

This is a General Information Advisory for Hurricane Season. It is time sensitive now, due to Hurricane Isaias but it is written to apply to tropical events in general.

Tropical Storms can have a tremendous impact on River Bend. Now is the time to be making any arrangements that need to be made. Do not wait until the day the storm is scheduled to arrive. The amount of wind and rain that is associated with tropical storms varies widely. However, events of any magnitude can cause items to be blown and/or washed away. Things like swings, trash cans, umbrellas, patio furniture, basketballs and anything else that you have in your yard may be displaced. These types of items can damage vehicles and homes and clog drain pipes. If it can be blown or washed away, you should secure it now. Remember, the home or car that it damages may be your own. The pipe it clogs may be the one that drains your neighborhood. Be smart and be a good neighbor and secure it now. If you are unable to move it, tie it to a tree. Currently, (as of 6 a.m. 7-31-20) the National Weather Service is only predicting 3-4 inches of rainfall and 65 mph winds from Hurricane Isaias for our area. That is subject to change up or down. It's too early to predict with certainty.

If there is a power outage and you are fortunate enough to have a generator and use it, be careful. Do not back-feed your generator power to the service lines. Disconnect your home from the power grid while a generator is being used. Follow your owner's manual or contact a licensed electrician. Do not operate generators indoors. After almost every hurricane, there are people who lose their life or home by misuse of a generator. Don't be that person. It is better to be in the dark than dead. Use common sense. The Town of River Bend is in no way responsible for restoring power after a storm. That is the job of Duke Energy. We cannot control them. Visit our website for information about their process. After every hurricane, I am asked- Who is going to pay for the food that I lost in my refrigerator or freezer due to the power outage? As far as I know, the answer to that question is- Nobody. Buy some ice and a cooler and keep your food safe with it as long as possible. Do not call Town Hall to report a power outage at your home. Report those outages directly to Duke Energy. It is important for everyone who loses power to report it to Duke Energy. They use the number of outages reported to their system to determine the extent of damage. Do not assume that someone else has already reported the outage. You should report your outage, even if you know your neighbor has already reported theirs.

The Town of River Bend does not operate any emergency shelters. If you see people staying at our facilities, it is town personnel who are here to work. Craven County operates emergency shelters. If you need to take refuge, look for information from Craven County. The town has no control over that.

In the event that there is storm debris in the wake of any tropical event, the town will evaluate the volume of debris and then determine if additional debris removal will be provided. Do not pile debris by the road for collection until instructed to do so by the town. We will use our web page and e-news to make the announcement. If debris removal is provided, pile debris by the road, just like you would do for a regular leaf and limb collection. Do not mix construction debris (wood, shingles, bricks, etc.) with leaf & limb debris. They go to different areas of the landfill and must be separated. Also, appliances and furniture should be kept separate from leaf and limb and construction debris. The town does not normally offer collection of construction debris or brown/white goods. Do not place those items by the road for collection following a tropical event unless the town has made an announcement that such items will be collected. Do not stack any debris near any utility pole, mailbox, street sign, etc. It slows down the collection process and makes it dangerous. If roads are blocked due to downed trees, the

town will remove those trees in a priority order. We will clear the main roads first so that it will allow the best/most emergency vehicle access. If you live on a cul-de-sac, it may be a while before we get to your street. Our staff will survey every street after a storm. There is no need for you to notify us of downed trees.

If you have trees on your property that are leaning toward your home or limbs hanging over your home, now may be the time to consider removing/trimming them.

Except in life threatening situations where emergency personnel are going on private property to provide medical or rescue assistance, we cannot go on private property to remove trees or otherwise assist you. We cannot help you secure or transport personal belongings. We cannot use town personnel or equipment on private property.

As long as power and internet access is available we will be posting important information on our web page. We also send e-news blasts and phone calls to everyone that has signed up. If you are not signed up, you will not receive those notifications. This event is a perfect example of why every resident in town with a computer and internet access should participate in our e-news system. Go to our web page now and sign up. If your neighbors are not signed up, print this bulletin and deliver it to them and encourage them to sign up. On our home page, click on "Register For Alerts" near the top of the page, then follow the instructions. It's that simple and easy!!! There are two options. One is for e-news and the other is for phone notifications. Sign up for either or both. I recommend both. If the internet and/or power is lost, you can still receive messages on your cell phone. If you have changed your phone number and/or email address since you originally registered, you must re-register with your new contact information.

During tropical events, the town attempts to provide "higher ground" for safer parking of vehicles and recreational equipment. We provide information about that option on our web page and via e-news. Visit our web page for information and availability of parking options when a tropical system is forecast for our area. If we do provide a parking option, please follow the posted instructions. Failure to do so causes problems for everyone.

Please rely on official information from the town or other government agencies. We all know that social media is not a reliable source of information.