



GMD

Growth Management Department

Quarterly Newsletter

Caxambas Pass Beach
Renourishment

Story Pg. 1

Our Timing is a Science

Story Pg. 1

Business As Usual

Story Pg. 9

Fifth Edition



Publication of the Collier County
Growth Management Department

GMD Quarterly Newsletter
5th Edition

Publisher

Thaddeus Cohen
Department Head
Growth Management Department

Credits:

Editor

Desirée Hart

Contributors

Chris Ambach
Christine Arnold
Howard Critchfield
Joe Delate
Albert English
Samantha Gibson
Desirée Hart
Sara Ison
Anita Jenkins
Christopher Mason
Matthew McLean
Blanca Nieves
Dianna Perryman
W. Eric Short

Proofreaders

Christine Arnold
Connie Deane

Photographers

Coastal Zone staff
Code Enforcement staff
Development Review staff
Ed Kacperowski



Our Fifth Edition of the Growth Management Department (GMD) Newsletter introduces you to some of the ways we're using specialized equipment and technology to be prepared in case of crisis and better serve our customers.

Next time you're up for a day trip, take a ride down to Marco Island and see what's new there. Enjoy a casual lunch and quiet walk along its newly refurbished beaches. Funding for these improvements by Coastal Zone Management has been made possible by Tourist Development.

As an ongoing effort to keep residents informed, the Transportation Engineering Division is using the Alert Collier system, in special cases, to notify residents within focused areas to mitigate traffic congestion and delays. If you're wondering why your neighbor's receiving these County alerts and you're not, sign up at [Alert Collier](#) or sign-in and edit your existing account.

Learn about the County's capital projects and how they're planned well in advance - five years or more before construction begins. The [Annual Update Inventory Report](#) (AUIR) video was created to illustrate the process for collecting, organizing, and publishing the annual summary report for your understanding.

Read further to understand how Traffic Operations keeps traffic flowing to reduce congestion throughout the County, and whether COVID-19 has impacted that flow. This is yet another way we're continuously working to make Collier County one of the best places to live, work, and visit.

GMD continues to develop a customer-centric culture with your satisfaction as a top priority. Stay tuned for future editions of the GMD Newsletter to learn more about how the Growth Management Department is designing a positive experience for customers. Many of the changes we're making are based on your feedback and survey responses.

Speaking of surveys, please take our Newsletter [survey](#) and tell us what you think. We welcome your topic suggestions, please send your suggestions to [Suggest A Topic](#).

Thanks for your continued support of the Department. Stay involved, and stay informed. Working together is the best way for us all to make a difference.

Thaddeus Cohen
Department Head
Growth Management Department



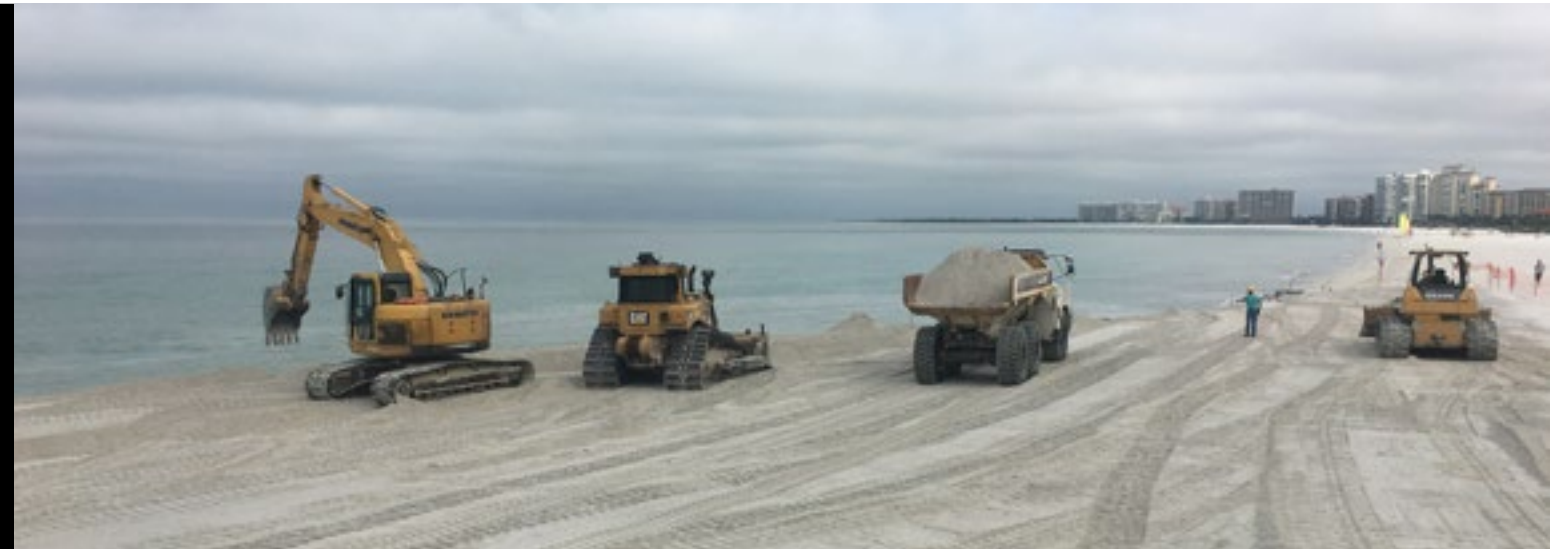
Growth Management Department

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Caxambas Pass at Marco Island Beach Renourishment



CAXAMBAS PASS BENEFITS FROM DREDGING & RENOURISHMENT

by Cliff Perryman, Coastal Zone Management

Sand dredged from Caxambas Pass placed in the upland area (beach berm) on South Marco Beach was used to replenish the area.

[continued on page 5](#)

WE'VE GOT TIMING DOWN TO A SCIENCE

Quiz: Is hitting all the green lights based on luck or talent?

Neither! Learn what Traffic Operations is doing to help make your drive more pleasant on a regular basis.

[story on page 9](#)



COVID-19 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Stay healthy by taking necessary precautions

Learn the steps you can take to help prevent the spread of this virus. Please check on neighbors and friends, both young and old.

[learn more on page 7](#)



CODE ENFORCEMENT & MEDICAL SUPPLY ASSIST

Code Enforcement assists with medical supply distribution.

Working with Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to deliver medical supplies.

[story on page 8](#)



FIRE PREPARATION - DID YOU KNOW?

by Matt McLean, Development Review Division



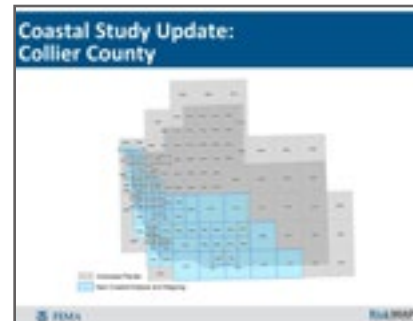
We all learned early in our lives that the four seasons are spring, summer, fall and winter. However, these seasons are not as applicable to Southwest Florida. Collier County's seasons include: tourist season; fire season; mosquito season; and hurricane season.

[continued on page 4](#)

“Remember, the Solution to Pollution Begins with You!”

PRELIMINARY COASTAL STUDY & MAP UPDATE

by Howard Critchfield P.E., CFM and Christopher Mason, CFM
Building Plan Review and Inspection Division



On Dec. 31, 2019, the Florida Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the preliminary maps for Collier County as a part of the Southwest Florida FEMA Coastal Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program.

[continued on page 3](#)

Want to know more about a specific Growth Management Department? Let us know, and your topic will be considered for the next GMD Newsletter. Please use the [Suggest A Topic](#) button and send us your suggestions.



PRELIMINARY COASTAL STUDY AND MAP UPDATE

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The Collier County Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) focus on areas that can be affected by coastal flooding. FEMA has utilized new and improved topographic mapping technology to assess the coastal flood risk.

On March 2 and 3, 2020 Collier County, along with the City of Naples, City of Marco Island, and FEMA staff, hosted open houses to provide information regarding preliminary changes to the FIRM. Property owners and residents were able to discuss with FEMA staff, changes to insurance requirements associated with the map update. The maps are preliminary and have not been adopted by Collier County.

Collier County has been a participating community in the National Flood Insurance Program since Sept. 14, 1979; when the first FIRM was adopted. Here are some interesting facts about Collier County's Floodplain Management Program:

- The FIRMs identify different Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). Collier County SFHA flood zones are A, AE, AH, and VE. Flood zones are designated based on different characteristics, such as flood depths, flooding source, etc.

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Reduce fire incidents with proper fire preparation

FIRE PREPAREDNESS

continued from page 2

As we approach spring a/k/a “fire season”, we would like to take a moment and go over a few preventive steps to preparing your property especially if you reside in the Golden Gate Estates area.

Clearing vegetation within 30 feet of a structure is the recommended defensible wildfire space. This is usually done when the home site is initially cleared, upon construction permit approval. Single-family homeowners within Golden Gate Estates can clear up to one acre after the Building Permit for a single-family home is issued.

Existing residences which have not cleared up to one acre, may clear up to a maximum of one acre at any time. If one acre of vegetation has already been removed and an additional clearing within 30 feet of structures is proposed, then a Vegetation Removal Permit is needed. The allowed clearing is the same whether a lot is one acre or five acres in size. Please note that there are stricter clearing allowances for properties located in the Rural Fringe Mixed Use District, within Special Treatment Overlays, and inside Areas of Critical State Concern.

These simple steps can significantly reduce the risk of fire to your home:

- Clean leaves and pine needles from your roof, gutters, eaves, and porches;
- Remove tall grasses and vines from around trees and shrubs;
- Replace vegetation under porches or decks with gravel;

continued on page 13

Your Opinion Matters

Please take a moment to complete our Newsletter Survey. Let us know what we're doing right and what may need improvement.

Click the button below or scan the QR Code to the right with your smart phone.

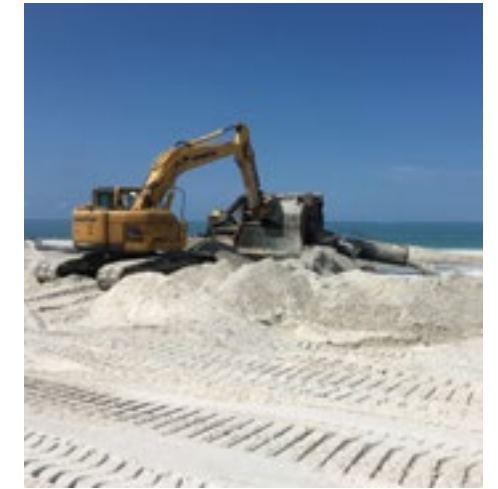
BEACH RENOURISHMENT

continued from page 2

Residents and visitors at Marco Island are now able to enjoy a wider, more robust beach since the completion of the Caxambas Pass beach resourishment project. Approximately 80,000 cubic yards of sand was used to refurbish South Beach.

The Board of County Commissioners awarded the contract for the project, funded by Tourist Development, to contractors in late 2019. Once underway, crews worked around the clock to reach completion before sea turtle nesting season, as required by the Department of Environmental Protection permit.

- ❖ -



Specialized equipment used for dredging and placing sand onto the beach



Beach Dredging and Renourishment Project at Caxambas Pass, Marco Island



GIVE THE DOG A BONE HAND!

by Sammie Gibson, Pollution Control

Pets are a “waggingly” wonderful addition to our lives. As part of our families, they deserve what’s best. So, give your dog a hand, because they sure don’t have one.

An absolute necessity for both our health and the health of our dogs is the proper disposal of pet waste, or what we like to call “poo-lution.”

Now, let’s talk some basics. There are more than 15,000 registered dogs in Collier County. It is estimated that 40 percent of dog owners leave pet waste on the ground. That means almost two tons of poo-lution are being left on the ground each day in Collier County. Phew, talk about a big pile of you-know-what!

Poo-lution is a source of both nutrients and bacteria. When it rains, any poo-lution left on the ground gets washed into our local water. With a significantly higher concentration of phosphorous than waste from cows and other domesticated animals, dog waste provides the nutrient that is most likely to start an algae bloom or cause a fish kill. It is also recognized as the third highest source of bacterial pollution in our nation’s waterways. Excess



Give the dog a bone hand!

bacteria in our local waterways is not healthy for the wildlife and makes the water unsuitable for activities such as swimming.

Be part of the “Poo-lution Solution.” Simply add “scoop the poop” to your once a week chore list, or hire a pooper-scooper, to keep your backyard clean and safe for your pet.

Don’t have a backyard? Enjoy taking your dog out on the town? Love the dog park? Tie a couple bags to your dog’s leash so that you’re always prepared to pick up after your dog. This also gives you the opportunity to offer a bag to that neighbor that conveniently “forgot” theirs. Scooping the poop is the law and it benefits everyone, including our furry family. So, go ahead and give your dog a hand! - ❖ -

MEDICAL SUPPLIES & COVID-19 ASSISTANCE BY CODE ENFORCEMENT

by District Supervisors W. Eric Short and Chris Ambach, Code Enforcement Division

CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION MISSION STATEMENT

“To protect the health, safety, and welfare of Collier County residents and visitors through education, cooperation, and compliance.”

Over the past few weeks, the Code Enforcement Division assisted the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in preparing medical supplies and other essential needs for our local first responders and healthcare providers throughout the county. Investigators assisted with unloading, sorting and preparing the supplies, and then delivered them through a continued partnership with Collier County Emergency Management.

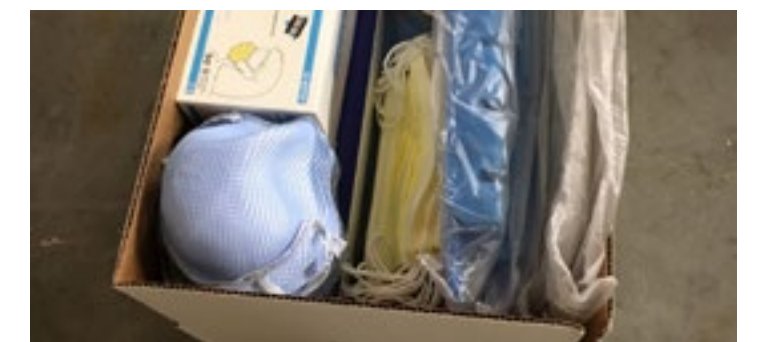
IMMOKALEE RECEIVES COVID-19 ASSISTANCE

Providing important information about the Covid-19 pandemic to residents in Immokalee, many who don’t speak English, was a challenge that Collier County Code Enforcement took on. Approximately 700 informational packets written in English, Spanish and Creole with data on safe practices such as safe hand washing procedures and the need for social distancing were delivered to Immokalee residents between Monday, March 31 and Friday, April 3, 2020. Also included was Health Department contact information for further questions or concerns.

Code Enforcement’s brochure that details most common violations and includes contact numbers so

residents can report anything of concern quickly, was part of the packet. Code Enforcement staff heard many words of appreciation from our Immokalee residents as the packets were distributed. As we work through these trying times, Code Enforcement staff are committed to continuing their outreach and education efforts with community members.

- ❖ -



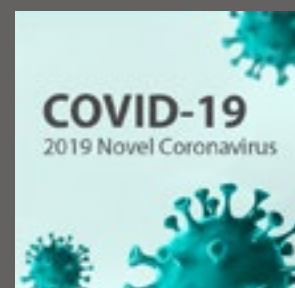
Delivering assistance to Immokalee and medical supplies for EOC

COVID-19 (2019 Novel Coronavirus)

- Wash for 20 seconds
- Practice social distancing
- Avoid touching your face
- Call before you go

Learn more at the [Florida Department of Health](https://www.floridahealth.gov/) website.

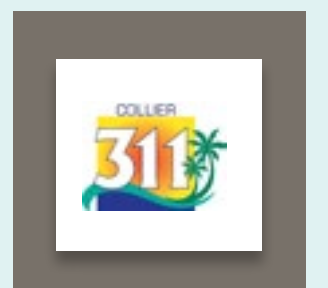
Learn about [Collier County service changes and closures](#) affecting you.



Easily Report Non-Emergency Issues within the County

by Michelle Scavone, Operations Support Division

Report non-emergency issues and service requests by dialing 311 from within Collier County between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday - Friday on regular business days. Issues are tracked and callers receive timely responses to requests and concerns. You can also download the app to your smartphone or report directly from the [311 webpage](#).





Precise timing regulates traffic flow

TIMING SIGNALS IS A SCIENCE

by Anthony Khawaja, Traffic Operations, Transportation Engineering Division

Did you ever wonder how we keep you moving along Collier County’s main roads without having to stop for too many red traffic signals along the way? How is it possible that even in peak rush hour, you can go for miles without having to stop at an intersection? Here is a look at the process and technology our Traffic Operations team is deploying to ensure that travel times are short and intersections function effectively, while keeping us all safe on the road:

The device that contains the timing for a traffic signal is called a traffic controller. The traffic controller is an advanced computer that has been specifically designed to control a signalized intersection. The timing of signalized intersections in Florida is required to meet federal, Florida Highway Administration (FHWA), and state, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), standards. Coordination of intersections allows us to synchronize multiple intersections to enhance the traffic flow. This provides progression on major roads (i.e. arterials) with minimum delay.

So how do we come up with those timing plans to coordinate multiple intersections? First, we have to do some counts...

Traffic Volume Counts - Every three months we count all the vehicles that pass at specific locations. *continued on page 10*

The technologies used to collect traffic counts vary from inductive loops, to video detectors, to radar. These counts show the seasonal and yearly volume changes on the roadways and are used to determine the time of day each coordinated timing pattern will be in operation on weekdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Typically, a minimum of four coordinated timing patterns are developed for a.m., midday, p.m., and off-peak hours.

Turning Movement Counts - The turning movement counts will determine the green time allocation for each direction at an intersection. ...and then we come up with a plan.

Timing Plan Development - The basic timing, intersection geometrics, and turning movement volume counts are coded into a computer software program that develops the optimal coordinated timing for each intersection on the arterial.

Timing Plan Implementation and Fine-Tuning - The timing plans (patterns) are transferred from the computer software to each traffic controller on the arterial. Then we do some test drives and any timing adjustments that are needed to minimize delay. When we need to coordinate several signals, the last step is to perform a delay study. The arterial pattern is determined with a laptop and software that evaluates arterial progression and delay. This study is performed in each direction, three times for each pattern, for a total of 72 runs.

Three types of coordination systems are currently in operation in Collier County. They are ‘pre-timed’, ‘traffic response’, and ‘traffic adaptive’.

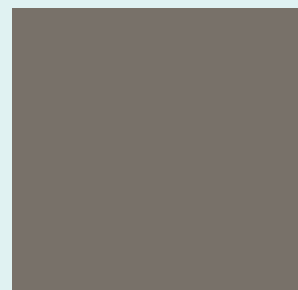
- Pre-timed coordinated systems implement predefined patterns according to a time of day schedule. This type of system does not account for fluctuations in traffic volumes due to special events or seasonal demand.
- Traffic responsive coordinated systems implement pre-defined patterns according to real time traffic counts taken at major intersections within the system. This type of system accounts for seasonal changes in traffic volumes but does not account for fluctuations in traffic volumes due to special events.
- Traffic adaptive coordinated systems continuously develop new timing according to real time counts taken on all movements at each intersection within the system. It accounts for seasonal volume changes and fluctuations in traffic demand due to special events. This type of system is

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REPORT A TRAFFIC SIGNAL ISSUE

by Christine Arnold, Transportation Engineering Division

Collier County provides several methods of reporting traffic signal issues, and we want to know if a problem occurs. If you would like to report a [Traffic Signal Issue](#) please complete the online interactive [form](#), or send your email to TrafficOps@colliercountyfl.gov, contact [Collier 311](#), or call (239) 252-5000.



E-PERMITTING COURSES OFFERED AT GMD

by Dianna Perryman, Operations and Regulatory Management Division

The county is offering comprehensive training on the electronic building permit application process using the [GMD Public Portal](#). Electronic permit application submittal, known as E-Permitting, has many advantages over manual submission - it’s convenient, saves time, and it’s environmentally friendly by reducing printing. To sign up, please contact [Dianna Perryman](#) or call (239) 252-2965.



BUSINESS AS USUAL DURING COVID-19

by Albert English and Joe Delate, Road Maintenance Division

The Road Maintenance Division hasn't skipped a beat during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Staff has continued delivering on customer expectations by providing timely scheduled maintenance and customer service.

According to Road Maintenance Division Director Albert English, "We are confident that the Division will continue to perform everyday operations with business as usual. Road Maintenance staff members are considered essential employees and take their commitment to the public very seriously." Road maintenance, landscaping, and bridge and sidewalk repair schedules have remained on schedule.

The Division readies itself throughout the year to be prepared for the unexpected. In response to the pandemic, modifications have been made to hours and work schedules for staff, with a small percentage working remotely from home fielding phone calls and providing customer service and technical support.

LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION

The landscaping and irrigation team has been very busy during these challenging times. Even though we have been short-staffed at times due to the pandemic, we've accomplished many feats. We are trimming all the trees and palms within the 120+ mile Landscape Beautification Master Plan (LBMP) area. We are continuing to fertilize all medians and mulching most; removing

dead vegetation; and systematically replanting 100 miles of medians damaged by Hurricane Irma (20 miles in the LBMP are new medians not in need of replanting). We also made multiple irrigation repairs during the epic drought.

Additionally, we are working as a team with Transportation Engineering on their turn lane projects, transplanting material from the new footprint into our existing medians elsewhere. We are preparing to construct later this year a Federal Department of Transportation (FDOT) grant project on North Tamiami Trail in the Pelican Bay area. This constitutes landscape replacement and irrigation upgrades. Simultaneously, we are managing our existing landscape maintenance through our four contractors. Our own crews continue to stay busy with repairs, accident clean-up, and minor projects. Professional staff continues to work diligently managing all of the above projects and designs along with project managing the replacement plans, reviewing Right-of-Way (ROW) permits, and coordinating landscape maintenance agreements (LMA's).

Channels for reporting Road Maintenance issues have not changed. The public can report issues and concerns by dialing 311 from within the county; by using the Collier 311 app or [webpage](#), or by calling the Road Maintenance Division directly at (239) 252-8924.



PRELIMINARY COASTAL STUDY AND MAP UPDATE

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- The designation of the SFHAs are based on the 100-year flood event. This means that a respective area is subject to a one percent chance of flood inundation at the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) in a given year.
- Over 90 percent of Collier County is in the Special Flood Hazard Area.
- Collier County is rated as a Class 5 Community within FEMA's Community Rating System. The Class 5 rating offers a 25 percent discount on flood insurance premiums to policyholders. The discount provides a \$7.9 million savings within Collier County every year.
- Collier County ranks second in the state of Florida in flood insurance policy totals. Collier County property owners and residents currently hold over 70,000 flood insurance policies.

The Collier County Growth Management Department Floodplain Management Section is part of the Building Plan Review & Inspection Division and is staffed by seven team members. Staff reviews construction plans for FEMA regulations compliance, advises and assists design professionals on the technical aspects of flood-resistant development, guides residents and insurance agents on the interpretation of the FIRMs and Elevation Certificates and annually provides floodplain management outreach to various professional and civic organizations.



CENSUS 2020

[Learn More](#)





From a drone's eye view

FIRE PREPAREDNESS

continued from page 4

- Replace mulch with hardscape gravel or stone;
- Remove all flammable items within 30-feet of structures, including dry and dead vegetation and grass clippings, propane tanks, and items stored on decks; and
- Prune branches on trees six-to-10 feet from the ground.

A permit is not required for clearing for fire breaks built by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) which are approved by FFS as part of a wildfire mitigation plan. For single family lots within the Golden Gate Estates, clearing for fire breaks is allowed in addition to the one acre allowed for the home site as long as these fire breaks are or were created by the FFS or reviewed and approved by FFS as part of a wildfire mitigation plan. This includes roller-chopping and other fuel reduction methods.

We hope you find this information helpful during and while preparing for fire season each year. Additional references available are listed below.

National Fire Protection Association:

www.firewise.org

Florida Forest Service Contact info:

www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Wildland-Fire

Thomas Gonzalez, Forest Area Supervisor, Collier County

Florida Forest Service

710 Randall Blvd., Naples FL 34120

Phone: (239) 348-7522 | Email: Thomas.Gonzalez@FreshFromFlorida.com



COLLIER 311 EVACUATION ZONE MAPS

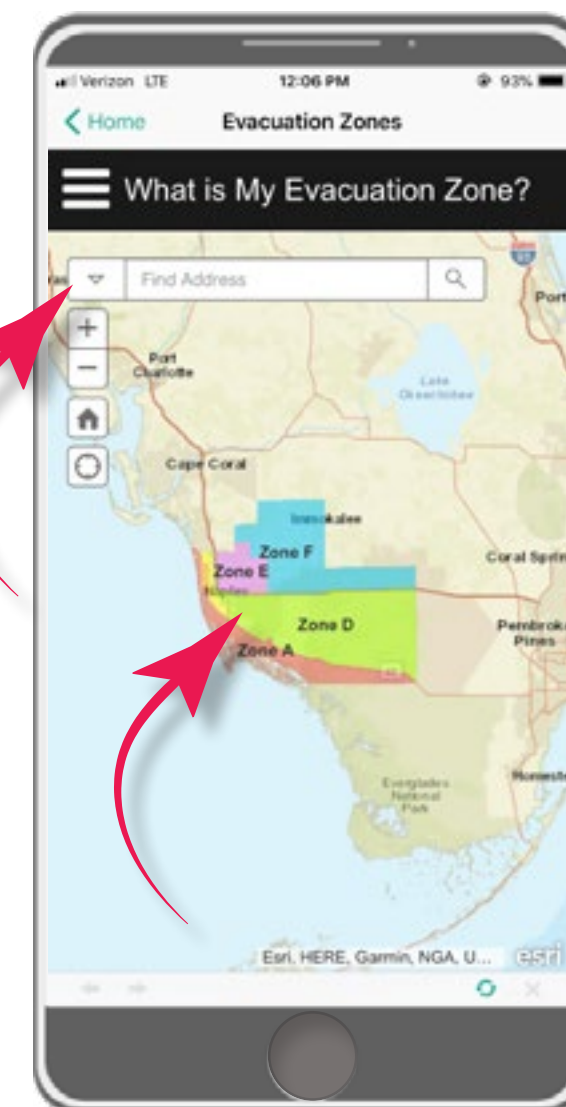
by Michelle Scavone, Operations Support Division

The Collier 311 App makes it easy to find your Evacuation Zone. Follow these easy steps:

1. DOWNLOAD the Collier 311 App to your smartphone and OPEN it
2. SELECT the “Evacuation Zone Maps” button from the home screen
3. ENTER your address or CLICK the map to find your Evacuation Zone



SELECT Button
“Evacuation
Zone Maps”



ENTER Address or
ZOOM Map

Have a non-emergency issue to report? Click the Service Request button on the App or dial 311 from anywhere within Collier County for immediate assistance. We're here for you!



SIGNAL TIMING IS A SCIENCE

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the most responsive to actual traffic demand and seasonal demand. Collier County currently has this type of system on Airport Road South and is in the process of installing the same type of system on the western part of Immokalee Road.

Did COVID-19 have an impact on our signal timing plans?

Yes, due to reduced traffic volumes on Collier County roadways, staff has adjusted the coordination timing to reduce delay while it is safer for all of us to stay at home.



COLLIER COUNTY'S ALERT SYSTEMS - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

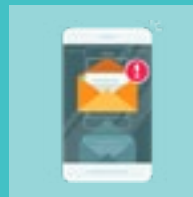
by Desirée Hart, Community and Media Relations, Operations Support Division



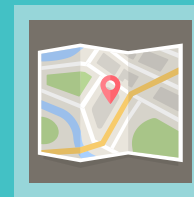
Alert Collier



Collier 311



E-Notification



Road Alert App

Alert Collier

Collier County's Emergency Alert System. Please sign up! If we can't reach you, we can't alert you in case of an emergency.

Collier 311

Contact us for non-emergency requests for service and to access the Knowledge Base.

E-Notifications

Sign up to stay informed of news and events. Receive e-notifications directly in your email InBox or by text messaging. Choose from a list of options available, including news releases, public information meetings, newsletters, and much more.

Road Alert

Stay informed of road and lane closures affecting major county roads.

Road Alert App

The NEW Road Alert App is coming soon! Access the interactive map to stay informed of planned lane closures affecting your travel routes.

Your Opinion Matters

Please take a moment to complete our Newsletter Survey. Let us know what we're doing right and what may need improvement.

Click the button below or scan the QR Code to the right with your smart phone.