

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Lee County update: Hurricane Ian**

Fort Myers, FL, Sept. 26, 2022 – Lee County is closely monitoring Hurricane Ian.

Based on the increased intensity of the storm and its current forecasted track and potential storm surge and rainfall, this morning Lee County executed a State of Local Emergency.

A State of Local Emergency helps municipalities and counties prepare for and respond to situations such as hurricanes. A SOLE helps with governmental procurement processes, helps the community receive funds for recovery, and enables the ability of government to make decisions in response to the emergency that can be subsequently ratified.

The SOLE is posted along with other Hurricane Ian information at [www.leegov.com/storm](http://www.leegov.com/storm).

Staff are evaluating storm surge models and flood models at this time. As operational decisions are made, they will be shared with local media, social media and online. We continue to coordinate with our Emergency Operations Center partners as well as our state partners. Lee County Natural Resources and Department of Transportation staff are throughout the county this morning monitoring and adjusting in anticipation of heavy rainfall later this week.

The public and media are invited to join us for a Facebook Live event at 3 p.m. today. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc>

In addition to updates from the Lee Board of County Commissioners and county staff, we will have updates from the School District of Lee County, the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the Lee County Port Authority.

County operations and office hours today are normal. The Emergency Operations Center is partially activated.

Residents are asked to monitor local media and meteorologists' reports and to check [www.leegov.com](http://www.leegov.com) for storm preparation information and specific Tropical Storm Ian updates. Follow Lee County Government at [www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc](https://www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc).