



September 7, 2017

Re: Hurricane Irma threatens River Wilderness

Current forecasts for Hurricane Irma indicate that River Wilderness will experience at the least some significant wind issues when it reaches our area in the Sunday/Monday timeframe. At this time, we should all be making advance preparations.

Manatee County has the responsibility for issuing evacuation orders, evacuation routes, and shelter sites (Our closest is Williams Elementary on Ft. Hamer Road). Those specific announcements will come as the path of the storm becomes more certain. Please stay tuned to the media for those announcements. You should also be aware that if you remain in the community, emergency services personnel will not be available to assist you until the danger of the storm has passed. The general rule is that you should be prepared to be self sufficient for at least 72 hours following the storm. Water, food, candles, batteries, gas, first aid, etc., are your responsibility during this time.

The HOA requests that whether you personally choose to evacuate or to stay in River Wilderness, you should clear your property of any objects that could be blown around during the storm. (e.g., lawn chairs, tables, flower pots, recycle bins, garbage cans, - anything). The HOA will be handling this for the common property.

In the worst of conditions, our gate security officers cannot be required to remain at work. We will be monitoring wind levels. At 30 miles per hour, the security officers will be sent home, and the gates will be opened to traffic by removing the arms. RW's gate computer systems will be unplugged and covered, and the gate houses will be locked.

Additionally, the HOA will turnoff the RW fountains and irrigation systems to try to avoid electrical issues. We have already staged some fuel, tools and large equipment on site to facilitate clean-up after the storm.

Our River Wilderness website [www.rwhoa.org](http://www.rwhoa.org) has our customized emergency preparedness plan (under Documents, Forms and Guides). It also has links to the Appropriate Manatee County websites (under Info). If you want to send us a cellphone reach number, you can do that by hitting reply.

Please take all precautions to stay safe.

The HOA Board