



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Utilities Department Warns of Potential Sewer System Impacts During Heavy Rains and Storm Surge

As we brace for heavy rain and the possibility of a hurricane impacting the area, the Utilities Department is reminding residents to be aware of the potential effects of excessive rainfall and storm surge on the City's sanitary sewer system.

While the City's sanitary sewer system is designed to handle wastewater efficiently, extreme weather conditions, such as those experienced during Hurricane Helene, can overwhelm the system. This may result in temporary backups and overflows. Such conditions are largely driven by the volume of rain and storm surge, which can lead to standing water, property damage, and potential health risks.

Residents are advised to be aware of the following potential effects:

- **Sewer Backups:** In rare instances, excessive rainfall can lead to infiltration of the sewer system, which may cause temporary backups in homes or businesses.
- **Contaminated Water:** Sewer overflows can introduce contaminants into standing water and nearby bodies of water, creating a possible public health risk.
- **Property Damage:** Flooding during heavy rain and storm surge can result in property damage.

The City's Utilities Department is committed to taking the following proactive measures to help reduce the impact of such events:

- **Routine Inspections and Maintenance:** The department regularly inspects and maintains the City's sewer infrastructure to ensure optimal performance.
- **Storm Preparation:** Before anticipated heavy rainfall and storm surge, the Utilities Department implements a strategic plan, including lowering lift station levels and adjusting pump station operations to manage the increased flow.

Residents are encouraged to take the following precautions:

- **Protecting Property:** Take steps to protect your property from flooding, such as moving valuables to higher ground.
- **Reporting Problems:** If you experience a sewer backup or other problem, please contact the Utilities Department immediately.

By staying informed and prepared, together we can minimize the potential impacts on our community.

For more information, please contact:

City of Punta Gorda Utilities Department
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