) had cleared all major interstates and turnpikes. DOT has been working around the clock to clear all state and many local roads and assist in recovery efforts. As we all work to recover from Irma, the state stands ready to assist communities in any way possible."