



Media Release

Town of Oak Island • Communications Office

Phone: 910-201-8067 • Fax: 910-278-9542

OKI-Info@ci.oak-island.nc.us

www.OakIslandNC.com

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For Immediate Release

Town of Oak Island Prepares for Impacts from Severe Weather

Swimming advisory, storm water pumping, and travel safety tops public cautions

(Oak Island, NC) – On **Thursday, September 17 2020**, Oak Island Town Manager, David Kelly, received updated forecasts from the National Weather Service, regarding the potential impacts to the Town and surrounding area from the remnants of Hurricane Sally. As of the timing of this release, impacts are mainly expected from significant rainfall and saturation, with additional concerns of damaging wind gusts and possible tornadoes throughout Thursday into Friday.

Current forecasts predict periods of heavy rain, producing amounts of 2"-4" within the area. This amount of rainfall could lead to minor flooding within the Town, and add to already standing water.

FLOODING / PUMPING: Crews from the Oak Island Public Works Department have already begun pumping of standing storm water in the area of Crowell and 79th streets. Pumping operations will continue until water can be kept at a minimum of 6" or less. Public Works Director, Scott Thornall has also notified the **North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ)**, who has released a precautionary swimming advisory for these areas. Additionally, road signs have been posted on these streets, and pumping operations will have staff onsite at all times during operation. Updates to the Town website and social media accounts will be made once pumping has been completed and all signage removed. **PLEASE NOTE:** Oak Island Development Services are aware of the most common areas for potential flooding. Unless flooding presents immediate impacts to your home or safety, the department does not need to be notified if flooding is in your area. Staff will be monitoring and responding appropriately throughout this weather event.

PERSONAL SAFETY: The personal health and safety of all residents and visitors is a top priority for the entire Oak Island first responder family. Because of high water and wind gust potential, Oak Island Police, Chief W.L. Ingram strongly encourages all drivers to use caution while traveling through town and to not drive through standing water. Additionally, Fire Chief Chris Anselmo reminds all property owners to check and/or disconnect any electrical items that may be at risk of being damaged by water (such as golf cart batteries); as well as securing any loose items that may be blown by wind gusts, or cause contamination through storm water runoff.

RECREATION: The **Friday Concert in the Park**, scheduled for tomorrow, September 18, at 6:00pm has not been cancelled at this time. However, a final decision on cancellation will be made on Friday morning. All updates regarding the concert status will be made on the Town website and social media accounts. The **Oak Island Pier** is currently open from 6:00am-10:00pm, however; it may close early if weather becomes severe. Visitors are encouraged to call **910-933-6161** to confirm the Pier's status ahead of any planned visits.