

Hurricane Irma Alert

Indian River County Emergency Management

Hurricane Irma has strengthened into a dangerous Category 5 hurricane. Irma will bring life-threatening wind, storm surge, and rainfall hazards to portions of the northeastern Leeward Islands beginning later today and the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico beginning tomorrow. Irma could impact Hispaniola, the Turks and Caicos, the Bahamas, and Cuba later this week.

Reliable models continue to indicate a northward turn beyond day 5 and the probability of at least tropical storm force winds is gradually increasing over east central Florida. The most significant impacts are expected Sunday/Monday. Hurricane watches may be needed for portions of east central Florida as early as Thursday.

SUMMARY

Hurricane Irma is now a dangerous Category 5 hurricane.

Location: 16.8N... 58.4W - about 1590 miles from Vero Beach

Maximum Sustained Winds: **180 mph**

Present Movement: W at 14 mph

Minimum Central Pressure: 931 MB...27.50 INCHES

IMPACT TO FLORIDA/INDIAN RIVER COUNTY:

- It is still too early to determine the timing and magnitude of the impacts to our area but there is a real threat for a major hurricane to be in our vicinity this weekend.

CURRENT WATCHES/WARNINGS: None currently but may be needed as early as Thursday.

PROTECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Continue to monitor the progress of Hurricane Irma.
2. Be prepared to activate your hurricane plan when watches/warnings are issued.
3. Make sure your automobile is full of fuel.
4. Have some cash on hand.
5. Gather your important papers.
6. Take a home inventory (with pictures, if possible).
7. Make sure you disaster supplies for a minimum of 3-days.
8. Listen for evacuation and shelter opening announcements.
9. Help those with special needs register for the Indian River County Special Needs Shelter ASAP (226-3900).

Elsewhere in the tropics: Tropical Storm Jose has formed over the open Atlantic and is about 1,505 miles east of the Lesser Antilles. Maximum sustained winds are 40 mph and moving WNW at 13 mph. No impact to Florida within the next 5-days.

Indian River County Emergency Management will continue monitoring and keep you advised.



