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BJWSA cautions residents about contamination from flooded sewers

Flooding in the wake of Tropical Storm Debby persists in low lying areas

Okatie, South Carolina— Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA) is cautioning area residents to stay away from flood waters that may contain unseen risks. Even though the heaviest rainfall from Tropical Storm Debby has likely passed, floodwaters still pose risks especially in low lying areas. You should not enter, contact or consume any floodwater.

BJWSA crews conducting storm damage assessments have reported sanitary sewer infrastructure (pump stations and other manholes) have been flooded in much of our service area. Reported infrastructure impacted most are in Bluffton, Hardeeville, and Burton and are located at or adjacent to these addresses:

- Pump Station at 84 Buckwalter Pkwy, Bluffton, SC 29910
- Manhole at 853 Rocking Horse Ln, Bluffton, SC 29910
- Manhole at 613 Coopers Ln S, Bluffton, SC 29910
- Manhole at 3 Wood Eden Ct, Bluffton, SC 29910
- Manhole at 100 Blacksmith Circle, Beaufort, SC, 29906
- Manhole at 122 Stiney Funeral Home Rd, Hardeeville, SC 29927

When flooding of this magnitude occurs, all stormwater should be treated as if it has come into contact with sanitary sewage and should be considered contaminated. Once stormwater recedes and crews can safely gain access, they will continue evaluations and begin any necessary repairs. The Authority believes this contamination began late in the evening on Monday, Aug. 5 and will be resolved later this week after flooding recedes.

BJWSA has notified the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) and is working in conjunction with SCDES to address any effects caused by the contamination.

BJWSA has well-trained and experienced field operations crews to monitor its wastewater collection system, which collects and treats a daily average of 11 million gallons of wastewater at eight wastewater treatment facilities before returning the treated water to the environment.

If you see or suspect any type of spill from the sewer collection system, please contact BJWSA at 843-987-9200. For more information or updates on this situation, please visit www.bjwsa.org.

About Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority

BJWSA is the Southern Lowcountry's largest water and wastewater utility, serving approximately 200,000 Carolinians through 69,000 connections. The public, non-profit organization is led by a board of directors recommended by the Beaufort and Jasper County Legislative Delegations and appointed by the Governor of South Carolina. The mission of the utility is to deliver quality water and wastewater services to current and future residents of the utility's 750 square mile service area.

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