

Tax relief for disaster victims was passed this past legislative session as part of a legislative Tax Reduction Package (HB 7087). This new law allows homesteaded property owners to apply for a tax abatement for residential improvements damaged or destroyed by hurricanes Hermine, Matthew or Irma.

Qualifying for the abatement requires that a residential structure was uninhabitable for a minimum of 30 days during the 2016 or 2017 calendar years due to one of these named storms. This abatement takes the form of a refund following payment of 2019 taxes. Determination of the abatement amount is based on the number of days uninhabitable and the respective property's value, as determined by the Property Appraiser, on January 1 of both the storm year and the year thereafter.

This information is featured on the home page of the [Collier County Property Appraiser](#). There are two forms. The first is simply a form to report Hurricane damage, so the value of your house can be adjusted in the 2018 tax roll. It has a deadline of **September 21, 2018** – this deadline was imposed by the Appraisers office because they close the tax roll on September 28 and need time to process. Property Appraiser staff have indicated they will continue to accept the damage report forms through September 28<sup>th</sup>. They also pointed out that you do not need to have filed this form to file for the actual tax refund (see below). Additionally, they advised that they have adjusted the taxable values throughout Everglades City to reflect the impacts of Irma.

The application to the Department of Revenue to file for the abatement has a deadline of **March 1, 2019**. This is the form that needs to be filed to receive the eventual refund on property taxes. I have attached both forms.

Those that plan to file are encouraged to submit both forms as the Department of Revenue will likely check the 2018 tax roll to verify hurricane damage. When my staff inquired as to whether there was any outreach, we were told that it was “on the homepage, they had not received media inquiries, and that Lee County did a press release.”

Let's discuss further at your convenience.

VR,  
Leo

**Collier County Property Appraiser**

**Abe Skinner, CFA**

Welcome to the Collier County Property Appraiser's World Wide Web Site! I am Abe Skinner, your duly elected representative, who is charged with the responsibility of valuing personal properties located in Collier County.

My goal is to serve the people of this county with outstanding customer service and provide the most honest and equitable property valuations possible. Your cooperation is appreciated. The extensive information contained herein will be regularly maintained and updated for your benefit.

Sincerely yours,  
Abe Skinner, CFA

**\*\*\*HURRICANE IRMA VICTIMS\*\*\***

Please fill out the following form(s) if you had damage to your home from the hurricane.

- 1) If you had MAJOR structural damage to your home please fill out the [HURRICANE IRMA DAMAGE REPORT](#) and submit it to our office along with any documentation, photos, etc. **Deadline to submit this form is September 21, 2018.**
- 2) Additionally, if you have a homestead exemption and were unable to live in your home for 30 days or more during 2017 you may be eligible for a property tax rebate ([ABATEMENT OF TAXES FOR HOMESTEADED RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS](#)) and return it to our office, along with all necessary supporting documentation. **Instructions** **Deadline to submit this form is March 1, 2019. No Applications will be accepted after this date.**

Please submit all information to: [webinfo@collierappraiser.com](mailto:webinfo@collierappraiser.com).