
Update from Captiva Fire District

From: Captiva Community Panel <captivacommunitypanel@gmail.com>

To: kengooderham@gmail.com

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Hurricane Ian update

Thursday morning personnel from the Captiva Island Fire District were able to make their way to Captiva on our department rescue boat. Their top priority is to conduct search and rescue efforts for those island residents who did not evacuate the island prior to Hurricane Ian. So far, 22 people have been evacuated from the island. If you know of anyone who needs to be evacuated, please call 911 and we will dispatch the appropriate personnel. Search and rescue efforts will take some time given the damage to the island and inaccessibility of many parts of the island.

We will conduct assessments of structures and damage to property only after search and rescue efforts have been completed. However I am pleased to report that our fire station is intact and will be able to serve the needs of the island. Our initial assessment is that the island flooded in parts, but avoided the severe storm surge that has been reported in other parts of Lee County.

Prior to the storm our fire trucks and other essential equipment were relocated from the island and did not suffer any damage from the storm. Once it's feasible, we will move that equipment back to the island so we can once again be fully operational.

I ask you it to attempt to gain access to the island. Live power lines on the ground, fallen trees and other debris make moving around the island extremely dangerous. We will provide further information once our search, rescue and recovery operations have been completed.

Jeff Pawul
Chief, Captiva Island Fire District



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Captiva Community Panel
P.O. Box 72
Captiva, FL 33924

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