

# OTHER UNRECOGNIZED DANGERS FROM HURRICANES

Although our 21<sup>st</sup> Century media does an excellent job in alerting the public to the well recognized hazards of hurricanes including damaging winds and life threatening flooding, hurricane effects to area retention ponds and neighborhood waterways are often overlooked.

Damaging winds and torrential rains accompanying tropical cyclones during our current hurricane season can also be responsible for excessive amounts of windblown debris and flood run-off to carry trash into already overburdened retention ponds. Unwanted trash, much of which floats, can be transported from impervious areas into storm drains and then toward the essential retention pond outflow structures which if they become clogged with trash cannot ensure an unimpeded route for the excess rainfall to drain into natural waterways and not cause damaging flooding of areas surrounding retention ponds.

In addition, excess debris deposited into retention ponds by hurricanes can also cause irreparable damage by clogging the intakes of the motors driving floating fountains which are frequently installed in retention ponds.

Homeowners and homeowners associations can assist in minimizing the potential damage from excessive amounts of trash and debris entering storm drains by ensuring those type materials are removed from streets and private property before they can find their way into waterways where their damaging effects can occur.

In addition to minimizing the damaging effects resulting from clogged outflow structures of retention ponds, regular gathering and disposal of trash from neighborhoods before hurricanes strike are good housekeeping measures for communities.

While Charles Aquatics, Inc. provides aquatic management service which includes trash pickup and removal from waterways and the maintenance of outflow structures once a month, property owners are also encouraged to aid in those efforts by undertaking self-help measures to minimize trash entering and clogging waterways especially when hurricanes contribute to the problem.

Homeowners Associations may also consider augmenting any hurricane damage control procedures they have in place by assigning responsible personnel to ensure that retention pond outflow structures remain free of debris as soon as the danger from hurricane winds and heavy rainfall has subsided. As simple as such measures sound, they may aid in preventing flooding to surrounding areas which usually safely drain into natural waterways by way of area retention ponds.