

October 2, 2022

A statement from Captiva Island Fire District Chief Jeff Pawul:

We have opened Captiva Drive and all roads in the village. South Seas provided us with a large tractor, which helped immensely. We greatly appreciate their support.

We are working to make arrangements with a barge operator to bring all of our fire equipment back to Captiva. We hope this can happen soon, and will provide more specific information as we finalize plans.

Access to the island is limited to the curfew restrictions imposed by Lee County. Attached is a copy of the press release from the County which explains the curfew. Currently the curfew is in effect from 6PM on. Access to the island, and movement about the island, will be enforced by Lee County Sheriff Deputies and other law enforcement agencies.

Those who choose to come to Captiva, must make their own travel plans including making prior arrangements with property owners in order to tie up a boat or otherwise utilize a dock. There is no public dock space available. All of the marinas on the island including those at South Seas, McCarthy's, Jensen's, and Tween Waters are privately owned. You will not be able to access any of those marinas or any privately owned docks, including condominium association docks, without authorization from the owner.

We ask that you not perform any work on your properties until we can provide adequate fire protection services. The use of generators and the transportation and storage of fuel creates a significant fire hazard, and we simply do not have the ability at this time to manage the potential dangers associated with comprehensive restoration activities.

Travel to Captiva is very dangerous. The waters of Pine Island Sound and Roosevelt Channel are filled with debris, channel markers are missing, and sand bars have shifted. Only highly experienced or licensed captains should attempt a trip to the island.

Captiva is also still a very dangerous place to be. While we have the ability to provide medical care, access to 911 is compromised due to poor cell service, and response times for medical transport to an emergency room can be longer due to the demand on first responders throughout Lee County. Extreme caution and good judgement should be used if you attempt a trip to the island.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pawul,

Captiva Island Fire Chief