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Water Cycle Extremes June - November

As we enter the annual hurricane season, it's essential to stay informed and prepared. Hurricanes are powerful tropical cyclones that originate over warm ocean waters. They bring strong winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, and flooding, affecting both coastal and inland areas.

Here in Florida, where warm waters surround much of our state, hurricanes are a recurring threat. Recent trends suggest hurricanes are becoming more frequent and stronger, posing greater challenges to our natural and built environments. This trend underscores the importance of preparedness and resilience.

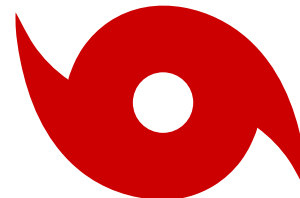
The City of Wildwood urges all residents to take hurricanes seriously and to prioritize preparedness:

- **Emergency Kit:** Prepare an emergency kit with essentials such as water, non-perishable food, medications, first-aid supplies, and important documents.
- **Evacuation Plan:** Know your evacuation routes and have a plan for where you will go if evacuation orders are issued. Stay informed through local news and official sources.
- **Protecting Your Home:** Secure windows and doors, trim trees and shrubs, and bring in outdoor items that could become projectiles in high winds.
- **Informed:** Follow updates from local emergency management agencies and use resources available through state and federal authorities to stay informed and prepared throughout hurricane season.



Visit NOAA's Hurricane Preparedness Page

National Hurricane Center: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov>
NOAA Hurricane Preparedness: <https://www.noaa.gov/hurricane-prep>



Disclaimer: This newsletter is intended for informational purposes and does not replace official emergency instructions issued by local authorities. Always follow guidance from emergency management officials during severe weather events.

PUBLIC WORKS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 352-330-1343 Fax: 352-330-1338

Jeremy Hockenbury, Director
jhockenbury@wildwood-fl.gov

Thomas J. Rigwood, Assistant Director
trigwood@wildwood-fl.gov

Casey Jones, Compliance Manager
cjones@wildwood-fl.gov

Tracy Kelley, Stormwater Coordinator
tkelley@wildwood-fl.gov

www.wildwood-fl.gov/publicworks/page/stormwater

Tips for Preventing Water Pollution

- ✔ Regularly clean gutters and downspouts to ensure proper drainage away from your home.
- ✔ When possible, use permeable materials for driveways and walkways.
- ✔ Create rain gardens to allow rainwater to soak into the ground.
- ✔ Dispose of household chemicals and hazardous materials properly to prevent contamination of stormwater runoff.
- ✔ Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and follow guidelines to minimize runoff into storm drains.
- ✔ Report clogged storm drains or other drainage concerns promptly.
- ✔ Install check valves in plumbing to prevent backups.
- ✔ Collect rainwater from roof gutters for future use in gardens or lawns, reducing runoff.
- ✔ Check vehicles for drips and repair leaks to keep nuisance oils off pavement.
- ✔ Purchase low- or non-phosphate cleaners and detergents.
- ✔ Avoid cutting your lawn too short, which reduces its effectiveness in capturing runoff.
- ✔ Sweep or blow off walks and driveways instead of hosing them down.
- ✔ Clean up pet wastes which nutrients and bacteria can enter stormwater drains contaminating the water system.



Stormwater Flooding

Stormwater flooding in Florida is a prevalent issue due to the state's unique geographical and climatic conditions. Florida's flat topography, high water table, and frequent heavy rainfall, especially during the hurricane season, contribute to significant stormwater management challenges. Stormwater flooding occurs when heavy rainfall exceeds the capacity of drainage systems, leading to water pooling in streets, yards, and sometimes homes. Sudden, heavy downpours overwhelm drainage systems designed for average rainfall patterns.

Preparation and awareness are key to managing stormwater flooding. By taking proactive steps before, during, and after a storm, residents can reduce risks, protect their property, and ensure their safety. Engaging with community resources and staying informed about local initiatives can further enhance resilience against flooding.

Here are some helpful resources related to stormwater flooding:

Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM):

- Website: floridadisaster.org
- Offers resources and information on flood preparedness, evacuation routes, and emergency management during flooding events.

National Weather Service - Florida:

- Website: weather.gov
- Provides weather forecasts, flood alerts, and storm updates specific to Florida.

Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD):

- Website: swfwmd.state.fl.us
- Manages flood control infrastructure, including dams, reservoirs, and levees, to reduce flood risks in the region.

Sumter County - Florida:

- Website: sumtercountyfl.gov
- Drainage complaints involving runoff from county roadways, ditches or easements.

City of Wildwood

- Website: wildwood-fl.gov
- Drainage and flooding within city limits.

Resource: <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/resources/free-publications>