

Governor DeSantis (00:00):

Still a tropical storm with maximum sustained winds of 70 miles per hour. The most recent track shows that it will make landfall in Martin County as a category one hurricane, and will move through the state, exit into the Gulf of Mexico, and then make landfall again. Somewhere in the Big Bend region in north Florida, the combined winds and storm surge will contribute to continued beach erosion in areas that have already seen erosion from Hurricane Ian. The windfield from the storms very large, and we expect impacts to stretch far beyond the center track, including tropical storm force winds as far north as Jacksonville. Winds are the main concern with Nicole, but we also expect to see some heavy rains, the potential for flash flooding and three to five feet of storm surge in some areas. Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Brevard, and Volusia counties are currently under a hurricane warning.

Governor DeSantis (01:03):

49 additional counties are under tropical storm watches or warnings. Evacuation orders have been issued at the county level on the east coast of Florida and counties, including Brevard, Flagler, Martin, Palm Beach, St. John, St. Lucie, and Volusia Counties. Obviously that is zone specific, so make sure you know your zone and pay attention and listen to the local officials. People in the impacted areas should continue to pay close attention as the storm progresses. I think we know these things can be dynamic, and so please exercise that diligence for those under evacuation orders. Remember, you don't need to go hundreds of miles away. Said you can go tens of miles inland. Stay within the state and still be safe. Now we're ready. We have more than enough resources to respond to this storm. On Monday, I declared a state of emergency for 34 counties so that communities had ample time to prepare for the storm.

Governor DeSantis (02:00):

Kevin and his team have been constant communication with both utility and fuel industry partners, including FPL, Duke Energy, TECO, municipal electric providers, and rural electric co-ops. There are 16,000 linemen staged to immediately begin power restoration efforts and Floridians in the path of the storm should expect to see power outages when you're having these gusty conditions. There'll be debris that will affect power lines and the transmission lines, and so just be prepared for that. These folks are staged and they will obviously proceed to do a restoration as rapidly as possible, but you should prepare to have to have some outages. The Florida National Guard has activated 600 Guardsmen, and we have seven urban search and rescue teams on standby and ready to respond if needed. 15 shelters are opening today along the east coast of Florida.

Governor DeSantis (02:57):

There are 17 school districts that are closed or that dismiss early today ahead of the storm, and a total of 23 school districts will be closed tomorrow. For an updated list of school closures, visit [fldoe.org/storminfo](http://fldoe.org/storminfo) at [fl.doe.org](http://fl.doe.org). Please continue to monitor your local weather service for updates and please make sure to finish any outstanding preparations, visit [FloridaDisaster.org/GetAPlan](http://FloridaDisaster.org/GetAPlan), if you need more information, and again this is likely gonna be a storm that you're already seeing gusts now. But in terms of it making landfall the best estimate is very, very early Thursday morning. 1 to 2 am and it will affect huge parts of the state of Florida pretty much all day on Thursday. Okay, Kevin Guthrie, Division of Emergency Management.

Kevin Guthrie (03:57):

Thank you Governor. Thank you for your support and your leadership. Tropical Storm, Nicole, as the governor just said, is expected to make landfall as a hurricane on Florida's east coast overnight, tonight. This will bring significant coastal flooding, strong winds, storm surge, heavy rain, beach erosion, and isolated tornadoes. Due to the size of the storm, strong wind gust will be felt across the entire Florida Peninsula, Big Bend, and even over into the panhandle. I urge Floridians statewide to stay indoors in a safe structure and away from the coastline. The next few hours are your last chance to bring in potential damaging items inside, before Nicole makes landfall tonight. To say, if you can pick it up, you need to put it up. This includes lawn chairs, plants, grills, outdoor decorations. All of those things should be removed indoors, I'm sorry, should be removed from outdoors to indoors.

Kevin Guthrie ([04:54](#)):

Limit the amount of flying debris during this storm. If you have any battery operated or hand crank weather radios, now is the time to check those and make sure that you can receive weather alerts during any power outages. If those power outages occur, this will be the best way to ensure that you know what's going on in your local community. As I said, we may have tornadoes. If you get a weather alert for a tornado, stay in the innermost portion of your home away from windows. Protect your head and body from debris with a blanket, sleeping bag, mattress, or even a bicycle helmet if you may have one. There is a high risk of rip currents statewide. Please, I beg you, do not enter the water during these unsafe conditions. Rip currents are often overlooked, but are very deadly. If there are flash flood warnings in your area, please, it is never safe to walk or drive through flooded areas.

Kevin Guthrie ([05:52](#)):

Please turn around and do not drown. FDM continues to coordinate with utility companies, as the governor has said. We have more than 16,000 linemen ready to respond to any type of power outages and restoration efforts. If residents should have any questions about resources for tropical storm Nicole, I urge them to reach out to their local emergency management office or public safety office. There may have come a time during and after the storm that local governments cannot immediately send first responder into harm's way to assist you. So therefore, make sure you have everything that you may need and stay as safe as you possibly can. If you have any questions about the status of the storm, please continue to call our state assistance information line, That number is 1 (800) 342-3557. For more information regarding Tropical Storm, Nicole, you can obviously go to your local emergency management webpage, or you may go to [Floridadisaster.org/nicole](http://Floridadisaster.org/nicole). That's [Floridadisaster.org/nicole](http://Floridadisaster.org/nicole). And follow the division on our Facebook and on Twitter @FLSert or at FL Sert. Again, governor, thank you so much for your leadership.

Governor DeSantis ([07:14](#)):

Okay, so please just continue to monitor the situation. If you do have power outages and you are using a generator, just please remember when you're using that generator, you cannot have that in your house with the exhaust, you could die from carbon monoxide, so it's got to be outside your home, and that exhaust has gotta be going outside. We've had instances where people have had power outages, they use that and it's in the house, and then we end up having fatalities. And so please be mindful of that. We could have significant power outages and yet, yes, the linemen are station there and they do a good job as we saw during Hurricane Ian. But the reality is you very well may have a period of time without power. So if you wanna connect with the generator just please follow the proper safety precautions and make sure you're keeping yourself and your family safe. Okay. We'll have more updates later. Thank you.

