

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Residents urged to use caution as coastal street flooding remains possible

Fort Myers, FL, Aug. 30, 2023 – Lee County residents are urged to use caution Wednesday even as Hurricane Idalia has move well away from the area. Coastal street flooding is still present and is expected to occur again midafternoon today at high tide.

Avoid unnecessary trips. Gusty winds remain possible.

Lee County crews from Solid Waste, Utilities and the Department of Transportation were out today before dawn to assess the area and identify areas such as those that were not draining or had palm fronds, sand or other storm-driven obstructions.

DOT, for example, has been concentrating on the coastal areas. Crews are removing the debris off roads such as Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach, Hickory Boulevard in Bonita Springs, various roads on Pine Island, streets in Boca Grande. Lee DOT is in touch with city partners as their crews do much of the same work.

The county appreciates assists from partners such as fire districts that are helping with roads such as Sanibel-Captiva Road by Blind Pass.

DOT crews are using equipment to clear catch basins to help with drainage, especially in coastal areas. Crews are ensuring ditches and swales are draining.

Bridges are also being assessed, both county and state. The Florida Department of Transportation contractor has inspected and cleared the Sanibel Causeway.

Initial assessments of traffic signals are done. So far, it appears only one traffic signal is damaged. The location is in Fort Myers at Veronica Shoemaker and Edison Avenue, where lightning struck the signal box.

LeeTran has resumed normal operations today; Lee County Solid Waste's haulers are conducting garbage collection in neighborhoods with regularly scheduled Wednesday pickups.

This morning, individuals and families began leaving the Safe Havens at Estero Recreation Center and North Fort Myers Recreation Center. As of 8 a.m., there were 72 people in the Safe Havens – 24 in Estero and 48 in North Fort Myers, along with 7 dogs and 1 cat. The overnight peak was 101 residents.

The Estero location will close at 1 p.m. today and the North Fort Myers location will close at 4 p.m. Lee County Human & Veteran Services and HOT Team members will assist.

Any residents who have concerns post Idalia can call 2-1-1. United Way is assisting Emergency Operations in helping connect people to available resources.

For updates, visit www.leegov.com/storm or follow Lee County Government on Facebook, www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc.

To watch this morning's update, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KNeXkl289g>.