



Ladies and Gentlemen:

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

For those of you who are away from Naples, you have not missed much over the past 10 days, other than a visit by Hurricane Irma with a lot of wind, rain and localized flooding. This was followed by very sunny and hot days with almost no rain.

Your friends and neighbors who remained or returned to Naples have endured many inconveniences, including hours waiting for fuel, disrupted cell phone service, no cable TV and internet service, limited store openings, and, worst of all, no power from FPL. Today, 20% of FPL customers in Naples remain without power. There are about 400 structures that received some damage, with a total estimated repair cost of \$86 million. Your city may have a \$30 million bill for hurricane repairs and restoration, some of which may be recovered from insurance and FEMA reimbursements. Private trees and landscape look awful. Collier County schools will remain closed until at least September 25th.

On the other hand, there has been a lot of progress. Naples residents and their contractors are working hard to get some semblance of normal. Yesterday, Mayor Bill Barnett and members of City Council learned from FPL's CEO that 400 trucks, previously assigned to work along the east coast of Florida, are on the way to Collier County. We assume power restoration will progress more quickly. Cable TV and internet are available to many. More stores, medical offices, and restaurants open daily as power is restored. Food and water supplies are no longer an issue for most people in Naples, although many in eastern Collier County continue to face difficulties. Property owners continue to move horticulture storm debris from their property to the curbside. Most of the city's facilities now have power or sufficient generator capacity to meet operational requirements. Employees of local businesses are returning to work following their evacuation.

The city's water and sanitary sewer collection system have operated throughout the storm event through today. Nearly all water main breaks have been repaired. While a boil water advisory remains in effect, water testing to date reveals no bacteria in the water. Samples will continue to be taken and tested in anticipation that the boil water advisory may be lifted by this Friday. Regardless, water may be used for washing dishes, showering, and laundry.

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.

Solid waste and recycle collection has resumed to the regular schedule for residential and commercial properties. Please place garbage containers by the street.

The Collier County Health Department has issued an advisory recommendation to avoid swimming in the Gulf. This is a precautionary advisory. Water samples from the beach will be tested to determine whether there may be health issues related to swimming in the Gulf.

Pick up of storm debris is the next challenge. Your assistance will be required during this major mobilization effort. As previously reported, 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. Otherwise, the contractor will clean up a street, and then property owners, who delay cleanup of their property, will carry more storm debris to the street where it will remain for some time. The sooner that property owners clean up their properties and get free pickup, the better for all. Please place horticultural debris, and building / bulk materials, such as furniture and carpets, in a separate pile next to the street. If building and other bulk materials are mixed with landscape debris, the contractor will pass the property and the debris will remain. To help prevent localized flooding when it rains, please do not cover storm drains (catch basins).

Storm debris pick up will begin this Friday, September 22nd. Mobilization of trucks and equipment will ramp up over the following days. We ask for your patience as Ashbritt and their contractors work through the city. The storm debris is extensive, so collection and transport of storm debris will take some time. Please drive cautiously when approaching trucks and other equipment. Also, piled storm debris is blocking the view at some locations, especially at intersections.

For property owners who must repair storm-damaged structures, we recommend that you 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.

The city's hurricane hot line, 239-213-IRMA (4762) will be staffed from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to answer questions, including information about storm debris removal.

Thank you for your patience, cooperation, and willingness to help others.

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