

May 21, 2024

Re: Outages and Storm Preparedness

Pointe Towers Owners,

Throughout the years, whenever the building experienced utility outages (i.e., Duke Energy, Spectrum, Pinellas County Utilities (water)), the board would send emails to owners communicating the outages and expected time that services would be restored. These communications provided notice to owners that this was an area-wide outage and not specific to our building. This information also assisted owners who were offsite so they could monitor the possible contamination of their refrigerated/frozen food, inform their renters, etc.

When there was a power outage, the communication also stated that the gate doors and the west-side stairwell door would be opened (except during an evacuation**), since the elevator does not operate without power. The doors were opened since the outage was likely unexpected and building occupants could have been offsite (i.e., at the beach) and without their key to open the stairwell door. The communication reminded owners to please have a flash light available when using the stairwells since our emergency lights have limited battery life.

During these events the board's attention is focused on preparing and/or securing the building and our property. Sometimes, the lack of power and/or internet access make it challenging to send out these notifications. **Therefore, the board recommends that you sign up for Duke Energy, Spectrum and Pinellas County Utilities notifications regarding outages.** This will provide the board with the flexibility to no longer have to send out area-wide outage notices and the status of the building's access, etc. since all owners have been informed of our protocol during outages. This will also eliminate any volume of emails owners may prefer not to receive.

Notices will still be provided to owners if utility outages are expected only in our building, i.e., due to scheduled repairs.

The board has also provided email updates to owners whenever damaging storms may impact our area. This included providing information, not only about our property, i.e., how being secured, status of our property during/after storms, etc. but also tracking and impacts of the storm from local authorized sites and orders by local officials, including evacuation and re-entry. The board expended a lot of effort sharing pictures and providing continuous updates, even during the storm, since we know how concerning it can be if you are off site and not knowing the condition of your property.

Since board members are focused on preparing our building for an impending storm it would be more efficient if **all owners sign up for and/or visit the official sites during these events.** There are some links posted at the end of this document for your convenience. The board would like to discontinue providing updates during the storm but will still provide owners with a status of the property's preparation for the storm, i.e., ** and a report of our property's condition after the storm. As with area-wide outages, the board does not always have a power or internet source to stay in contact, in addition to themselves needing time to prepare their property and possibly evacuate. This will also eliminate any volume of emails owners may prefer not to receive.

We hope that you find this information helpful and know that the board continues with best practices for your safety and to secure and protect our property.

The Board of Directors

*** When there is a mandatory evacuation in our area, please be prepared that our elevator's power will be shut off and the elevator moved to higher floor. This is standard practice recommended by both our elevator company and City fire officials. This is to protect the cab from getting wet if water was to enter through the breezeway or if water were to rise up from the ground into the pit. Shutting off the power will help to protect the system if there are any type of surges. Before turning the power back on, if there is believed that water is in the pit, the elevator company will be contacted to ensure safe powering up.*

Also, for security, during a mandatory evacuation the gates and stairwells will remain shut and locked. Please remember to bring your "C" (common) key when evacuating so that you will have access to enter the building through the stairwell should the elevator not be operable.

https://www.stpetebeach.org/DocumentCenter/View/4165/Hurricane-Guide-2024_English

<https://pinellas.gov/emergency-information>

<https://member.everbridge.net/453003085614894/login>

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-ww>