



WasteWORDS

The Quarterly Newsletter for Facilities using WasteWORKS Software

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WasteWORKS Customers Face Nature's Fury

WasteWORKS customers across the Southeast have spent the last couple of months anticipating and dealing with one hurricane after another, and at least as much time will be spent cleaning up after them. With a few exceptions, Florida has managed to avoid too many face to face tropical encounters over the past decade, and the recently affected areas of Alabama, Georgia, Virginia and western North Carolina certainly aren't used to the almost weekly tropical confrontations.

In the past, most storms made their way up the coast of the Carolinas or slammed into one of the other states along the Gulf of Mexico coast. Apparently, luck has changed for the folks in Florida and the rest of the Southeast, and almost everybody has gotten their share.

From tree-toppling winds and tornados to flooding rains, the effects of these systems have touched the lives of millions of people, and WasteWORKS customers are some of the first to see the results. Many times, storm debris starts coming into solid waste facilities even before power is restored and the damage can be fully assessed. As soon as the rain stops and the winds die down, it's back to business. In the days following these tumultuous events, we spoke to some of the WasteWORKS customers in hard hit areas about how they were affected.

Seminole County, FL:

Just to the northeast of Orlando is Seminole County. Their inland position provides somewhat of a buffer, but as this year's storms have proven, hurricanes are armed with a variety of methods for bringing destruction to anyone in their path. Seminole County's Richard Meinert reported a drastic increase in debris from Frances and Jeanne, which has been ground and put to good use as daily cover at the landfill. The remainder of this waste is being ground and burned as it arrives at the landfill.

Brevard County, FL:

Located on the east coast of Florida, Brevard County, is home to Cape Canaveral, Melbourne and Cocoa Beach.

After only one month of operation, Brevard County, FL's new Melbourne Transfer Station got its first real test from Mother Nature. Hurricane Frances tore through the heart of Brevard County and made quite a mess of things. Though damage was kept to a minimum with this storm, life without power and the massive clean-up presented some burdensome challenges to the county's staff. Emergency power and backup WasteWORKS servers provided the necessary means to operate the county's facilities. But that was only round number one. Hurricane Jeanne followed Frances and caused even more destruction to the community.



Brevard County's new, state of the art transfer station facility, the Melbourne transfer station opened for operation just weeks before facing Frances.

Indian River County, FL:

The next county to Brevard's south is Indian River County. After being left without power and water for weeks from hurricane Frances, the residents of Indian River anxiously awaited FEMA's imported debris removal crews to gather up the fifteen foot dunes of limbs and leaves from their curbs. And this was all BEFORE Hurricane Jeanne was even on the radar.

"I kept my roof", said Donna Snyder of the county's Solid Waste Disposal District, after Frances passed through-- a considerably more positive view of what most of us would consider a miserable experience. Donna and a fellow employee spent three days and nights camped in a scale house, mopping up the water and just barely hanging on to their sanity. That's right, the slow moving storm forced

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everybody to stay put, even if it meant an extended stay in one of the county's scale houses. Electricity at the landfill and for most residents of the county was out for about 13 days. Snyder said, "Most people just spent their ninety degree nights awake and waiting for the alarm to sound." But the days were spent cleaning up and hauling away. The County accepted free debris from residents for a week and convenience centers were open



Washed out roads in Indian River County after Hurricane Frances.

for extended hours. At times, extra employees were need to handle scale traffic, and people waited in twenty five minute lines, both in and out of the landfill.

When hurricane Jeanne decided to give the county a second dose of hurricane season, it did it with even more power than Frances. This time, the area sustained much more damage. Widespread destruction to structures, flooding, and even washed out roads were on the menu with Jeanne. The landfill administration offices sustained damage, and ironically, this time Donna did lose her roof. Shortly

after power was restored to her house, a portion of Donna's roof came crashing down. Fortunately, she was ok.

Okaloosa County, FL:

The panhandle town of Fort Walton Beach was hit pretty hard, but remarkably, with the help of generator power, Gayle Edge of the Okaloosa County Solid Waste Office reported that "all sites were back up and running immediately after the storm." The county's solid waste facilities saw increased traffic, but not much of this increase was in scale traffic. Contracted haulers delivered mountains of debris to the county's facilities and are tracking the amounts by cubic yard.

Bay County, FL:

To the East side of Hurricane Ivan's landfall zone, Panama City "did pretty well", according to Sharon Tinsley of the Bay County Solid Waste Department. Some wind, rain, and a few tornadoes would not usually be a good example of good luck, but compared to their neighbors to the west, the residents of Bay County know how bad it could have been.

Escambia County, FL:

Undoubtedly, one of the most devastating blows was dealt to the Pensacola Bay area of the Florida panhandle.

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