

EDITORIAL

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GBPC

READINESS COMMENDABLE

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YOUR WEATHER



87°F

Some wind and rain from Hurricane Irma

SUNRISE: 6:59 a.m.
SUNSET: 7:23 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 12:28 p.m. - 12:46 a.m.
LOW TIDE: 6:003 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
WINDS: ESE at 30 mph

See Page 10 for full round-up

The Freeport News BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS & SERVICE GUIDE

Whatever you're looking for, these local businesses ask you to consider them first.

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GB Power valiant in limiting outage

Crews mobilized throughout

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Although the expectancy of power outages throughout Grand Bahama was high, with the massive Hurricane Irma threatening a direct landfall, the Grand Bahama Power Company (GBPC) had its crews mobilized and about 96 percent of its customers enjoyed the convenience of service.

GBPC President and Chief Operating Officer Archie Collins had expressed confidence as early as Friday afternoon that

"I can say that for the most part, the power was on throughout the island straight through for about 96-97 percent of our customers. We also had a great communication with them and we saw to it that the vast majority was energized."

~ Archie Collins
GBPC, President and CEO



the company would be able to provide service despite the hurricane that was approaching.

When contacted by The Freeport News on Friday afternoon, Collins indicated that there was an all-out effort ongoing to ensure a stable power source.

"We have no plans to cut power across the entire island. If things look really bad on Sunday and power becomes unstable we will inform the public," said Collins.

On Sunday morning he disclosed that generally, just a relatively small percentage of business houses and areas were without power for a while, due to four of the company's 36
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SEN. KWASI THOMPSON
Minister of State, GB

Emergency center remains in operation

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The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remained fully operational on Sunday with all relevant stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental agencies on hand, closely monitoring the status of Hurricane Irma, as the outer bands of the monstrous storm impacted the Northern Bahamas.

Although Hurricane Irma early Sunday began making its way into the Florida Keys and other parts of Southern Florida,
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GB under tropical storm warning

Abria Cooper
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Tropical warnings are expected to continue for Grand Bahama until sometime today. The Freeport News was informed on Sunday.

Senior Officer and Officer in Charge the Bahamas Department of Meteorology in Grand Bahama, Kirk James, disclosed that data substantiated that Grand Bahama would still be under warning today.

Speaking from his base at the Emergency Operations Center in the Harold D. Gregory building during a briefing, James informed that, at the time, Irma had moved towards the North
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Catholic Board Association Schools Opening Update

The Catholic Board of Education (CBE) wishes to advise that all CBE schools will reopen for students on Tuesday, September 12, 2017.

Administrators, staff, aides and support teachers should report on Monday, September 11, 2017.

We thank God for sustaining us during this time and shall continue our prayers for those who were negatively impacted.

Tornadoes, tidal surges linked to Storm Irma

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While Bahamians have been spared the direct impact of Hurricane Irma, the country experienced tornadoes, receding coastlines and tidal surges.

For miles the sea rolled back in Long Island, causing panic and concern that a tsunami may be imminent and possibly wipe out everything that residents and business owners struggled so hard to rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Joaquin (2015).

Meanwhile on the island of Bimini, tidal surges and swells caused serious flooding and on Grand Bahama, tornadoes formed so rapidly, residents throughout Garden Villas, Caravel Beach, Imperial Park, Bahamia and Lucaya, narrowly escaped being injured, as rooftops were ripped off and tossed around like toothpicks in the wind.

NEMA Officials along with Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) Deputy Commissioner Emrick Seymour, up to press time, continued to urge residents to stay indoors as both Grand Bahama and Bimini remained under tropical storm watch.

Climate change as it relates to Global Warming can be attributed in some way to the increased intensity, severity and frequency of storms not only in the Atlantic
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TORNADO DAMAGE – Several homes in the Imperial Park Subdivision and businesses in the area sustained minimal to extensive damage yesterday as a tornado ripped through portions of Grand Bahama.

SAFETY TIP

Children are the least predictable pedestrians, and the most difficult to see. Remember to drive with CARE and caution as the BACK TO SCHOOL season begins.