

Weather Update #4: St. John the Baptist Parish

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ST. JOHN PARISH (September 5, 2011) - Forecasts show remnants of Tropical Storm Lee making its exit from St. John Parish moving North East. While weather conditions improve, St. John's main concern remains tidal surge from the lakes. Winds have changed direction causing water levels to begin to drop in some areas with expectations of greater improvement in the afternoon. While Parish Officials are beginning to see a decrease in high water levels, water is subsiding at a slow pace.

Residents are asked to stay off the road if possible since streets and roadways remain wet and hazardous. Due to high water, all Interstate ramps on Highway 51 for I-10 and I-55 are closed. Motorists needing to enter or exit the Interstate can do so at Belle Terre Blvd. It is suggested that I-55 traffic traveling to St. John utilize I-310, exiting at Airline Hwy. Residents of Palmetto Lakes, Indigo, Spring Meadows, and Ridgewood are advised to exit their subdivisions at Hwy 51 due to flooding on Woodland Drive.

Overnight, Public Works and Utilities crews continued manning drainage pumps and addressing flooding and water outage concerns throughout the St. John Parish. Night crewmen reported few problems with pumps; however, pumps are running at maximum capacity. As rain subsides, pumps will catch up allowing water to flow towards the lake and relieve problematic areas. There are three self-serve sandbag locations open with already-filled sandbags available for pick-up.

Although the rain has subsided, roadways are still impacted and winds are continuing. Residents should call 911 if any problems with flooded areas, downed power lines, trees or any other problems are encountered.

Stay tuned to the new centralized Emergency Alert System at www.sjbparish.com, Government Access Channel 15, and local news and weather stations for weather updates.