



City of Clewiston Emergency Management

NEWS RELEASE

October 4, 2016
For Immediate Release

City of Clewiston, Florida – City of Clewiston, the Emergency Management Division, and all departments are proactively monitoring and preparing for Hurricane Matthew and the impacts it will have on our community. The City is expecting to experience Tropical Storm conditions beginning Thursday and extending into/through Friday. Matthew's future forecasts should continue to be closely monitored, as a westward track shift will increase local impacts.

Local impacts may include:

- Tropical Storm conditions possibly beginning Thursday for the Lake Okeechobee area, with deteriorating conditions expected.
- Power and water outages.
- Potential flooding and heavy rainfall.
- Damaging winds.

The Army Corps of Engineers has extended operating hours for its navigation locks on Lake Okeechobee Waterway; they will operate from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday (Oct. 4) and Wednesday (Oct. 5). Operating hours on Thursday will depend on the track of the storm. To ensure safety of lock operators, the Corps will suspend operations when lightning is in the area or when winds exceed 35 mph.

Today, field staff are conducting a pre-storm evaluation of the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee. The current lake level is 15.78 feet. While no immediate threat exists, the Corps advises people living and working around the lake to be prepared to take action should conditions warrant.

For your safety and well-being, the City of Clewiston is asking residents to take the following precautionary measures:

- Closely monitor local weather forecasts
- Complete and review your Disaster Plan. Make sure to include pets in your plan.
- Begin preparing your home by securing and bringing in any loose items.
- Do not deposit any trash or horticulture curbside for collection until after the storm has passed.
- Complete your hurricane supply kit.
- Make sure you have a 5 day supply of all medications and any other medical equipment you may need. Be prepared to evacuate if told to do so by local officials.