

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The purpose of this message is to provide information regarding recovery efforts following the visit by Hurricane Irma on September 10, 2017.

There continues to be challenges as your city drives to achieve normal conditions. Fortunately, good progress continues, except for the most important—restoration of power by FPL.

8,140 FPL customers (37%) remain without power. 13,960 FPL customers (63%) have power—an increase of 3,130 in the past two days. Naples Mayor Bill Barnett and the members of City Council are acutely aware of the hardships facing many residents and businesses due to the lack of power. Mayor Bill and members of Council are scheduled to meet with the President of FPL today to share their concerns regarding the resources devoted by FPL to restore power to Naples customers. Mayor Bill will also meet with Governor Scott this afternoon to discuss many hurricane recovery issues, including restoration of power to all.

Many are aware of Collier County's sanitary sewer collection issues and requests for curtailment of water usage. **Collier County and the City of Naples have separate and independent water and wastewater systems.** All Naples residents have water service. There will be no interruption of service for Naples water customers. Power has been restored to 86 of the city's 123 sewer lift stations. Permanent and portable generators are sufficient to keep all of the city's lift stations in operation. While only 17 of the city's potable water wells have power, generators are operating to insure a sufficient water supply.

Residential and commercial solid waste collection is on the regular schedule. Collection of recycled materials will begin Wednesday, September 20th. Please continue to place garbage containers by the street on collection day.

The imposed curfew has been lifted. We caution that citizens be careful while driving at night due to some obstructions along the edge of streets and many street light outages.

Please call 9-1-1 should you observe suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Thank you for your cooperation during the period of curfew.

Fuel supply issues have been resolved. There is little or no wait to purchase gasoline at local service stations.

A precautionary boil water advisory remains in effect. You may wash dishes, shower, and do laundry without concern. You will be notified when the advisory is no longer in effect. We must collect over 100 water samples throughout the city for our lab to examine bacteria culture over a 24-hour period. This process continues until no bacteria is observed. We expect the boil water advisory will remain in effect for at least the next three days.

The Collier County Health Department has issued an advisory recommendation to avoid swimming in the Gulf. Testing of water samples will be completed this week to confirm whether there may be health issues associated with swimming. Fish kills have been observed in canals. While the reasons have not been confirmed, it may be due to the significant amount of fresh water entering Naples Bay from the Golden Gate Canal and other sources.

Pick up of storm debris is the next important issue. It will be a big and expensive operation. The City of Naples has an interlocal agreement with Collier County for collection of storm debris. The city will pay its pro-rata share of the cost. Collier County has a contract with Ashbritt Environmental for pick-up of storm debris. This firm has worked in Naples in the past and is well-experienced. **The most cost-effective and efficient way to collect storm debris is for residents, or their landscapers, to place storm debris next to the street NOW.** We know what happens when property owners do not make this a priority. The contractor will pick up debris on the street, only to have more debris line the street the next day. Debris remains on the street until the contractor makes another pass along the street, days or weeks later. The sooner that property owners clean up their properties and get free pickup, the better for all.

For a temporary period of time only, the requirement that landscapers haul away horticultural debris is suspended. They may move and stack horticulture debris on the right-of-way adjacent to your property. Do not place storm debris in alleys, and not cover stormwater drains (catch basins). Torrential rains may cause local street flooding if drains are blocked. Please ask your landscaper to closely examine your trees and landscaping to ensure that broken or hanging limbs are properly removed, and that trees do not pose a safety risk.

For those who require repairs to structures, beware! Do not pay contractors in advance or give them a deposit. Do not pay until work is completed. Have them provide evidence that they are licensed in Collier County. Certain permit exemptions are offered to licensed roofing contractors for minor roof repairs. Express permitting is available for hurricane-related repairs. The Building Department's phone number is 239-213-5020.

Thank you for your patience, cooperation, and willingness to help others. Please share this message with your friends and colleagues.

City of Naples
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