

Private Sector Advisory -FEMA Partners with Private Sector and Volunteers to Restore Routine in Puerto Rico

Private Sector Advisory
FEMA Partners with Private Sector and Volunteers to Restore Routine in Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON —The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the entire federal family is engaging in a unified effort to restore routine in Puerto Rico, that includes collaboration between government, the private business sector, and non-governmental volunteer organizations that are essential to securing vital economic services in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The private sector is working to reopen businesses. Commercial financial institutions are starting to recover, with 156 bank branches open across the island. The restoration of banking services allows goods and services to be bought and sold securely. Commercial technology companies are restoring satellite and communication equipment and cell service has returned to an estimated 12 percent of the island, which is 40 percent of the population. Maritime shipping companies are marshalling barges and cargo ships to deliver needed commodities, while multinational courier delivery service companies are flying tons of cargo to Puerto Rico.

As a result of these partnerships, more than 65 percent of grocery and big box stores, and nearly 70 percent of Puerto Rico’s retail gas stations are open.

The United States Postal Service is also providing services in Puerto Rico.