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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Red tagged buildings do not mean you need to tear down your structure.**

**Thursday, September 14, 2023-** Building inspectors contracted by the City of Crystal River are conducting a citywide survey of residential and commercial properties damaged by Hurricane Idalia. These FEMA-mandated inspections will evaluate whether storm-damaged buildings are safe to occupy. Each structure will receive either a red, yellow, or green tag after they are inspected. Anyone with questions about these inspections can speak with an EPCI representative at 850-387-9882.

There are rumors circulating online that red tagged buildings mean that the structure must be torn down but this is not factual. If your structure receives a red or yellow tag, please call the number listed above and an inspector will guide you through your next steps.

Substantial damage estimates will begin around September 25, 2023. These estimates will guide building owners on the next step of rebuilding or repairing. More details will follow prior to these estimates.

Any work being done on damaged homes that requires a permit should be obtained through the City's growth management department. They can be reached at 352-795-4216 x316 or visited at 915 North Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River.

Anyone with questions about these inspections can speak with an EPCI representative at 850-387-9882.

For more information on the City of Crystal River, visit the City's website, [www.crystalriverfl.org/](http://www.crystalriverfl.org/) or follow them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cityofcrystalriver](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcrystalriver).