

Reporter (00:00):

As well who says that anyone, whether you're in court or anywhere else who live their water, that you should have flood insurance. Do you agree with that?

Gov. DeSantis (00:07):

Yeah, I mean, I think that what happens with homeowners is they'll say You're in a flood plane, you want a mortgage, you have to get flood insurance. So they do, but what they will say if you're not, oh, you're not in a flood plane. So people say, Hey, I don't need it. Uh, the reality is, particularly in Florida, uh, it's a pretty good idea to get it. Fortunately, usually it's pretty, pretty affordable. Uh, so, um, I think that'll be something that people see. Cuz you're gonna have people who, uh, had total losses, who would've bought insurance if they were told they were at risk. But now you're in a situation where you're seeing floods like nobody's ever seen before. And, uh, and that's just something people will, I think, internalize and then want to want to do something about. There

Reporter (00:45):

Are been some criticisms about those sky racking premiums. During your term, this governor, what more did you have done of the federal legislature to keep that affordable.

New Speaker (00:52):

Well, the, the flood insurance is a federal program, so that, that's not ours. Uh, that's a separate program. Most of the claims for this, um, are going to be under the National Flood Insurance Program. You know, the homeowner's insurance, our, our wind claims. And the reason why that market's been is for two reasons. 15 years ago, they drove all the insurers out, all the big ones out. And then more recently with Irma and some of those other storms, you had massive litigation and a lot of scams. So we've dialed back some of that. We provided a fund to stabilize. A lot of 'em would've gone outta business this summer already, but you need to get rid of the scams and the litigation, and I'm willing to do that. The legislature has not been willing to that thus far, but I'm confident after the election they will.

Reporter (01:31):

Governor. Uh, what is the, uh, talk and at the state level of taking into account global warming climate change as we rebuild these areas, as we, are we having those talks at this level right now?

Gov. DeSantis (01:41):

Well, I think if, if you guys, I don't know if you're based in Florida, but I mean, I created a program called Resilient Florida that we put, um, a billion dollars into over the last two years. And local communities are able to get money that's matched by the state, uh, to be able to make improvements and hard in some of their infrastructure. I mean, I think if you look at, uh, Southwest Florida, I think it's probably gonna be shown that some of what they did is worked, uh, because I think that the damage could have been much more extensive in some of their underlying infrastructure. So I think we're the only state that's ever done that. Um, and that's made a big difference. Uh, I mean, it's made a big difference and that's available. I mean, it's, it's two year old program, so they haven't completed it, but that's a lot of money to be putting in the system I'm at.

Reporter (02:23):

We expect to see the death toll rise now. And there are a lot of people who can't still get in contact with their loved ones, especially those who are in the barrier islands. What's your message to people as we see that number go up and up each day?

Gov. DeSantis (02:35):

Well, look, I mean, I think, you know, this is a, basically a category five storm that also had flooding like we've never seen. I mean, if you think at Hurricane Michael, it was like a tornado that went through northwest Florida, very damaging. But you were in Panama City, you could potentially have lost everything if you were in Panama City Beach. Um, you pretty much, uh, had nothing because it was relatively focused. This storm, you had had that in places like Fort Myers Beach, which packed a big punch, uh, but you also had this massive event that's caused flooding throughout the state. And so it's just a massive impact. And, um, you know, unfortunately, you know, you have, you have destruction of homes, you have fatalities and, um, and, and it's a difficult thing, uh, to, to deal with for sure.

Reporter (03:19):

A message, though, to those people who can't get in contact with their loved ones who are reel right

Gov. DeSantis (03:22):

Well, so what I mean, what, what we've done, we're bringing here, we've brought 'em to Southwest Florida and other parts, you know, we're bringing the Elon Musk satellite receivers, and so people be able to get online at these pods, uh, to be able to let people know that they're okay. Um, obviously, you know, we, we, the telecom companies are, are doing what they can. I know they bring in, uh, towers and stuff like that. Some of them suffered extensive damages. Uh, but I think on the internet to be able to come here, get what you need, you will be able to, if we bring to the pods, you will be able to, to log on. So that'll be, that'll be comfort for a lot of people. How would

Reporter (03:57):

What can we do together to get this statement moving forward?

Gov. DeSantis (04:04):

Well, look, I I don't think you've ever seen a steep state spring into action like we've seen here. Um, if you look at these pods, usually the pods are not set up until 96 hours. Uh, after the storm leaves, uh, we had pods set up, uh, Saturday when a storm left on Thursday night. Uh, we had a lot of stuff pre-stage. And then you had all these private groups that are coming in to help. You have all these other agencies throughout the state coming in to help. You know, a lot of these agencies like Southwest Florida, they were all preparing to go help Tampa and St. Pete. Uh, three, you know, a week ago when, when this stuff on Monday, they were making preparations to actually do that. Well, things change. And so now you have people from like Tampa, you have people from the panhandle coming down to this part of Florida.

Gov. DeSantis (04:46):

And so I think people have really pulled together. I think that they've done a really good job. I mean, there's a lot of work ahead, obviously, Uh, but, uh, I think the resilience has been great. Friday morning in Cape Coral, which is very close to ground zero where the hurricane hit. Um, you had, um, Publix open, Wawa open. I mean, things are springing back. I doubt you would've seen that in some of these other

major storms, that we've seen, um, over the past, uh, 20, 30 years in this country. And so I think the spirit is great. And I do think people have pulled together well.