Naples CERT Team
Neighborhood Check-In – Coastal Flooding

October 2026

Dear Naples Neighbors,

This past weekend's high tides are a warning for the Fall and Winter to come. Higher-than-usual tides are expected due to warmer water, potential Kelvin waves, and predicted harsher storms. This letter explains what to expect, upcoming dates to watch, and steps you can take, so our community is ready. As always, our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) message is: BE PREPARED!

What's Happening

Several ocean and weather factors are lining up to push our tides 6 to 18 inches above the published tide levels. The developing 2026-27 El Niño is creating sea rise of several inches caused by warmer water; and additional periodic rises from a series of slow, very wide swells of warm ocean water called Kelvin waves that make their way up the coast. It is not a tsunami or a crashing wave; you would not notice it passing. Instead, it quietly raises the background sea level by roughly 6 to 12 inches. Researchers expect the phenomena to linger into early 2027, with the biggest impact during already-high tides or storms. And on top of tidal issues, the developing El Niño will likely bring very wet seasonal storms.

Looking ahead: Tides for the rest of fall and winter may stay elevated by 6 to 18 inches, which could push the highest (King) tides above 8 feet. Though the biggest weather impacts have been on the Peninsula, Alamitos Bay and the canals are predicted to have potentially damaging high tides. Property owners need to prepare now to mitigate potential damage from both tidal rise and rain.

Dates to Watch – Forecast Tides

The highest tides this season fall in the mornings of three windows, peaking around Christmas Eve. For reference, on October 10 and 11, tides were predicted at 5.9 feet but reached about 7.5 feet. Though some of that rise was storm related, the windows below will likely see even higher water levels due to predicted high tide levels. The right-hand column demonstrates the impact of the possible 6- to 18-inch boost.

Window	Days	Morning high tide times	Predicted peak	With 6–18 in boost
Late October	Sun Oct 25 – Thu Oct 29	about 8:50 – 11:20 a.m.	6.5 ft (Oct 27–28)	about 7.0 – 8.0 ft
Thanksgiving week	Sun Nov 22 – Fri Nov 27	about 6:45 – 10:15 a.m.	6.9 ft (Wed Nov 25)	about 7.4 – 8.4 ft
Christmas week	Mon Dec 21 – Sat Dec 26	about 6:15 – 10:10 a.m.	7.0 ft (Thu Dec 24)	about 7.5 – 8.5 ft

The tides around each peak day are nearly as high, so plan for the whole window, not just one morning. Predictions are for the Long Beach Inner Harbor station; Alamitos Bay timing and heights are very close but can differ slightly. Rain, wind, or a storm during a high tide can add more water.

Be Prepared

- ☐ **Sign up for Alert Long Beach** so you get push notifications by text, phone, or email: longbeach.gov/disasterpreparedness/alert-long-beach
- ☐ **Review your preparedness and evacuation plans** using our Naples Islands Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Guide (naplesislands.org/cert). Check your go-bag, stay box, and family meet-up points.
- ☐ **Protect low-lying areas** based on what you know about your property and past experiences: garages, ground-floor doors, patios, and drains that have taken water before. Watch for water seeping up through foundation cracks.
- ☐ **Prepare docks and/or boats** to handle 8-to-9-foot tides, which may require modifying pilings, fixed platforms, and ramp connections.
- ☐ **Speak up if you need help.** Let family, friends, neighbors, and CERT volunteers know. We take care of each other!

Where to get sand and sandbags

- **Fire Station 14**, 5200 E. Eliot St. (near Marine Stadium): sand and empty bags. Bring a shovel.
- **Covina Parking Lot** (on Ocean St., beginning of the Peninsula): pre-filled bags, limited and first come, first served.
- **Additional sites** may be found at longbeach.gov/pages/city-news/storm and empty bags are also available at any Long Beach fire station. Bring your ID; the limit is 10 bags per resident, but request more if needed.
- **The City is providing sand bag delivery for those in need.** Call 562-570-4765 for information and to make a request.
- **Other options to consider:** Some homes may need more than sandbags, such as flood barriers or door dams for garages and entries. A sump pump may also make sense for areas that collect water. Move valuables, electronics, and stored items off garage floors before the high-tide windows.

Canal and bay homes: In addition to checking your docks and boats, expect increasingly higher flooded sidewalks and streets near low storm drains. Consider sandbags between the sidewalk/street and your homes.

During a High Tide

- **Place sandbags the day before** a high-tide window, not the morning of.
- **Move cars and golf carts** off low streets and out of garages that have flooded before or may flood with higher tides.
- **Stay off flooded walkways, docks, and sea walls.** Water can hide uneven pavement, and docks may sit unusually high.
- **Don't drive or walk through flooded streets.** Report street flooding to Public Works at 562-570-2700.
- **If water enters your home near outlets or appliances,** shut off electricity at the panel only if you can do so while standing on a dry surface.
- **Be prepared for power outages and possible localized evacuations.** Have supplies on hand and a go-bag ready.
- **Avoid contact with flood water and ocean water** for at least 72 hours after rain; runoff carries bacteria.
- **Call 9-1-1 for emergencies,** including downed power lines.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

If lifting, filling, or placing sandbags is hard for you and you need assistance, please reach out. CERT and community volunteers across the island are ready to help, and we will do our best to match volunteers to your need. Please also check on neighbors who may be elderly, live alone, or have limited mobility. Let us know if they need a hand.

Contact your Block Captain, or the Naples CERT Team: LBCERT.Naples@gmail.com

Helpful Resources

- **City of Long, Beach Storm Smart** (sandbag sites, storm updates): longbeach.gov/pages/city-news/storm
- **Long Beach Post, El Niño preparedness resources:** lbpost.com/elnino
- **FEMA flood maps** (check your property's flood zone): msc.fema.gov
- **Tide predictions:** USHarbors.com, Long Beach Inner Harbor station
- **Need other help?** Dial 2-1-1 (LA County 211) for shelter, food, or transportation, 24/7.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to get ready. We suggest being overprepared and ready, rather than underprepared and surprised. Together we are Naples Strong!

Warm regards,

LB CERT – Naples Island Team
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