

Congress Passes Bill to Avert Government Shutdown

Today, the House of Representatives is expected to join the Senate in passing a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to fund the federal government at existing levels through Dec. 16, 2022. The CR also includes \$12 billion in aid for Ukraine, \$2.5 billion in wildfire recovery relief, \$1 billion in funding a low-income home heating program, and \$20 million in emergency funding to address the water crisis in Jackson, MS. The federal government was set to shut down tomorrow without action from Congress.

The continuing resolution marks the last major legislative action by the House and Senate before the midterm election in November. Congress will now head back to their districts and states to begin the fall campaign season and return to Washington, D.C. on Nov. 14, 2022.

OSHA Disaster Recovery Safety Tips

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is reminding first responders, those involved in rescue and recovery efforts, and residents in areas affected by Hurricane Ian to be vigilant and protect themselves from the many hazards that flooding, power loss, structural damage, fallen trees and storm debris may create.

Storm recovery efforts may involve hazards related to restoring electricity and communications, removing debris, repairing water damage, repairing or replacing roofs and trimming trees. Only individuals with proper training, equipment and experience should conduct recovery and cleanup activities.

OSHA maintains a [comprehensive website](#) with safety tips to help employers and workers, including an alert on [keeping workers safe during flood cleanup](#). Individuals involved in response and recovery efforts may call OSHA's toll-free hotline at 800-321-OSHA (6742).

Hurricane Ian Victims in Florida Qualify for Tax Relief

This week, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [announced](#) that Hurricane Ian victims throughout Florida now have until February 15, 2023, to file various federal individual and business tax returns and make tax payments.

The IRS is offering relief to any area designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This means that individuals and households that reside or have a business anywhere in the state of Florida qualify for tax relief. The current list of eligible localities is always available on the [disaster relief](#) page on IRS.gov.

The tax relief postpones various tax filing and payment deadlines that occurred starting on September 23, 2022. As a result, affected individuals and businesses will have until February 15, 2023, to file returns and pay any taxes that were originally due during this period.

This means individuals who had a valid extension to file their 2021 return due to run out on October 17, 2022, will now have until February 15, 2023, to file. The IRS noted, however, that because tax payments related to these 2021 returns were due on April 18, 2022, those payments are not eligible for this relief.