

Public Works Hurricane Tips

Discussion

- What defines “Public Works?”
- Description of how a sewer system operates
- Description of how a stormwater management system operates

The Do’s and Don’ts

Pre-storm

- Don’t begin a tree-trimming campaign 3 days before a storm may hit the area. The landfill stops accepting materials 48 hours in advance of landfall, so we won’t be able to dispose of any debris after that time. If you have to take down dangerous limbs, leave them lay in the yard in one piece; don’t cut them up into small pieces and don’t stack any debris at the curb before the storm. Large debris will not become windborne and will not wash into the gutter. Small debris has the potential to wash into the street and clog up stormdrains, which could cause flooding.
- Only household garbage should be put out within 3 days of the storm. Don’t put general yardwaste at the curbside after this time. Bagged materials could be torn open and wash into the stormdrains, creating flooding problems.
- If your garbage hasn’t been picked-up within 12 hours of the storm, pick it up from the curb and secure it on your property, preferably in a sheltered area.
- Three days before the storm, look through your neighborhood at the curb inlets and along the curb line. If there is anything that can obstruct the flow of water, have it removed. If the inlet appears to be full of leaves and debris, call our Streets and Stormwater office to arrange for cleaning.

During the storm

- Minimize the use of water in the household. Refrain from using the dishwasher or washing machine until 2 to 3 days after the storm has passed, if at all possible. Take quick showers or sponge baths.
- Find where your sewer lateral cleanout cap is located and learn how to open it. If you begin to experience an overflow in your house, immediately go out and remove the cleanout cap. This will allow the overflow to occur in your yard instead of your bathroom. Call the Wastewater Division offices to let them know you are experiencing an overflow.
- If you are experiencing flooding, contact the Streets and Stormwater Division to advise them of the problem. Do not attempt to clear any inlets unless you can be sure that there are no downed powerlines in the area.

After the storm

- Continue to use water sparingly. It will take 2 to 3 days for the hydraulic surge in the system to be reduced and for power to be restored at pumping stations. If you observe an overflowing sewer, contact the Wastewater Division.
- Debris and garbage should be separated into 3 piles – household garbage, green debris and building debris. These items will be picked up separately. Recycling can be mixed with household garbage, but will not be recycled. If you want to recycle these materials, don't put them out until the City advises residents that recycling service has been restored.
- Please place debris at the edge of the curb in your yard, NOT on the street. Debris in the street restricts access for emergency vehicles and could wash into the stormdrain system during post-storm rain events.
- Report missing traffic signs and damaged traffic signals to Traffic Operations.

Important Public Works Numbers

Wastewater Division – (407) 246-2213

Solid Waste Division – (407) 246-2314

Streets and Stormwater Division – (407) 246-2238

Traffic Operations – (407) 246-2020