

## **The Village of Estero After-Action Items Lee County Flood Exercise “Morgan” 12/1/2020**

### Flood Threat Recognition

- The flood threat scenario represented in this exercise as it would relate to the Village of Estero was realistic, enabling a good test of the preparation, response and recovery protocols currently in place for such an emergency.

#### Areas for improvement:

- Encourage the individual purchase and use of NOAA weather radios and provide information to the public on both Ruskin and Miami S.A.M.E. codes.
- Encourage the integration of Lee County Hydrological monitoring information into the Village emergency response and public outreach.

### Emergency Warning & Dissemination

- The Village’s plans for preparedness and public information would work well and provided adequate warning for the Village government, residents and visitors.
- The Village participation in the Lee County CRS Program for Public Information (PPI) has enhanced the community emergency information awareness.

#### Areas for improvement:

- Develop additional Pre-scripted messages for Village residents, businesses and visitors.
- Continue to advertise the City’s Code Red service and the process required to receive emergency warnings in a timely manner by residents and visitors.
- Identify alternate methods of providing information to visitors and seasonal residents in the Village of Estero, so that appropriate and timely preparation and evacuation can be affected.
- Improve methods aimed at notifying the Persons with Special Needs (PSN) population in the Village of Estero, including their options and responsibilities.
- Develop a Village Media Guide in coordination with the Lee County to enhance and assure synchronization of media activities and information dissemination.

## Flood Response Operations

- This exercise could have brought a significant amount of river and sheet flooding to the Village which would have resulted in major flood related issues and damage that would have required assistance from both the County and the State to effectively manage.

### Areas for improvement:

- Additional detail Standard Procedures are needed for Village Departments and Agencies:
  - Damage Assessment
  - Temporary Repairs
  - Emergency Permitting
  - Re-Entry to Damaged Areas
  - Public Assistance
- There needs to be additional procedures developed to assist in providing information to the public during the response and recovery period.

## Critical Facilities

More planning within the individual critical facility emergency plans needs to be considered, as well as additional alternate/back-up facilities and cooperate agreements need to be pursued.

## General

As a relatively new municipality which also has a lot of new development, the Village of Estero would have been confronted with many unknowns regarding the damage it would have received by this flood scenario. Flooding similar to this in 1994 spared the Village from significant flooding during that event, however flooding issues are particularly difficult to plan for due to the lack of historical information relating to the new development which makes up much of the Village of Estero. Close coordination with Lee County and the State of Florida will be necessary to respond to and recover from a potentially severe flooding event such as this type of storm. Planning and training, such as this exercise, by the Village government prior to such an event will assist greatly in its effective management of such an emergency.