



September 3, 2011  
#110903-TSLEE3

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## ***Tropical Storm Lee Update #3***

The emergency operation center remains at a level 3, or monitoring phase. Staff will participate in weather briefings and monitor conditions throughout the weekend. Residents are urged to regularly monitor local media outlets and the Santa Rosa County website at [www.santarosa.fl.gov](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov) over the holiday weekend as conditions may change quickly.

### **Storm Information as Currently Forecasted by the National Weather Service**

- Santa Rosa County is currently under a tropical storm warning and may experience 30 mph sustained winds with gusts to 40 mph Sunday and into Monday.
- Residents should stay alert for the quick development of short lived tornadoes through Sunday night.
- Up to 10 inches of rain is possible through Tuesday. Residents living near flood prone areas should monitor conditions.
- The river levels are expected to rise rapidly over the next three to four days, and may reach minor flood stage. At 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 3, the river readings were:
  - Big Cold Water Creek at Milton- 2.59 feet, forecasted to rise to 9.7 feet by Tuesday, September 6. Flood stage is 10 feet.
  - Blackwater River at Baker- 1.08 feet, forecasted to rise to 6.8 feet by Tuesday, September 6. Flood stage is 11 feet.
  - Yellow River at Milliagan- .15 feet, forecasted to rise to 5.2 feet by Tuesday, September 6. Flood stage is 12 feet.
  - Escambia River at Century - 2.64 feet, forecasted to rise to 9 feet by Tuesday, September 6. Flood stage is 17 feet.
- Santa Rosa County is currently under flash flood watch, a high surf advisory, a coastal flood advisory, small craft advisory, and tornado watch.
- Deadly rip currents, high surf, minor beach erosion and minor coastal flooding are expected.
- Five to 10 inches of rain is possible, with the heaviest rainfall on Sunday through Wednesday, September 7.
- Marine waters can see winds 30-40 knots and seas 12 to 16 feet offshore.

### **Beach Conditions**

- The double red flag is currently flying at Navarre Beach, indicating the water is closed to the public.
- Beachgoers, swimmers and surfers should heed the double red flag warnings and stay out of the water as deadly rip currents and rough surf conditions are forecasted through Thursday, September 8.

### **Traffic Conditions**

- Residents are asked restrict unnecessary driving on Sunday and Monday as much as possible as the heavy rain may flood low-lying area roads and bridges.
- No current closures. Road and bridge staff are on standby to respond as needed and any closures will be announced as they occur.
- In the event of road closures, do not remove road barricades on closed roads or bridges. Even after the water has receded, public works crews must complete safety inspections.

### **Steps Residents Can Take**

- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys and garden tools.

- Secure your property. Check for, fix or remove loose items on your structures/homes.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and down spouts
- Prepare boats as appropriate.
- Know what low-lying areas near your home are subject to flooding such as creeks, drainage channels, streams and bayous.

### **General Safety Information**

- [www.santarosa.fl.gov](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov) or follow us on Twitter at @SRCBOCC
- Please monitor your home weather radio and local media outlets for the most up-to-date information.
- Your best defense in any disaster is a NOAA Weather radio.
- Citizens can sign up to automatically receive breaking news alerts from Santa Rosa County Emergency Management via e-mail or as a text message on their cell phone at:  
<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency/publicwarning.html>

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