BATTLING THE BITES: A POST-IAN MOSQUITO RESPONSE JOURNEY

AARON LLOYD
LEE COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
OUTLINE

• Quick overview of LCMCD
• Overview of two-week timeline around Hurricane Ian
• Details of LCMCD storm prep
• Details of post storm assessment
• Where we are at today
• Mosquito control trends since the storm
LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Lee County encompasses approximately 1,200 square miles with over 500,000 acres of land in Southwest Florida.

Just over 1/10 of the county’s land mass consists of mosquito-breeding salt marsh.

Lee County has more salt marsh habitat for mosquitoes than 5 counties combined along the Indian River Lagoon.
Lee County Mosquito Control District Simplified Org Chart

- ~100 FT Employees
- ~50 PT Employees
- 14 Departments

IPM Program
AIRBUS H125
SIX HELIPORTS WITH FUEL, WATER AND MIXING CAPABILITIES
HURRICANE IAN LANDFALL
SW FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

Winds exceeded 150mph with a storm surge of over 13 feet (Fort Myers Beach), which was double the surge of Hurricane Charley in 2004 that took a similar track.

Highest surge ever recorded in SW Florida in the past 150 years.
TWO WEEK TIMELINE - BEFORE AND AFTER IAN

Sept. 23, 2022
Preparation for Storm Begins

Sept. 28, 2022
Hurricane Ian Makes Landfall

Sept. 29, 2022
EOCAerial Support Missions Begin and accessing our capabilities

Oct. 3, 2022
Aerial Adulticiding Night Missions Begin

October 11, 2022 - Present
Aerial Larviciding Missions Resume
ROTARY-WING AIRCRAFT STORED AT LCSO GUN RANGE
FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT STORED IN HANGARS AND SECURED IN QUAD
LOCKED DOWN HELIPORTS

- Turned mix tanks off
- Turned Jet A tanks
- Used vehicles to block doorways to buildings
DISASTER RECOVERY TEAMS ACTIVATED AND STAGED AT BUCKINGHAM AIRFIELD FL59
HURRICANE IAN ARRIVES
DAMAGE ASSESSMENT/ DEVELOP A MOSQUITO CONTROL PLAN

- Contact all employees
- Offer support: gas, district help secure employee homes, generators, water
- Ask who can report to work
- All hands meeting
- Scout heliports
- Scout roads
- Support EOC

OUR MISSION IS TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH
As soon as it was safe to fly, helicopters were put back in operation and LCMCD Pilots began support of EOC Operations alongside the Lee County Sheriff’s Office. Missions included damage assessment, assisting with communication recovery, and providing local, state, and federal officials with a bird’s eye view of the aftermath.
LEE COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
LEE COUNTY EOC PASSENGER LOADING AREA (EAST PARKING LOT)
OVER 50 EOC SUPPORT MISSIONS FLOWN BY LCMCD PILOTS

- Lee County Government Personnel – Damage Assessment
- Lee County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Christopher Bernier & Staff
- Local, State, and Federal Elected Officials & Department Heads
  - Commissioner Kevin Ruane, Lee County
  - Commissioner Ray Sandelli, Lee County
  - Asst. County Manager Christine Brady, Lee County
  - Director of Public Safety, Benjamin Abes
  - Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, Jr.
  - Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez
  - Senator Rick Scott
- Communications Personnel (Cell Towers, Starlink)
- Numerous Public Safety Officials (EMS, Fire, etc.)
- Evacuated animals from CROW
DAMAGE FROM HURRICANE IAN

- Lost function of all six heliports to surge
  - Lost all vehicles to surge
  - Golden Bear tank breached
  - Aviation tanks moved but not breached
  - Chemical mixed tanks moved but not breached
- Fueling systems destroyed
- Buildings/Sheds destroyed
- Fences down
- No utilities
- SIT program area destroyed
- LCMCD Buckingham facilities
  - Lost 4 shade hangers to wind
  - Wind damage to 7 roofs
PINE ISLAND
LOCATING AND ESTABLISHING LANDING ZONES WAS A PRIORITY
WINKLER HELIPORT,
SOUTH FORT MYERS
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**PLAN FOR HARDENED FACILITIES**

- Lost function of all six heliports to surge
  - Vehicles have been replaced ✔
  - Reported to FDACS and removed tank ✔
  - Aviation tanks back in order ✔
  - Chemical mix tanks back in order ✔
  - Fueling systems on order (FDOH/FDACS)
  - Buildings/Sheds replaced ✔
  - Fences up and property secured ✔
  - Utilities restored ✔
- SIT up and running in downtown Ft Myers ✔
- LCMCD Buckingham facilities
  - Two Shade hangers replaced ✔
  - Replacing one Shade Hanger with metal building (FEMA)
  - Roofs repaired ✔
LCMCD OPERATIONS AFTER HURRICANE IAN
THANK YOU