

Hurricane Irma Update

9/11/17 @ 8:40p.m.

Dear Sea Pines Property Owners,

It has been less than a year since Matthew and we find ourselves once again dealing with recovery efforts from another Hurricane. Irma may not have made the direct hit that Matthew did but, her effects will be with us for some time. A very different storm than Matthew, Irma has not had the enormous wind, rain and tree impact. However, the surge impact is much more significant.

This afternoon just before 1:00 p.m. CSA received the OK for our advance team to come back onto the island. Our team was ready and arrived in Sea Pines shortly after 1:00. Although we had significant debris from trees it was more consistent with a tropical storm than compared to Hurricane Matthew. The tide was very high, but most areas still had some room. Then came the surge. Most coastal, marsh and low lying areas flooded, some areas in South Beach had water at least 5 feet above their home entry. Many more garages, pools and other improvements flooded in most low areas. It was almost 3:00 p.m. before surge waters topped off and began receding. Many streets were impassable.

After establishing limited gate operations, security patrols and system pump operations we began establishing warning cones for blocked roadways. Since then and up to now CSA staff has also been clearing catch basins. Our storm system was built to handle rain events, not surge flooding. Waters are receding slowly. We may have additional flooding with tonight's high tide. If you have remained in Sea Pines or came back to your home from another island location, we are not out of the woods. Please be careful tonight and in the morning. We will check road circumstances early in the morning and try to send out notices of troubled areas that remain flooded and impassable.

We understand the South Carolina Governor may lift the mandatory evacuation as early as 8:30 AM tomorrow (9/12/17) for your return. We understand many of you are anxious to return home. We will be as ready as the circumstances allow. We have many areas with power outages and of course flooded areas as I write this note. We hope most of this is corrected by morning, but we won't fully know until tomorrow morning. Check your e-mail for updates from CSA and please continue to monitor local radio and television stations for instructions of emergency officials for information on re-entry into Hilton Head.

We will do our best to keep you informed. Stay safe and be courteous.

Thank you for your patience.

Bret Martin,
CSA President

