

PREPARING FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane Season officially begins on June 1, and it's hard to imagine that we are facing another six months of waiting, watching, and wondering. Our staff has made preparing ECUA facilities for the impacts from storm events a year-round priority! Following are highlights of the major steps that ECUA has taken toward preparing for the 2009 tropical season.

DESPITE THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF THIS TROPICAL SEASON, ECUA STANDS WELL PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE UPCOMING HURRICANE SEASON.

Disaster Response Plan

ECUA has a comprehensive Disaster Plan that clearly defines roles and responsibilities of all ECUA personnel in times of emergency. The Plan is designed to address all types of disaster situations, even though hurricanes are what we think of most often in terms of emergency events. The Plan is divided into several Operating Conditions, or OPCON levels, which list actions and precautions to be taken by ECUA staff in preparation for, and in response to, an emergency situation. The Plan is an ever-evolving document, as we learn from each and every emergency situation we face. In fact, ECUA personnel went through a thorough debrief following the recovery phases of Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis, to note all of the information, feedback and experiences gained through these events. We have rewritten our Disaster Response Plan based on this information, and are ready to implement it should we need to in 2009. Additionally, ECUA staff will participate in a pre-season county-wide hurricane drill on Tuesday, June 2.

Water Production

We currently have 34 wells in our system. To ensure that our community's three major hospitals, and the community as a whole, continue to have water service available following a storm, we have purchased six 350kW portable generator sets. Three are dedicated to the three wells that serve West Florida, Sacred Heart and Baptist Hospitals. Three sets have been placed strategically on other wells to keep our production capability at a "conservation" level in the event of an area-wide loss of electric power. This will provide us with sufficient water supply for the system until power can be restored. Also, we have modified our design specifications for all future well sites and major lift stations to incorporate an automatic transfer switch and portable generator sets. The Pensacola Beach Water Pump Station was submerged by Hurricane Ivan's storm surge. To prevent the future recurrence of water damage at that

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HOW TO PURIFY YOUR WATER

To ensure your household has a safe and adequate water supply after natural disasters, it's important to know how to purify water to make it suitable for drinking and cooking purposes. There are two easy ways to do it and you probably have what you need on hand.

One way is to boil water for about 5 minutes at a rolling boil. Let cool before using.

The second method is to add 3-6 drops of regular, unscented, household bleach into a gallon of water. Let it sit in an open container for approximately 30 minutes before using.

Remember to also take these precautions:

- Store enough drinking water for each family member and pet (1 gallon, per person, per day).
- Collect water in bathtubs for non-drinking uses.

If you live in an evacuation zone and plan on leaving your home until after the storm has passed, you can further protect the water supply and minimize property damage by following the guidelines shown below:

How to protect your hot water heater:

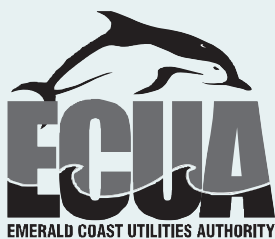
- Turn off your water at the cut-off valve.
- Switch off the electrical circuit breakers to your electric water heater.
- Contact your natural gas provider for recommendations on steps to take to secure your natural gas water heater.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ECUA offices will be **Closed** on Friday, July 3, 2009, in observance of Independence Day. There will be **no change** in the residential sanitation collection schedule for the Independence Day holiday week.

Any commercial customer scheduled for collection on Saturday, July 4, will have their pickup on Friday, July 3.

All other ECUA garbage and yard trash collections will be made on their regularly scheduled collection days.



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site, we have moved all electrical distribution circuits and controls to an elevated second-level platform.

Lift Stations

We have purchased ten 60kW portable generator sets for lift stations, to be cycled through lift station routes, pumping down the stations on a rotating basis. This strategy proved very effective in the aftermath of the last two major storms, and we've added these generators to be able to include all 357 lift stations in the ECUA system on the pump-down rotation. We now have nine routes, each covering an average of 39 stations.

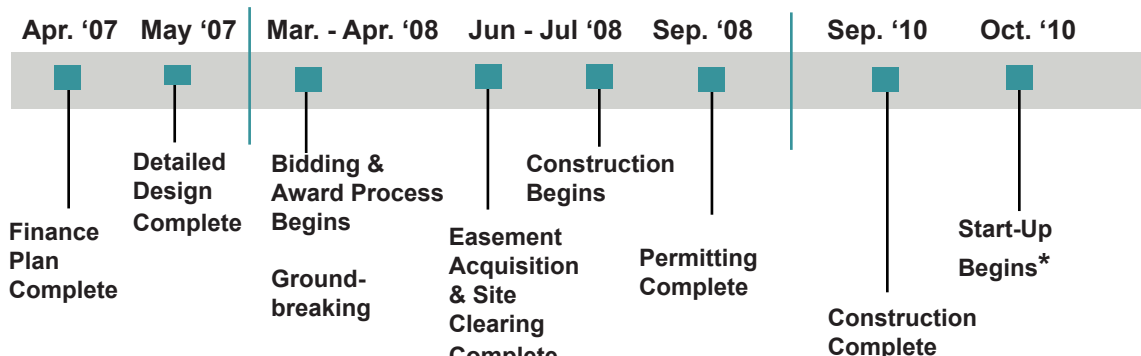
Main Street Wastewater Treatment Plant

Our Main Street plant was severely damaged by the winds and storm surges of Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis. However, the loss of power to the plant during and after a storm, is one of the greatest issues that we face in terms of being able to serve the community and protect public health. To that end, we have procured and installed three 400kW stationary generator sets (this includes the generator and diesel-powered motor) for the plant that will help us continue to provide basic treatment on a temporary basis until normal treatment can resume. This is meant to help keep overflows from occurring on and around the plant site.

Ultimately, the replacement of the Main Street Plant with the new Central Water Reclamation Facility in 2010 will help assure that wastewater service to our community is protected from the devastation that hurricanes can wield. Below is a timeline that outlines the steps needed to complete the project, and the approximate dates associated with them.

ECUA Central Water Reclamation Facility Project Timeline

All Dates Approximate and Subject to Change



* New plant and Main Street plant will operate concurrently while start-up issues are resolved.