

Dear Residents, Property Owners and Friends:

I wanted to take a moment to send out this message as we had received a number of phone calls throughout the day today at Village Hall and Public Safety in regards to the potential threat of Hurricane Irma. While Hurricane Irma at present is located a significant distance from the Continental U.S. and not expected to reach the coast until sometime later this weekend, I wanted to reassure you that the Village is monitoring the situation and will provide meaningful updates as the system continues to progress.

With that said, it is way too early to respond to inquiries with respect to evacuations, whether voluntary or mandatory..., or potential plans for a phased re-entry, but if for some reason that should be required the Village will communicate those plans immediately so that folks can make necessary arrangements. Village staff is currently updating important links on the Village's website as it relates to Emergency Management, including details of our phased process for re-entry to the island, details of which will be included in a future update on the storm whether needed or not.

Though still too early to be sure of its future track specific to our region, the latest update from the National Weather Service indicates a growing possibility that the storm's effects could be felt in Florida later this week and into the weekend. Given the forecast and severity of the storm, mandatory evacuations have already been put into effect in the Florida Keys and voluntary evacuations beginning Wednesday for Miami-Dade County.

As we prepare for any possible scenario, Village staff has been directed to review the updated Emergency Mitigation Plan (EMP) which outlines internal policies & procedures used by the Village in preparing and responding to an event. The plans framework is based on an "Alert Level" system with four (4) levels. Alert Level I is initiated when trends indicate the possibility of an emergency situation within 72 hours of direct impact to the island down to Alert Level IV at 12 hours. Within each Alert Level the various Departments are responsible for specific checklists of tasks to be completed and submitted to the EOC. This guiding document, in existence for well over a decade, also identifies key roles & responsibilities of the Mayor & Council, Village Manager, Public Safety Director, Village Clerk, and coordination with BHI Transportation.

All said, the Village recommends folks continue to closely follow the progression of this storm and for future updates from the Village as details of its path and potential impacts become available.

IMPORTANT...

The Village's Voice is the current means by which the Village distributes important information in a quick & timely manner to the general public. The Village deems the information and content of the Village's Voice important and therefore it is equally important that the general public ensure they are receiving them. With that said, please forward this e-mail to those in your contact list that you think may benefit from receiving it. [Click here to register for this service.](#) The Village thanks you in advance!

Chris McCall
Village Manager