

May 9, 2014
1 p.m.

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Flooding Update #13

Weather

- Santa Rosa County is under a Flash Flood Watch through Sunday morning, May 11.
- According to the National Weather Service in Mobile, one to three inches of rain is forecasted over the weekend, with as much as four to seven or more inches in some areas possible.
- With the current ground saturation, standing water, and water levels of wetlands and retention ponds, flooding of roads and low-lying areas are possible.
- Standing water creates a serious road hazard, even when only a portion of the roadway is flooded. Motorists should always avoid crossing flooded streets and should never attempt to cross flooded bridges. When coming to a flooded roadway to “Turn around... don’t drown!”
- Please monitor your home weather radio and local media outlets for the most up-to-date information

Shelters

The American Red Cross is on standby to open shelters over the weekend as needed.

Sand & Sandbags

- Santa Rosa County is making sand and 25 sandbags per vehicle available to the public at no cost at several locations as supplies last. Sand and sandbags are also available at local home improvement stores for purchase.
- Approximately 7,000 sandbags have been given to residents.
- Residents should bring shovels and be prepared to fill and load bags. County and fire department staff ARE NOT available to make home deliveries. If fire department staff are on calls, they will not be available to hand out sand bags.
- After use over the weekend, residents are encouraged to store their sandbags in an area off the ground and out of the sun so they may be reused.

Locations

- Sand only is available at the following locations while supplies last:
 - Tiger Point Park, 1370 Tiger Park Lane, Gulf Breeze
 - The intersection of Citrus Drive and Leisure Street in Holley By The Sea
 - The intersection of Pine Forest Road and Carroll Road
- Empty Sandbags (25-bag limit per vehicle) while supplies last:
 - Midway Fire District Station, 1322 College Pkwy. from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Santa Rosa Public Works, 6075 Old Bagdad Highway from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Sand & Sandbags (25-bag limit per vehicle) while supplies last:
 - Holley-Navarre Fire District, 8618 East Esplanade St. from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Pace Fire Rescue District, 4773 Pace Patriot Blvd. from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Septic Tanks

- If your septic tank becomes flooded by the additional rain, it is likely that your toilets will not flush. Flushing may cause the untreated sewage to back-up into your home.
- It is safest to wait until the water recedes before trying to flush toilets.

Debris

Crews from the Santa Rosa Public Works department are picking up sorted debris placed curbside beginning. Residents who do not live in the cities of Gulf Breeze or Milton can call (850) 626-0191 to schedule a pickup.

- Flood debris must be placed on the curb by Sunday, May 18.
- Residents should avoid placing debris near power poles, fire hydrants, water meters, mail boxes or other utilities. Crews are not allowed on private property so all debris must be in the right-of-way area, typically the area from a power pole to the curb.
- Debris must be sorted and placed curbside in the following categories:
 - Construction & demolition debris – furniture, carpet, tile, steel, glass, brick, concrete, asphalt roofing material, pipe, gypsum wallboard, lumber or anything used in the construction, renovation, and demolition of a structure.
 - White goods – washers, dryers, refrigerators, ranges, microwaves, water heaters, freezers, small AC units
 - Electronics – T.V.s, computers, monitors, fax machines, stereos, speakers, etc.
- No engine or cooking oil, gasoline, paint, antifreeze, oil filters, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, batteries, helium tanks, propane bottles, pool cleaners or other household hazardous waste will be collected. These items can be disposed of at no charge year round, Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Household Hazardous Waste Center located at the entrance of the Central Landfill, 6337 Da Lisa Road in Milton.

Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program

- Florida's Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program has been activated. The program will provide emergency, short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses in Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties to assist in re-establishing business during the interim period before other aid and insurance claims are processed.
- Owners of small businesses with two to 100 employees in counties impacted by the spring 2014 North Florida Severe Storms and Flooding Event may apply for short-term loans of \$1,000 to \$25,000 through June 29, 2014. Loans are granted in terms of 90 or 180 days and are interest-free for that time period.
- To complete an application, or for more information on the program, visit www.floridadisasterloan.org. For questions regarding local administration of the Emergency Bridge Loan Program, contact the Florida Small Business Development Center Network State Office at (850) 473-7800 or toll-free at (866) 737-7232.

Federal Assistance

- Affected individuals and business owners in designated areas can begin the disaster application process by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by using a web enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov. Disaster assistance applicants who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY should call 1-800-462-7585 directly and those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS) should call 1-800-621-3362. These toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice. Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves (name, permanent address, phone number), insurance coverage and any other information to help substantiate losses.
- Public computers are available at the Gulf Breeze Community Center located at 800 Shoreline Dr. in Gulf Breeze for residents who don't have computer/internet access and wish to begin the disaster application process by registering online. Hours of service are Monday – Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Sunday, 12:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. FEMA representatives will not be on site.

- FEMA representatives are already making residential site visits to Santa Rosa County residents who have begun the assistance process online or by phone.

Unemployment Assistance

- Individuals who have lost their jobs or businesses in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties as a result of severe storms and flooding during April 28, 2014 through May 6, 2014 may be entitled to Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits.
- This is a federally funded program, which assists individuals who become unemployed as a direct result of a declared disaster and who do not qualify for regular reemployment assistance benefits. The program also covers self-employed individuals, workers on and owners of farms and ranches, as well as fishers and others who are not normally covered by state reemployment assistance benefits.
- Applicants must file for disaster benefits within 30 days of the date of public notification, DUA applications must be filed no later than June 9.
- To be eligible for either regular state reemployment assistance or DUA, the applicant must be a legal resident. To be eligible for DUA benefits, an individual must not be entitled to regular state reemployment assistance and must have been working in or residing in a county for which the disaster has been officially declared. DUA benefits are available to unemployed individuals for up to 26 weeks from the date of the disaster declaration. The disaster assistance period is May 4 through November 8.
- To file a DUA claim, call 1-800-681-8102. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday.

Other Assistance

- Residents who have unmet needs such as housing, food, clothing or other essential services, are asked to contact the Citizen Information Center at (850) 983-INFO (4636) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the weekend.
- Residents who need volunteer assistance with their home repairs and cleanup
 - **Residents south of the Yellow River** please call (850) 490-7399 or visit the Volunteer Reception Center located at the Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church, Fairpoint Campus, 75 Fairpoint Drive in Gulf Breeze from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - **Residents north of the Yellow River** please contact the United Way of Santa Rosa County at (850) 623-4507

Volunteers

- Volunteers, both individual and groups, are urgently needed to help with flooding relief duties.
- Individuals or groups wishing to volunteer:
 - o For projects south of the Yellow River please call (850) 490-7406 or visit the Volunteer Reception Center located at the Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church, Fairpoint Campus, 75 Fairpoint Drive in Gulf Breeze to register between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
 - o For projects north of the Yellow River please contact the United Way of Santa Rosa County at (850) 623-4507 or online at www.unitedwaysrc.org.
- It is vital that all volunteers groups working in the area work through the Volunteer Reception Center or United Way. While well-meaning, volunteers not managed and handled efficiently and correctly can do more harm than good. Too many workers, vehicles, and convergent volunteers at the scene of a disaster can create congestion and interfere with response activities, and the need to manage converging resources puts additional strain on emergency response systems. Flood damage can pose unique potential dangers to volunteers who are not specially trained by experienced disaster relief organizations, so it is vital that the volunteers' skills are matched to the volunteer task. It also helps avoid duplication of services and ensures that all impacted areas are prioritized and specific needs addressed.

Donations

- The United Way of Santa Rosa County is the coordinating point for donations in Santa Rosa County.
- **ALL** individuals or groups who would like to make donations should call (850) 623-4507.

County Actions

- The Citizen Information Line is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the weekend. Citizens may call (850) 983-INFO (4636) with questions.
- Updated building permit information is available at <http://santarosa.fl.gov/emi/>
- The Santa Rosa County Mosquito Department resumed a full fogging schedule on **Monday, May 5**. The spray schedule is available online at <http://santarosa.fl.gov/mosquito/index.cfm>.
- The Gulf Breeze Library is closed until further notice. The parking lot is being used as a staging area for debris by the City of Gulf Breeze.

Roads & Bridges

- Do not remove road barricades on closed roads or bridges. Even after the water has receded, public works crews must complete safety inspections.
- Dangerous road conditions can be reported to the Santa Rosa County Road and Bridge Department at (850) 626-0191.
- A list of closed roads is available online at <http://santarosa.fl.gov/roads/closures.cfm>

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