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## **Town working with first responders to coordinate emergency plans**

**Town of Fort Myers Beach, FL** – For the past several months, Town staff have been regularly meeting with leaders from the Lee County Sheriff’s Office and the Fort Myers Beach Fire District to revise the Town’s emergency management plans.

These discussions have focused on response to hurricanes, based on lessons learned from Hurricane Ian that directly hit Fort Myers Beach as a Category 4-plus storm on September 28, 2022.

The Town is grateful to Sheriff Carmine Marceno and his team in the West District for their support of these efforts, as well as FMB Fire District Chief Scott Wirth and his team.

“The Lee County Sheriff’s Office West District will continue to support Fort Myers Beach and all of Lee County during emergencies. Captain Timothy Lalor does an amazing job working directly with the Town of Fort Myers Beach and its partners. We encourage and welcome these discussions, which helps us all fulfill our duties to the public in times of need,” said Sheriff Marceno.

The discussions have included processes that the Fire District and Town must do immediately following a storm to make sure bridges, streets and structures are safe and that property owners are accounted for and rescued if needed.

“We are working together to solidify the Town’s coordination and communication with our local first responders who are our most critical partners before, during, and after emergencies,” said Town Manager Andy Hyatt. “We are grateful for this partnership because, quite simply, we cannot respond appropriately and completely without them.”

Following are some action items from these discussions:

1. Tabletop exercises to capture lessons learned from Ian;
2. Revising personnel job descriptions and reporting structures for emergencies;
3. Revised process for hurricane re-entry passes and launched, planning mock drill;
4. Creating Town’s first communication plan with Town Council and community input that includes emergency response public information;
5. Plan for stronger coordination and relationship-building with first responder organizations in non-emergency times.

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The Town of Fort Myers Beach is on Estero Island off the southwest Florida coast of the Gulf of Mexico. The beach stretches for seven miles and is known for white sand, shell finds, and sunsets. The Town took a direct hit in September 2022 from Hurricane Ian, a category five storm, and is in active recovery. Many shops and restaurants are restored and open for business! The Town has been incorporated since 1995.

More Information about emergency preparedness is available at these links:

[Lee County Emergency Preparedness Guide](#)

[FMB Fire District Emergency Preparedness Guide](#)

[Town of FMB Emergency Preparedness Information](#)

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