Hurricane Season: June 1 – November 30

Property Management Companies and Homeowners/Property Owners Associations (HOA/POA) should undertake hurricane preparation efforts now before any storm danger is near. A thorough inspection and preventative maintenance of neighborhood stormwater drainage systems needs to be completed annually.

As a reminder, most stormwater drainage infrastructure is privately owned, and as such, maintenance is the responsibility of the POA/HOA.

Activities to be completed prior to, or at the beginning of, Hurricane Season include:

- Inspect all catch basins and storm drains for debris or blockages and remove any obstructions (e.g. pine needles/leaves, dirt, trash).
- Inspect all pipe outfalls to ditches or ponds for blockages and remove any obstructions (e.g. dirt, debris, vegetation).
- Inspect all ditches for any blockages and remove obstructions, if possible (e.g. fallen trees, debris, vegetation).
- Confirm arrangements for debris/vegetation removal with a landscaping company or contractor for clean-up following a storm.
- Request residents conduct inspections of drainage features around their homes and yard, including gutters and swales, to ensure functionality.

Activities to be completed prior to a storm include:

- Coordinate with your POA/HOA maintenance division to ensure any well-water being pumped into your stormwater pond(s) (commonly referred to as a lagoon or lake) is turned off until after the storm has passed. This will allow pond water levels to drop and increase the storage capacity of your stormwater system well before a flooding occurs.
- Shut off common area irrigation until after the storm passes so the ground isn’t already saturated.
- Request residents:
  - Secure any loose articles on their property that may become airborne and cause damage, or block pipes, ditches, or outfalls (e.g. plants, outdoor furniture);
  - Turn off irrigation systems; and
  - Remove items which may hold water to deter mosquito breeding after the storm passes.

To ensure your safety, do not conduct inspections during a storm.
Activities to be completed by POAs following the storm include:

- Inspect all stormwater infrastructure for damage. This includes catch basins, storm drains, pond banks, pond inlets, pond outfalls, etc. Arrange for damage to be repaired as soon as possible.

- Inspect all stormwater drainage infrastructure including inlets, grates, outfalls, pipes, ditches, etc. for debris or blockages and remove any obstructions (e.g. pine needles/leaves, dirt, trash).

- If offered for your community, coordinate for roadside debris/vegetation removal with your contracted landscaping company or contractor.

- Please remember to report any mosquito breeding to Beaufort County Mosquito Control at (843) 255-5800 Office or https://www.beaufortcountysc.gov/mosquito-control/.

Report maintenance needs that are not HOA/POA responsibilities:

- In the Town of Bluffton municipal limits, use “SeeClickFix Bluffton” app:
  - This free mobile and web-based app allows citizens to request services from the Town and report non-emergency issues within the Town’s jurisdiction
  - The SeeClickFix mobile app is available for download on Android (Google Play) and iPhone (App Store)
  - Issues not serviced by the Town’s Engineering Department will be redirected to the appropriate town department or outside entity like SCDOT, Beaufort County or Property Management company.

- In unincorporated Beaufort County, use the Beaufort County Connect app. More information can be found at https://www.beaufortcountysc.gov/apps/

- Along SCDOT roads, submit a maintenance work request at http://dbw.scdot.org/workrequest/

For more information on how to prepare for a hurricane visit: https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes