

## ***Hurricane Irma-update***

***During today's council meeting all departments gave updates to the level of preparation of the City. City Council passed an Emergency Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to declare a "State of Emergency" for the City of Punta Gorda. This declaration provides the City Manager the authority to make decisions and take actions typically requiring City Council action. City staff will reassemble in the City E.O.C. (Public Safety building) on Wednesday afternoon to review current forecast/predictions and make plans for the weekend.***

- ***It is important that city residents, businesses, and visitors make adequate preparations for the potential impact of this storm. Currently tropical force winds with bands of severe thunderstorms are forecast to reach the area sometime this weekend and continue through the beginning of the week.***
- ***As we continue to closely monitor the progress of Irma it is important for all residents of the City of Punta Gorda to remember that most properties in the City fall into the **Zone A - Red** evacuation zone. The only exceptions are Seminole Lakes and part of Burnt Store Meadows.***

***City departments have been preparing for the unknown impacts we may encounter thru the weekend and into next week.***

- ✓ ***All departments will ensure that essential vehicles, equipment, machinery etc are fueled and ready for operation.***
- ✓ ***All personnel have been instructed to prepare their own homes and activate family emergency plans as employees may be required to work additional shifts, extended hrs etc.***

***Specific departments report the following preparations;***

### ***Public Works***

Sand and sandbags will be available in the back parking lot of the old Public Works campus on Henry Street. This will be for residents of the City of Punta Gorda to utilize. If time permits, City crews may be available to help fill some sandbags.

- ✓ ***Hurricane shutter/window protection being installed on City facilities***
- ✓ ***All cranes will be walked off the barges and the barges will be secured away from the seawalls.***
- ✓ ***Fuel tanks will be taken off barges and secured.***
- ✓ ***All form trailers will be taken to yard (with materials)***

- ✓ *Loose debris will be cleaned up and properly secured.*
- ✓ *Turbidity curtain will be anchored down with seawall panels.*

## **Parks and Grounds**

- ✓ *Removing any excess debris, downed tree limbs etc. from parks*
- ✓ *Playground equipment secured for strong winds*
- ✓ *Removing flags from City facilities*

## **Utilities**

- ✓ *Stock all trucks with the necessary tools and safety equipment*
- ✓ *Top off all chemical tanks at plants*
- ✓ *Fuel and test all generators*
- ✓ *Inspectors will be canvassing the City and notifying contractors and homeowners of any non-compliant situations. Special attention will be paid to any situations that will affect the drainage of storm water.*

## **Public Safety (Police /Fire)**

- ✓ *Residents should monitor the City's website for instructions and updates.*
- ✓ *Residents are asked to bring inside or secure any loose items.*
- ✓ *Property owners are asked to install any storm protection available to them at this time.*
- ✓ *Do NOT trim trees and landscaping.*
- ✓ *Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, and garden tools. Anchor objects that cannot be brought in.*
- ✓ *With possible high winds, stop signs may be missing – stop at all intersections if traveling the roadways.*
- ✓ *Do not go down closed roads – they may be under water and it is difficult to judge how deep the water actually is.*
- ✓ *Should you become stranded in your vehicle, stay inside until help arrives.*
  
- *If determined necessary to cross-tie and anchor boats the middle of canals, residents will be notified via the City of Punta Gorda web site as well as the Code Red system. Lines should be secured to pilings and/or ground anchors on both sides of the canal. Ground anchors, if used,*

***should be a minimum of twelve (12) feet from the seawall and of course, protected from chafing against the wall. Anchoring in the middle of the canal will be allowed for the duration of the emergency. Do NOT use seawalls for cleats. Additional information is available in the City of Punta Gorda [Waterfront Property Owner's Guide](#).***

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