October 7, 2016
For Immediate Release

National Guard Securing Bridges and Controlling Access to Barrier Islands in St. Johns County

St. Johns County, FL – The Emergency Operations Center and County agencies are receiving numerous inquiries by phone and social media asking when citizens who live in evacuation zones will be allowed to return to their homes.

At this time, reentry will not be allowed until Saturday at the earliest. The National Guard and law enforcement are securing access to the barrier islands via the bridges, and they will remain closed until further notice.

The City of St. Augustine also will not allow reentry into areas east of US 1 until Saturday at the earliest. This will allow time for an initial damage evaluation, assessment of needs and restoration of critical infrastructure within the historic district. Law enforcement will control access to the city east of US 1 until further notice.

As wind speeds drop and bridge travel is considered safe, law enforcement and first responders will move into evacuation zones to assess conditions and protect private property. A curfew remains in effect nightly from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. for the City of St. Augustine Beach, the City of St. Augustine, and portions of St. Johns County lying east of the Intracoastal Waterway on the barrier islands.

We understand desire of residents to see their homes and assess any damage. Our priority is to ensure a safe and orderly reentry for residents onto the barrier islands. For updates on the official reentry process, please visit www.sjcfl.us, www.facebook.com/SJCFL, or call the EOC Citizen Help Desk at 904-824-5550.

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For additional Information, please contact:

Michael Ryan, Director of Communications - 904.209.0549 / 214.493.2983
Jeremy Robshaw, Public Information Officer - 904.484.6026