

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Hurricane Ian update from Lee County for Friday afternoon, Oct. 7**

Fort Myers, FL, Oct. 7, 2022 – Residents can visit Lee County Government’s website to watch a video with the update given this morning about the response to Hurricane Ian. The direct YouTube link: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zf-FL\\_YT9FI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zf-FL_YT9FI) or you can go to @Lee County Government on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc](https://www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc)

Here is a recap of today’s updates:

**Water service:**

- The Boil Water Notice is still in place for your protection and public health. It will continue until further notice.
- As water service normalizes, customers should be aware that we may experience some issues on the wastewater side. Please report any leaks to your utility provider.

**Road safety and traffic signal restoration efforts:**

- 75% of county’s roughly 450 signals are functioning. Please remember an intersection is a four way stop when traffic signals are not working or flashing.
- Crews from Lee County Department of Transportation continue to assess area roads and bridges. The following bridges are closed: Sanibel Causeway, New Pass, Big Carlos Pass Bridge and Big Hickory Pass Bridge.

**Shelters:** There are about 900 people currently in our shelters.

Still open:

- Estero Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd, Estero
- Hertz Arena, 11000 Everblades Parkway, Estero

Closing this afternoon:

- South Fort Myers High School, 14020 Plantation Road

**Services for residents:**

- Free food and water –
  - Nine active Points of Distribution, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
    - Old Bonita Library, 26876 Pine Ave., Bonita Springs
    - Kelly Road Soccer Complex, 10750 Kelly Road, Fort Myers
    - Cape Coral Sports Complex, 1410 Sports Blvd., Cape Coral
    - Cape Coral Leonard Street, 4820 Leonard St., Cape Coral
    - Coral Oaks Golf Course, 1800 Northwest 28th Ave., Cape Coral
    - Estero High School Ballfield Park, 9100 Williams Road, Estero
    - North Fort Myers Recreation Center, 2000 N. Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers
    - Fleamasters Fleamarket, 4135 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers
    - Veterans Park Recreation Center, 55 Homestead Road S., Lehigh Acres
  - Yesterday, Oct. 6, more than 21,200 people were served.

**Resource centers –**

- Multi-Agency Resource Center at Lakes Regional Library, 15290 Bass Road, Fort Myers, open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Co-located with Disaster Recovery Center at Lakes Regional Library.
  - Participating organizations onsite include:
    - Property insurance companies
    - Local and state government offices (with the ability to replace driver's licenses, birth certificates, etc.)
    - Wireless providers
    - Mental healthcare providers
    - Nonprofit organizations.
    - View participating agencies at [www.leegov.com/hurricane/Documents/ian/Disaster%20Relief%20List%20of%20Agencies.pdf](http://www.leegov.com/hurricane/Documents/ian/Disaster%20Relief%20List%20of%20Agencies.pdf)
  - Also available is the Initial Payment Center operated by Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis. Policyholders can meet directly with their insurance companies to file claims. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, insurance carriers will focus on the immediate needs of policy holders by providing resources for specific items including living expenses.
  - Residents should check in with staff upon arrival at the Lakes Regional Library site to easily locate the resources they need.
- An additional Disaster Recovery Center also opened today at 2295 Victoria Ave., Fort Myers.

#### **Temporary housing –**

- A key place to start for temporary housing is registering for FEMA individual assistance at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov). It can provide temporary rental assistance.
- Other federal programs will be made available. Lee County will work with the federal government as well as state and local partners to support displaced residents.
- Lee County departmental staff, such as Human & Veteran Services, are already actively making plans to help residents in shelters transition to housing.

#### **Damage assessment estimates –**

- Damage assessment efforts are still ongoing.

#### **Debris –**

- More than 50 trucks with trailers on the road and 50 more on the way to collect debris.
- Four sites to self-haul debris are still open. Visit [leegov.com/storm](http://leegov.com/storm) for locations.
- While staying at home and cleaning storm-related yard waste:
  - Stack it separately from garbage or building debris.
  - Yard waste does not need to be bundled after the storm.
  - Place it in piles that can easily be managed by collection personnel with a claw truck.
  - Do not place any waste below overhead obstacles such as trees or powerlines or near hydrants or mailboxes.

#### **Debris info for Pine Island specifically –**

- Waste Pro, Lee County's contracted hauler for Pine Island, will be on Pine Island on Monday, Oct. 10, to collect household garbage. This collection to help with the health and safety of residents.
- If residents live on a road that is inaccessible to truck traffic, they can bring garbage sealed in plastic bags to the closest accessible point. Waste Pro crews will handle it from there.

- Trucks will begin rolling at daylight and will spend the day on Pine Island to remove household garbage.
- Structural and vegetative debris will be collected in the near future by the county's contracted emergency debris hauler.

#### **Marine update –**

- The US Coast Guard urges you to report observations of oil spills and discharges of hazardous materials should be reported to the National Response Center. Visit our website for contact information.
- Removing debris from coastal waters is going to be a long process and we are working with our state partners to accomplish that task.
- Lee County Parks and Recreation boat ramps remain closed until further notice.

#### **Lee County Parks –**

- Please refrain from visiting our parks and playgrounds this weekend.
- County staff continue to assess our sites for safety.

#### **Safety reminders –**

- If you're still using a generator, remember to keep it outdoors, 10 to 20 feet away from the house.

#### **Pets –**

- The mobile veterinary clinic located at Terry Park, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.
- The lost and found department at the Lee County Domestic Animal Services is open to reunite pets with their families.

#### **Hospitality and tourism –**

- Southwest Florida International Airport reopened this week with limited operations.
- Visitor & Convention Bureau staff is reaching out to our hotel partners to accommodate first responders during this time of recovery.

#### **Donations/volunteering –**

- Monetary donations can be made at [www.leegov.com/storm](http://www.leegov.com/storm); click on the red "donate" button. Please do not bring donated items to hurricane shelters.
- Contact UnitedWay for volunteer opportunities at 2-1-1 or 239-433-3900.

More information is available at [www.leegov.com/storm](http://www.leegov.com/storm).

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