

Update from Lee County Utilities: After the Hurricane – Water and Wastewater Tips



Lee County
Emergency Management

September 10, 2017

After the Hurricane – Water and Wastewater Tips

A message from Lee County Utilities

- Due to power outages, water treatment plants will be operating under limited conditions. Water pressures will be reduced.
- Due to power outages, lift stations used to convey sewage to wastewater treatment plants will not work or will have only limited operations. Too much toilet flushing or water going down drains may cause lift stations to overflow and backup into your home.

• If there is flooding in your area, do not open or tamper with manholes. Opening manholes is a safety hazard and may inundate the sewage collection system resulting in sewage backing up into homes.

Because of reduced pressures and limited operations of lift stations, water conservation is a must.

Remember that just because power has been restored to your home, it does not mean that power has been restored to all lift stations and water and wastewater treatment plants within your neighborhood.

- Limit the amount of toilet flushing
- Abstain from running dishwashers and clothes washers.
- Limit the amount of water used during a shower or the amount to fill the bathtub.
- Turn off all sprinklers.
- Abstain from pressure washing, car washing, or any other outdoor use of water that is not necessary.

Making Your Drinking Water Safe

During a storm event, trees can uproot water pipes allowing the underground pipes to be exposed to contaminated ground water or create a drop in pressure. Once the storm passes, treat your water supply as if it is unsafe to drink until you are notified otherwise. Boil water notices may be issued through your local Health Department or your local utility or through your local Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Drinking Water

- Boil water to a rolling boil and hold it there for at least one (1) minute, OR
- Using a disinfecting chemical. If you cannot boil water, you should put eight (8) drops of common household bleach (unscented), which is about one-eighth of a teaspoon, into one (1) gallon of tap water, then shake it, and allow it to stand for 30 minutes before drinking. If the

water is cloudy, use sixteen (16) drops, about a quarter teaspoon of bleach, shake it, and let it stand for 30 minutes. There should be a slight chlorine odor. Use common unscented household bleach that has 5 percent to 8 percent active ingredients. Use food grade containers.
OR

· Using water purification tablets or iodine that many sports and camping stores sell, and follow the directions on the package.

- If you do not have power and cannot boil water, add eight (8) drops of unscented chlorine bleach per gallon of water. Let the water sit uncapped for at least ten (10) minutes before drinking.

Dish Washing

- Add fifteen (15) drops of unscented chlorine bleach per gallon to use for rinsing dishes. Keep them clean until next use.

Shower and Bathing

- Showering or bathing in tap water that is under a boil water notice is safe, if you cut yourself shaving, use an antibiotic cream.

Note: Once full service is restored, LCU will make the appropriate notification to the public for the rescinding of the Boil Water Notice.