

NEWS RELEASE

City of Douglas

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City of Douglas Responds to Rainstorms in Two Days

DOUGLAS, ARIZ. (August 3, 2021) - On July 22 and 23, 2021, the City of Douglas experienced rainstorms that resulted in various property damage and flooding throughout the community. "We are saddened for the damage the storms caused to people's homes and property," stated Interim City Manager, Luis Pedroza. "We are thankful that no injuries or fatalities were reported as a result of the storm." When alerted of the potential weather conditions, the City activated its response team to mitigate potential floods by alerting the public of potential heavy rain and flash floods through its social media. The City also filled more than 3,500 sandbags to provide to the public free of charge and staffed crews during and after the storms with cleanup, traffic control and helping people as needed.

According to the National Centers for Environmental Information the city received 1.78 and 1.75 inches of rain, respectively, for the two days. The heavy amount of rainfall received in less than two hours caused heavy water accumulation in the city's drainage channels. City officials had heard concerns from residents about drainage channels not conveying water away from property during the storm. A 2019 flood engineering report stated that the city's channels were functional and were adequately designed to help convey water in a way that minimizes impact to property. However, the amount of rain experienced during these two days exceeded standards for the channels, thus water accumulated too greatly and too rapidly causing overflow onto surface streets which resulted in some homes being affected.

The City reached out to those known residents affected by the storm and provided additional assistance with more sandbags and cleanup as needed and requested. After the storms, the City cleaned its washes and repaired berms where some had eroded. The City will be seeking assistance for an overall flood control study to determine any improvements that can be made that could mitigate future weather events.

"We want to thank all the City staff that worked tirelessly during the two storms at times with little to no sleep. We also recognize that our efforts were not without the assistance of our community. Southwest Gas and NPL came to the City's aid to assist the crews with cleanup and assisting residents. We also commend our volunteers that showed up to our facility simply asking how they can assist," stated Mayor Donald C. Huish.

Mayor Huish also added, "We want residents to know that we understand the hardship the storms caused and that we stand ready to help where we can. Our community is one to step up in time of need as we did during this challenging two-day event".

For any concerns relating to cleanup, storm preparedness or any public works matter please call the Public Works Department at (520) 417 – 7329.