

Gov. DeSantis (00:00):

FDOT Secretary, Jared Perdue, as well as the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida Jimmy Patrons. Uh, as of 11:00 PM uh, Hurricane Ian is located roughly 170 miles, so southwest of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County, and it's moving north northeast at 10 miles per hour. It's now a strong category three hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 120 miles per hour. Tornado watches are in effect in Central and in South Florida until 5:00 AM We have two radar indicated tornadoes in Kings Point in Palm Beach, uh, as well as possible tornadoes in Hollywood in Broward County. The most recent update by the National Hurricane Center for the track of Ian, uh, places landfall at the juncture of Charlotte and Lee Counties. And so if you think about where we were 48 hours ago with a much different track 24 hours ago, looking a lot like Tampa Bay, and then each model, and then now the performance of the storm, uh, is causing the hurricane center, uh, to move it Southeast-ward in terms of where it's on the west coast of Florida.

Gov. DeSantis (01:10):

And so people in Southwest Florida, uh, this is, uh, going to likely make landfall as a category four hurricane. Uh, there will be, uh, catastrophic flooding and life threatening storm surge on the Gulf Coast region. And of course, the highest risk will be in that southwest Florida region from Naples, uh, up to Sarasota. There's also potential for flash flooding and river flooding, uh, with 10 to 20 inches, uh, inches across central and northeast Florida. Uh, if you are in an evacuation zone, particularly in those southwest Florida counties, uh, you know, your time to evacuate is coming to an end. Uh, you need to evacuate now. Uh, you're gonna start feeling major impacts of this storm, uh, relatively soon. Uh, we anticipate landfall sometime, uh, tomorrow afternoon into tomorrow evening. Uh, but of course, if it, even if it arrives on land, uh, tomorrow evening, you're gonna feel those effects, uh, far before that.

Gov. DeSantis (02:13):

So if you still haven't made the decision, uh, now's the time to do it. And, and now's the time to act. And again, you don't have to traverse all across the state of Florida. Uh, you need to get to higher ground. You need to get to structures that are safe. There are shelters open in all of these counties, and and that would be preferable, uh, than remaining in one of those, uh, very vulnerable areas with really, really potentially catastrophic storm surge. Now, as the storm approaches and the winds start to pick up, uh, you may see bridge closures as early as tomorrow. Uh, once winds increase to around 40 to 45 miles per hour of sustained winds, both Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Highway Patrol, uh, in coordination with local law enforcement, will be evaluating the conditions to determine if and when to close bridges to ensure the safety of the motorists.

Gov. DeSantis (03:09):

Again, bridges may be closed as early as tomorrow. Uh, so as you make plans to evacuate, uh, please keep that in mind. Additionally, as traffic has returned to a normal flow on I four eastbound, uh, FDOT has discontinued for the time being the emergency shoulder use. If you plan on traveling on I4, normal traffic patterns are in effect. Of course, if that traffic flow starts to slow down like it did earlier today, uh, that's something that, that they will reinstitute. Uh, as evacuations continue, fuel stations may temporarily run out of fuel. Uh, you can use gas buddy to find stations in your area that have fuel. We have suspended tolls on the roads in central Florida, as well as the roads in Tampa Bay. Uh, we're gonna continue to keep with that. We've mentioned today that visit Florida has partnered with Expedia to provide hotel room options for people that are, are leaving evacuation zones.

Gov. DeSantis ([04:09](#)):

You can go to [expedia.com/florida](https://www.expedia.com/florida) to do that. In terms of vacancies, the most significant numbers of vacancies are in northern Florida, from Tallahassee to Pensacola, as well as in southeast Florida in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. There are some vacancies in other parts of Florida, uh, but those have, uh, by far the most vacancies at the current time. There's also a number of Airbnbs available and similar to the hotels, uh, the most availability is in both Southeast Florida as well as the big Bend and panhandle region of the state of Florida. Uh, we think it's very important, uh, that you don't leave your pets behind, uh, bring your pets with you. They need you during this time, we have asked the hotels to relax their pet policies and to advertise their relaxed pet policies on their website and on Expedia. The good news is many of them have done that.

Gov. DeSantis ([05:06](#)):

Many of them are allowing pets when they otherwise may not do that. And we thank them for that, because we understand how important it is, uh, when people are evacuating for their own safety, it's not just them family members as well, uh, as as their pets. We have over 176 shelters open statewide, including more than 50 special need shelters. And, uh, and more will likely, uh, be added as this storm progresses to other parts of the state. If you want to look at shelters, go to [Floridadisaster.org/shelters](https://www.floridadisaster.org/shelters), [Floridadisaster.org/shelters](https://www.floridadisaster.org/shelters). We now have 58 school districts that have announced, uh, school closures due to this storm. Uh, go to [fldoe.org/storminfo](https://www.fldoe.org/storminfo) to get the most up to date information on school closures, [fldoe.org/storminfo](https://www.fldoe.org/storminfo).

Gov. DeSantis ([06:03](#)):

There's now over 30,000 personnel stationed and standing by to help with power restoration, and that's across our, all of our utilities, our electric co-ops. Uh, right now in the state of Florida, there's about 8,000 customers that are out of power. That's mostly in southeast Florida due to some of the things that we have seen. Uh, but of course, that number will be into the millions, uh, relatively shortly. You're gonna see widespread power outages as a result of hurricane Ian making landfall and then working its way through the state of Florida. Uh, but working, we're working with all of those companies, uh, to make sure that they have the ability to get in as soon as possible, uh, and to help restore power, uh, once the storm passes. And that's both FDOT, uh, as well as Florida Highway Patrol, uh, with that [Floridadisaster.org/getaplan](https://www.floridadisaster.org/getaplan) if you have any questions about, uh, what is gonna be happening within the next 24 hours.

Gov. DeSantis ([07:03](#)):

And what's gonna happen is this is a relatively slow moving storm. Now, when it actually reaches landfall, it's likely to go to a trickle, uh, that's gonna dump an enormous amount of rain on the state of Florida. It is gonna work its way from southwest Florida up to the central part of our state. It's gonna have major impacts in places like Ocala County, Orange County, uh, and it's now projected to exit the state of Florida, uh, in after passing through Volusia County. And it will go into the Atlantic Ocean and likely probably gain strength and run into some other state. But once it gets out of Florida, uh, it's gonna be kicking up, uh, a lot of, uh, water, and that's gonna impact Northeast Florida. It's gonna impact the St. John's River. It's gonna impact Duval County. Uh, so, so this is gonna have widespread impact.

Gov. DeSantis ([07:52](#)):

So you see major hurricane category four, that initial impact, you know, that's gonna be severe. Uh, the storm surge is gonna be severe. Uh, obviously the, the, the water and the flooding for, for a slow moving

storm. Uh, very severe impacts in southwest Florida. But those impacts are gonna continue, uh, going out all through the state. So, so this is not gonna end up leaving the state of Florida until sometime on, on Friday morning. Uh, so this is a lot of nasty weather, uh, that we're in store for over the next few days. Uh, Kevin Guthrie is here as well as, uh, Jimmy Patronis. So I'll let Kevin come up. Um, and then we'll hear from, uh, Secretary Purdue and CFO.

Dir. Guthrie ([08:31](#)):

Thank you, Governor, Again, appreciate your continued leadership on this, uh, response to Hurricane Ian. As you said, currently the hurricane Ian is bringing tropical storm force winds and rain to the keys in South Florida. Uh, our meteorologist just mentioned to us that, uh, before coming in here, that our, uh, tropical storm force winds may extend out at landfall 300 plus miles to the Northeast. So, again, as, uh, the governor's already mentioned, this will be a statewide event. This is gonna cause, uh, conditions for flooding. We've already, uh, as the governor has, uh, mentioned, artists already started seeing tornado to begin to form. I urge Floridians to monitor weather alerts and seek immediate shelter. If tornado warnings are issued, tropical tornadoes will occur very quickly. They will happen overnight tonight, and will occur during heavy rain. You will not be able to see them coming. If you get a weather alert, stay in an interior room of a secure structure away from windows and doors, and protect your head from, and body from any debris. If there is a flash flood warning in your area, remember, it is never safe to walk or drive through flooded areas. If there is a flooded roadway, do not drive through the flooded roadway. You do not know what is going on going on with the roadway underneath. Please turn around and do not drown in that situation.

Dir. Guthrie ([10:06](#)):

Areas in the South Florida, the keys began to experience outages. As the governor has already mentioned, we highly encourage you as such, if you have not lost power, please go by an ATM and have some cash on hand before power is lost in your area. If you happen to have food in your, uh, refrigerators, you should limit the amount of times that you open that door. This will help keep your food and perishables intact for a longer period of time. If you are using a generator, remember to keep it elevated on a hard surface to prevent it from getting wet and increasing your chances of electrocution. Again, as we've always said, do not operate your generator indoors. Make sure you keep it outdoors and far away from windows and doors so that no exhaust can enter the home. Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide, which will be fatal.

Dir. Guthrie ([11:06](#)):

If residents have questions about resources for Hurricane Ian, I urge them to reach out to their local emergency management or public safety office. This storm will only continue to intensify. If you want to leave as a governor has said, now is your last chance. We cannot send first responders into harm's way because you decided not to leave. You must leave now. If you have any questions about the status of the storm and you don't have access to a computer, please continue to call our state assistance information line toll free at 1 800 342 3557. The number is 1 800 342 3557. As always, you can follow us on our social media on Facebook and our Twitter page at FLSERT. Again, Governor, Thank you very much.

Gov. DeSantis ([12:06](#)):

Okay, Jared.

Sec. Perdue ([12:10](#)):

Yes, Thank you, Governor. Earlier today, efforts were taken to enhance the ease of evacuations for Floridians by suspending tolls in central Florida and activating, uh, what we call emergency shoulder use along the I four Corridor from Tampa to Orlando. Allowing motorists the ability to use the shoulder as an extra lane of travel helped to more vehicles to evacuate safely and quickly out of the Tampa area, we are seeing I four traffic volumes return to routine travel conditions, allowing us to pick up the emergency shoulder use and prepare for the storm's landfall. Toll suspension will remain in place to aid motorist still looking to evacuate. And also those that have evacuated, um, to certain areas, the full list of toll facilities that are suspended can be found at fdot.gov/iantoll suspension. As the storm is close to making landfall, FDOT and FHP continue to closely monitor wind speeds and flood areas in case closures are needed on roads or bridges.

Sec. Perdue ([13:06](#)):

Once wind speeds on bridges increased beyond 40 miles per hour, sustained FHP and local law enforcement will begin closing access across bridges to ensure the safety of motorists, the department has worked tirelessly with partners to strategically stage resources in order to immediately begin storm recovery efforts. Once the storm has passed through, we are staged and ready to perform road and bridge inspections as soon as it is safe to do so. Coastal bridges are absolutely one of our top priorities as we support the life safety mission following the impact of the storm. Additionally, emergency and pre-event contracts have been activated for post-storm operations, including roadway clearance, operations, debris removal, traffic signal, and lighting repairs and generators. Having these ready ensure FDOT staff, our contractors and our partners are ready to spring into action and immediately begin post storm recovery efforts, including clearing roadways for emergency responders, utility workers, and other agencies to begin their efforts. Transportation partner agencies have made storm preparations in our anticipating efforts to reopen as quickly as possible. Sea seaports, airports, rail and transit agencies in the path of the storm have closed in anticipation of the storm making landfall and stand ready to open as soon as it is safe. As families continue preparations and make post storm plans over the next few days, stay informed of traffic conditions by visiting Florida 511 at FL511.com, or downloading the app on both Apple and Android devices. Thank you, Governor.

Gov. DeSantis ([14:40](#)):

Okay, Jimmy Patronis.

CFO ([14:43](#)):

Thank you, gentlemen. Your leadership's gonna save lives. Um, our urban search and rescue teams stand ready to activate. Uh, we have five state teams that are activated with additional five, uh, FEMA teams that are in play. We have over 600, uh, resources, uh, to bear in addition, uh, to these out of town teams. Uh, Virginia one and two just came back from Puerto Rico they are in my Miami. So as, uh, this is a, a full court press on behalf of the state's resources to make sure that our folks have the peace of mind, that they know that our state is there to save them at their most critical time. Um, Florida's teams are second to none. I'm incredibly proud of, of how hard and well they work together, whether it be Hurricane Michael, Irma, or Surfside building, uh, Florida truly has the best urban search and rescue teams in the nation. They stand ready. And Governor, thank you for your leadership.

Gov. DeSantis ([15:37](#)):

Okay. All right, well, we'll, we'll be back very early tomorrow morning, so we'll, we'll see you guys. A couple questions. Governor, I, I'll see you guys in the.