



September 4, 2011  
#110904-TSLEE4

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## *Tropical Storm Lee Update #4*

The emergency operation center remains at a level 3, or monitoring phase. Staff will participate in weather briefings and monitor conditions on Sunday and Monday. 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) 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 periods of strong winds of 25-35 mph with higher gust mainly in the squalls, continuing through Monday. As the squalls pass there will be periods of calm and lighter showers marked by periods of intense wind and rain.
- Residents should stay alert for the quick development of short lived tornadoes through Monday.
- The flooding threat continues through tonight and Monday as an additional four to seven inches of rainfall is possible. Flooding of small streams, poor draining areas, and low lying roads is probable.
- The river levels are expected to rise rapidly over the next three to four days, and may reach minor flood stage. At noon on Sunday, September 4, the river readings were:
  - Big Cold Water Creek at Milton- 3.87 feet, forecasted to peak at 8 feet on Tuesday, September 6. Flood stage is 10 feet.
  - Blackwater River at Baker- 1.56 feet, forecasted to peak at 7.5 feet on Monday, September 5. Flood stage is 11 feet.
  - Yellow River at Milliagan- .83 feet, forecasted to peak at 7.6 on Wednesday, September 7. Flood stage is 12 feet.
  - Escambia River at Century - 2.88 feet, forecasted to peak at 12.1 on Wednesday, September 7. Flood stage is 17 feet.
- Life threatening rip currents and breaking waves in the surf zone of seven to 10 feet are expected through Monday, along with minor beach erosion and minor coastal flooding.

### **Beach Conditions**

- Double red flags are 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 present.

### **Gulf Island National Seashore**

- The roadways from the Santa Rosa Area entrance station to the Opal Beach picnic clusters of the Gulf Island National Seashore are closed.
- Although the J. Earle Bowden Road section within the Santa Rosa Area remains open for necessary traffic between Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach, visitors are urged to drive with extreme caution because of sand on the road and constantly changing weather conditions related to Tropical Storm Lee.

### **Traffic Conditions**

- No current closures. Road and bridge staff are on standby to respond as needed and any closures will be announced as they occur.
- Localized flooding has been reported on East Madura Road, it is currently open with hazards.

- 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.
- 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.
- According to the National Weather Service, more deaths occur due to flooding each year than from any other thunderstorm or hurricane related hazard. Many of these casualties are a result of careless or unsuspecting motorists who attempt to navigate flooded roads. Anyone who comes to a flooded roadway should, “Turn around... don’t drown!”

### **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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