

Lee County Government update Wednesday afternoon

Fort Myers, FL, July 7, 2021 – Lee County Government has the following updated information for Wednesday afternoon post-Elsa:

After Lee County Public Safety-Emergency Management staff and partners monitored Hurricane Elsa overnight, the county dispatched crews after sunrise to assess potential storm impacts and to monitor the continued Elsa-related weather impacts throughout the county.

Crews included staff from departments such as DOT, Community Development, Natural Resources and Emergency Management.

Areas of the county that experienced localized flooding included Captiva Island, Pine Island and the John Morris Road area in south Fort Myers.

Crews worked to clear outfalls and continued to monitor those areas – and others – through the high tide cycle mid-day today.

The work that crews performed before Elsa – including clearing roadside ditches, swales and drainage canals – appears to have helped mitigate localized flooding in many areas that typically experience it.

The Lee Board of County Commissioners and county staff have taken many steps toward flood mitigation since the 2017 rainy season, when Hurricane Irma and another tropical system impacted Lee County during a two-week period. And while the flood-mitigation efforts are phased-in and ongoing, it appears that many of the infrastructure projects undertaken so far helped mitigate localized flooding for Elsa.

For more information on BoCC flood mitigation, watch this video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4RdpajcQ7I> [youtube.com]

Lee County Public Safety-Emergency Management staff have resumed normal operations at this time.

The Florida Department of Health-Lee cautions residents against swimming or wading in floodwaters. Children who play in floodwaters can be exposed to water contaminated with fecal matter or other waste.

The county encourages residents and visitors to monitor the National Weather Service's notices about rip currents. Dangerous riptides are present all along the Gulf Coast and will continue to be throughout today and Thursday. To better understand riptide conditions, go to www.weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent .

For further updates, visit www.leegov.com/storm.

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Note to media: We do not have plans for an afternoon press conference. Further updates will be provided as needed. Please continue to monitor [leegov.com/storm](http://www.leegov.com/storm).