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Hurricane Hermine level of damage seen in Levy County from Hurricane Irma

Storm surge NOT anticipated to be big



HardisonInk.com mascots Goldy the cat Hardison (left) and Inky the cat Hardison rest on a motel bed during their period of evacuation from The Ink Pad, which is located in the unrecorded subdivision in Levy County known as Jemlands. The cats first took refuge on Friday night (Sept. 8). They are seen here on Sunday night (Sept. 10). The cats returned to The Ink Pad on Thursday (Sept. 14).

**Story, Photos and Videos By Jeff M. Hardison © Sept. 11, 2017 at 3:17 p.m.
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LEVY COUNTY – There were widespread power outages Monday afternoon (Sept. 11) for members of Central Florida Electric Cooperative and Duke Energy customers across the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties following the passage of Hurricane Irma. It was a level of damage similar to Hurricane Hermine, although the storm surge impact was far less.

A cursory drive through part of Levy County showed some road hazards on Monday morning.

<https://youtu.be/SwDc71sATjo>

In this one-minute car cam video from Friday (Sept. 8) Chiefland Police Department officers, other Chiefland city workers and volunteers successfully bring traffic into, out of, and beside the Marathon Gas station on U.S. Highway 19 – across the street from Barbecue Bill's Restaurant. There is a Church's Chicken at this gas station and a Greyhound Bus terminal too. Police Chief Scott Anderson said on Monday (Sept. 11) that Chiefland was very blessed to have not suffered much in the way of damage from Hurricane Irma.

<https://youtu.be/essQF-PQteo>

In this 24-second car camera video, the traffic going south on U.S. Highway 19 in Chiefland is seen going through what has become a four-way stop, in

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the 1900 North block of U.S. 19 where there was a functioning traffic light before Hurricane Irma swept through Chiefland.

<https://youtu.be/odAK5pSu1GQ>

In this 33-second video from a car camera, there is plant blockage noticed near a blind driveway intersection in the Chiefland area at 70th Avenue Northwest and Northwest 23rd Avenue, which is sometimes known as 150th Street.



This tree snapped in the City of Chiefland is near an old two-story wooden structure on Northwest 12th Drive. This is the type of damage that is widespread.

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The tree had not fallen completely across Levy County Road 347 in the 81st Avenue Northwest block. Some travelers went under it. Some turned around. It was leaning on a wire that did not break as of Monday morning. The safest method here would have been to turn around.

<https://youtu.be/RicZVuMurr8>

In this one-minute video, a vehicle coming from the direction of Fowler's Bluff or Cedar Key is seen going under a tree on Levy County Road 347 heading toward State Road 345.

<https://youtu.be/Uq8qnHZsxWo>

In this video from a car camera, the tree blocking Levy County Road 347 is approached, and then there is an ability with no cars behind the news Jeep so that it can back up.

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An unofficial and brief report about the Town of Cedar Key showed there were trees down and powerlines were in that mix as well.

Cedar Key, Yankeetown, the Town of Suwannee in Dixie County, Horseshoe Beach and other coastal areas in Levy and Dixie counties were still marked by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Center map for storm surges.

Levy County Emergency Management Director John MacDonald and Dixie County Emergency Management Division Chief Scott Garner gave their perspectives on this storm surge threat, which is in stark contrast with the storm surge of Hurricane Hermine last year.

Director MacDonald said this will not be life threatening in Cedar Key, or in the "catcher's mitt" of land for Rosewood and Gulf Hammock. And as for Yankeetown, the city fared well through Hurricane Irma and there is no reason for concern about storm surge there, MacDonald said.

Chief Garner was a bit more cautious. Dixie County has lifted its curfew, Garner said, however there is still a slight threat from storm surge until 6 p.m. for the Gulf Coast communities of Dixie County.

For everyone who wants to eat at Steamer's Clam Bar and Grill, the current plan is for this great restaurant to open for business as usual on Dock Street in Cedar Key at 11 a.m. tomorrow (Tuesday, Sept. 12), according to posts on a social media site.

All on-the-ground predictions for Cedar Key reflect that Steamer's Clam Bar and Grill plans to be open on Tuesday, Sept. 12, starting at 11 a.m. as it returns to normal business operations.