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New group fighting to keep Lee County waterways clean

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By Cristina Mendez, Reporter [CONNECT](#)

LEE COUNTY - A new team is in town to protect our waterways.

"They think of us as first responders, so if you're witnessing or seeing a problem on the water, we'll come and check it out... do some testing," explained John Cassani.

The Calusa Waterkeeper Alliance focuses on immediate response, like targeting pollution problems and testing for high concentrations of cyanobacteria, the maker of blue-green algae.

"Some very complex toxins that can kill a manatee... can kill a thousand pound animal, so we think there are some significant risks there," added Cassani.

About 10 rangers will be trained to take in water samples, but the non-profit organization depends on you to keep a look out for anything suspicious "events" happening in the water.

"I think that's definitely an awesome idea to help make the water cleaner," said Jessica Sharma, of Fort Myers.

"Kinda like if you see something going on... It gives us an outlet, gives us a better way to take care of things," said Chris Mold, of Lehigh Acres.

A fish kill is one example of an "event" where rangers will investigate the cause then send results to agencies, like the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.



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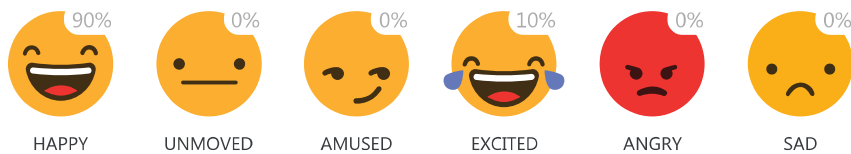
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The goal is to test the water regularly.

"We're gonna fight for every community's right to swimmable, drinkable, fishable water," said Cassani.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the organization.

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