



REVEALED:

Hours after Hurricane Irma, Miami-Dade County issued 857 known safety notices to residents that could result in fines.

6-HOURS AFTER IRMA:

- **20,000 homes were without power when Miami-Dade County code enforcers went out writing safety notices to residents.**
- 9 AM Monday Morning: Hours after Irma's 100 miles per hour winds passed through, Celso Perez and his family awoke to a neighborhood without power, trees down in the street and damage to their own homes.
- To make the neighborhood passable, Perez and his neighbors began cutting branches down and moving debris out of the way.
- By Monday afternoon, Miami-Dade County code enforcers were touring his neighborhood.
- An enforcer approached Perez to notify him that he was writing a safety notice for his fence, which had been partially torn down in the storm. The down fence gave access to his swimming pool, which in Miami-Dade is considered a safety violation.
- Celso Perez: "I laughed. I thought he was kidding. 'You are kidding right? We just had a hurricane six hours ago.' 'No, I'm not kidding. I have to cite you for this.'"
- The enforcer said that he would write the report and be back to check on him. When he returned, the fence had to be repaired or will result in a fine.

A COUNTY-WIDE ISSUE

- These notices were issued immediately following the hurricane, which meant it was unlikely-- or even impossible for residents to have fixed their damaged property before enforcers wrote the warnings.
- Purchasing materials to set up a temporary solutions or completely fix the issue was impossible for families given most stores were closed and the roads were not passable.
- In defense of the warnings, one county official said: "It is important that we reach residents in the immediate aftermath of the storm because that is when conditions are most dangerous, and taking steps to protect life is a critical part of the recovery process."
- Nothing in the code of ordinances protects homeowners from such abuses by government.

READ MORE ABOUT THIS OUTRAGEOUS AND UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERE.



Celso Perez received this notice (left) for his down fence (right) which exposed the swimming pool in his backyard. 650 other Miami-Dade County residents received similar pool barrier hazard notices.