

Gov. DeSantis ([02:02](#)):

Good evening. I'm, I'm joined here today with, uh, Kevin Guthrie, our DEM director, uh, major General Jim Eifert, head of the Florida National Guard, uh, Transportation secretary, Jared Perdue. Uh, we're also, uh, for the first time joined by Rear Admiral Brendon McPherson, Commander Coast Guard seven District. Uh, we also have Colonel Gene Spalding with the Florida Highway Patrol. And then again, Grace Lacheck uh, FEMA for, uh, Region four Administrator for fema. Uh, as of 5:00 PM Hurricane Ian is located roughly 250 miles south of Sarasota. It's moving north at 10 miles per hour. Uh, it is a strong category three hurricane, uh, with maximum sustained winds of 120 miles per hour. Uh, as many of you know, these, these tracks have migrated over the past two days. And more recently, starting this morning, the track has migrated south of Tampa. Uh, at the 11 o'clock advisory from the National Hurricane Center had landfall somewhere in the Sarasota area.

Gov. DeSantis ([12:32](#)):

Uh, the 5:00 PM advisory has adjusted that track a little bit more south. And so, again, this is an inexact science, of course, subject to change. Uh, but they're now forecasting it to strike land, uh, basically at the Charlotte Sarasota County border. And if you look at that area and you're familiar with that area, you know, you know, there's a, a lot of potential for flooding and Storm surge in that part of the state. Um, you also, because of the track it's taking, uh, expect a major impact, uh, somewhere in that area. Uh, but it's also gonna continue moving throughout the state. And, and it's actually gonna exit probably somewhere Volusia, Flagler, St. John's counties. So that's gonna take tropical storm force winds at a minimum, uh, up through almost like it's riding I4. Uh, so you're gonna have impacts in places like Polk County, Orange County, Volusia County, Uh, that's gonna be significant winds.

Gov. DeSantis ([13:28](#)):

It's also gonna be, uh, a lot of rainfall. And, and so those areas are already saturated. Uh, you're gonna end up with more that is gonna cause hazards for trees falling down. It will likely interrupt, uh, power for, uh, many communities, uh, in that part of the state. Uh, and this is gonna be working as well. You'll have the first, uh, landfall will be, uh, tomorrow night, Wednesday night. Uh, but it's gonna meander through the state all the rest of Wednesday night, all of Thursday, and it's gonna exit, most likely sometime on Friday morning. Uh, so this is gonna be a lot of impacts, and they will be felt far and wide throughout the state of Florida. I want to commend our counties on Florida's Gulf Coast, uh, for all their hard work, uh, in doing preparations, particularly over the last week. Uh, we also have a lot of residents in those counties.

Gov. DeSantis ([14:18](#)):

Uh, many of them know the drill, but many of them are also new to Florida. Uh, and you've seen all reports that we've received from, from Lee and, and, and Charlotte and Sarasota all the way into Tampa Bay area as, uh, by and large people are taking appropriate precautions. When you look at storm surge of this nature, that is a very, uh, life threatening hazard when you're talking about 10 feet, 12 feet of storm surge, which you could see in certain parts of, of this when it makes landfall. Uh, it's also gonna produce massive amount of rain. It is gonna produce major, major flooding. Uh, the storm when it impacts land, it's expected, yes, it will weaken, but it will also slow, which means it's just gonna be churning out rain, moving at a snail's pace. That rain is gonna pile up very quickly in different parts of southwest Florida.

Gov. DeSantis ([15:08](#)):

So these hazards are real. Uh, we want people to be able, uh, to take, uh, the appropriate precautions. Um, uh, listen to your local emergency management officials. Uh, there have been evacuations now in place, uh, for, for some time up and down the, the Gulf Coast of Florida. As the storm moves in, you're gonna potentially, uh, have directives issued from folks in the interior of our state, or even on the east coast of the state, uh, for low lying areas that absolutely could end up flooding, uh, due to this storm. So, so listen to that and heed, heed those instructions and make sure you're doing, uh, what you need to do to be able to protect yourself. Uh, so we now have over two and a half million people, uh, that are under some type of evacuation order. Uh, and that includes people in counties such as Charlotte, Citrus, Hernando, Hillsboro, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota Counties, Collier Gilchrest, Glads, Highland, and Taylor Counties.

Gov. DeSantis ([16:07](#)):

Uh, make sure you know your evacuation zone. You go to Florida disaster.org/planprepare Floridadisaster.org/planprepare. Um, we can rebuild property, we can fix infrastructure. You can fix your home. Uh, you don't get a mull again when your personal safety is at risk. And so, uh, we know this thing is gonna be hitting the state, uh, directly, uh, sometime tomorrow evening. Uh, you still have some time, uh, but that time is rapidly, uh, running out. Uh, Florida Department of Transportation and Florida Highway Patrol, uh, have been in coordination, uh, once the traffic on I4 reduced to under 40 miles an hour, and you started to see the buildup, uh, they have activated the emergency shoulder use on I four eastbound from Tampa to Orlando. This will add capacity and will allow the evacuations to move, uh, more quickly. Uh, in this area, motor, uh, motorists can use the left shoulder.

Gov. DeSantis ([17:06](#)):

Um, and then in Orlando, where the shoulder use ends, there are several roads where motorists can move north or south, or they continue on I4 in the normal traffic lanes. Um, and we do emergency shoulder use rather than the one way traffic, because you still need to be able to get people into where the storm is coming, uh, with supplies and, and all sorts of other things. Uh, and so this has been studied by this department for a decade. Um, and this is proven to be the superior way, uh, to do it. There is not yet emergency shoulder use on I75 because the traffic is flowing. Uh, if that traffic does go, go to the point where it's under 40 miles an hour sustained, uh, then they will, they will execute that. Um, why wouldn't you just execute it regardless? Well, because it's hazardous to have people going 75 miles an hour on a shoulder, and that's where the, the traffic has been, uh, by and large.

Gov. DeSantis ([17:59](#)):

Uh, but we understand that that can change. And the, uh, FDOT has been instructed, uh, by, by me and, and Kevin, uh, to make sure that they make those appropriate adjustments. We've also suspended, uh, tolls on additional roads. Uh, we had all the tolls in the Tampa Bay area, of course, as well as I75, uh, going into Alligator Alley. Uh, we now have, uh, State Road 91, uh, the turnpike mainland from Osceola Parkway North to I75. Uh, State Road four 17 Southern Connector extension, Central Florida Greenway and Seminole Expressway. Um, State Road 4 29, uh, the Western Beltway, uh, State Road 408 State Road 429 State Road, uh, 528, the Beach Line State Road four 14 State Road 538 State Road 453 State Road, 5551 I4 Express and State Road 552. So those are all the main toll roads in central Florida.

Gov. DeSantis ([18:58](#)):

We have the Tampa Bay area. You have it going into Alligator Alley. Um, and now you have that, um, a list of all the facilities can be found at fdot.gov/iantollssuspension fdot.gov/iantollssuspension. Um, and

as we continue to monitor the path, if there are more tolls that need to be suspended, of course we will do it. We announced earlier today, but wanna make sure everyone knows that if you are seeking shelter in a hotel that Expedia has partnered with, Visit Florida, uh, to provide access to hotel rooms in our state. If you go to expedia.com/florida expedia.com/florida, uh, you can see what is available. And again, if you're called upon to evacuate, you don't need to necessarily evacuate hundreds of miles away. Uh, you're being called to evacuate because of the threat of storm surge and flood risk. Uh, if you get to higher ground, most of the places in the state of Florida are gonna be able, uh, to handle hurricane force winds.

Gov. DeSantis ([20:00](#)):

Uh, and so you'll be able to be there for the storm, then hopefully return as soon as possible. Uh, don't leave your pets behind. Uh, helpful information about planning for your pet is also available. [Floridadisaster.org/planprepare](https://floridadisaster.org/planprepare) [Floridadisaster.org/planprepare](https://floridadisaster.org/planprepare). Almost every pet shelter, um, is gonna be pet friendly. Uh, people understand that that's important, and it is important that we're taking care, uh, of our pets. Uh, so as a 3:00 PM, uh, uh, 3:00 PM almost a hundred shelters including more than 50 special needs shelters, uh, have been opened, uh, mostly along the Gulf Coast region of the state of Florida. There's more shelters that are constantly being added, and particularly as the track of the storm changes, uh, you're gonna see more counties, counties shift into that mode in different parts of Florida. Go to [Floridadisaster.org/shelters](https://floridadisaster.org/shelters). If you want to see the shelter availability, [Floridadisaster.org/shelters](https://floridadisaster.org/shelters).

Gov. DeSantis ([20:58](#)):

We now have 50 school, uh, 56 school districts that have announced school closures. If you want the most up to date information on that, go to [Floridadoe.org/storminfo](https://floridadoe.org/storminfo). We are at over 5,000 with the Florida National Guard. Uh, we have 2000 Guardsmen from neighboring states. National Guard has three helicopters staged and ready to respond, and they actually have six more in route. Uh, we have five Urban search and rescue teams activated. We have three additional teams on standby as needed. Uh, and we have FWC Florida and Wildlife Conservation Commission has officers placed all around the state in anticipation of heavy rains and flooding. They have water, uh, high water vehicles, as well as shallow draft boats, uh, that are, uh, available for immediate deployment in a, in a search and rescue situation. We also have aviation assets, uh, for FWC that are on standby.

Gov. DeSantis ([21:55](#)):

Um, of course, highway patrol is surge personnel, and they will continue to do that as needed, and we'll hear from the Admiral. But US Coast Guard has staged 21 rotary wing aircraft, nine fixed wing aircraft, four cutters. Uh, they also have shallow draft vessels ready to provide search and rescue assistance in flooded areas, should that be necessary. Uh, as of today, a hundred percent of operating long term care facilities do have a generator on site. Uh, and we're, uh, we're happy about that. We now have over 30,000 linemen across the various utility companies, both investor owned and municipal, as well as electrical co-ops that are staged for powered restoration, uh, across the state. And so we anticipate that that will grow. And we also anticipate that the needs for power restoration, uh, have grown as the track of the storm has changed. I mean, we are here a couple days ago, they were looking at, maybe it's skirting the Gulf Coast and ended up impacting someplace in northern Florida.

Gov. DeSantis ([22:54](#)):

Uh, that obviously would be less power impact than having a direct entry into Southwest Florida and then cutting across the state where it's gonna impact millions and millions of people. Uh, so, so they all understand that. And the impact area really spans all of their different, uh, customer service areas. I mean, you're gonna have FPL, Duke, TECO, all of them, uh, are gonna be impacted by this. And all of them have people, uh, that are ready to go. We've gotten at Florida DEM about 730 requests for assistance. Uh, over 600 have been fulfilled. Others are on the way. Some can only be fulfilled once the storm hits, and they will be, uh, as the track of the storm has shifted more south, Kevin Guthrie has shifted more resources to the southwest portion of the state. Uh, and so you have folks that are there, medical, shelter, a whole host of different ways to be able to help the folks there.

Gov. DeSantis ([23:48](#)):

We are bringing in more than 1 million gallons of fuel, uh, to support response efforts. Uh, we have 10 feeding kitchens stage in the area, uh, throughout, uh, through our nonprofit partners. Uh, and then 15 hospitals and over 100 healthcare facilities have been evacuated across the Gulf Coast. Uh, for facilities that are not evacuating, um, it is our expectation that visitation's not restricted and patients are still able to see their families. Uh, but we do appreciate, been able to speak with a number of, of folks with major hospital systems. Uh, you have hospitals in low lying area, They have a plan. They know this. They could be called upon to do it, and they've executed those plans, and we appreciate that, and we appreciate them working hard to keep, uh, these patients safe. Again, if you wanna, if you have any questions about, uh, what to do, uh, over the next, obviously if you're on the west coast of Florida, you know, this is something that is much more imminent.

Gov. DeSantis ([24:39](#)):

You are gonna get, as we get into Thursday and Friday, Uh, you're gonna see impacts all the way to the east coast of Florida. This thing's gonna exit the state of Florida, and most likely end up getting stronger, uh, riding into the Atlantic, and then probably hitting Georgia, South Carolina, someplace like that. So this thing's the real deal. Uh, it is a, it is a major, major storm. I want the admiral to come up and, and talk about some of the things that they're doing, and also just, uh, for me to be able to say we appreciate, uh, all the folks in the Coast Guard. Many are Florida residents, many are stationed here, and we appreciate the great job that you guys do.

USCG Admiral McPherson ([25:16](#)):

Yeah. Thank you, Governor. Uh, so as the governor said, I'm rear admiral Brendan Mcpherson, and I'm the senior operational commander for the Coast Guard in the southeast, including the state of Florida. And, uh, we are, uh, working very closely with our local, state and federal partners to prepare for this, uh, very dangerous life threatening storm. Uh, our first number one priority is search and rescue and saving lives. Uh, so in order to do that, we've already, um, dispatched, uh, 30 aircraft to the region. Uh, one of our largest air stations is right here in Clearwater. Uh, and so we've evacuated, uh, those aircraft. We've moved them to West Palm Beach. We have aircraft preposition there, Miami, as well as Mobile, Alabama. Uh, those aircraft will be ready to move into the area as soon as the conditions allow them to fly in there safely.

USCG Admiral McPherson ([26:02](#)):

Uh, I'd like to take this opportunity for anybody that has, is second guessing. There's still time to evacuate. I would encourage you to do so if you were in one of those evacuation zones. Uh, while, while our, uh, it sounds like we have a lot of resources and we do, um, we really think it's more important that

people evacuate, follow the local officials, uh, guidance on that, uh, because of the strain it can put on it and the dangers to them and our air crew. In addition to, uh, saving lives. The other thing we're really focused on is being ready to reopen the ports as soon as the conditions allow. Uh, we have Coast Guard cutters and teams specially trained to be able to do that standing by as soon as conditions allow. We'll be working with our partners from the, the US Army Corps of Engineers, along with NOAA to conduct surveys, identify any hazards, and then open those waterways so that we can move, uh, commodities into the port of, uh, Tampa Bay as soon as possible.

USCG Admiral McPherson ([26:55](#)):

We recognize that those ports are critical to the safety, security, and the prosperity of the region. Uh, in addition to that, uh, we'll also be prepared to respond to any spills or hazardous spills in or along the waterways, and will continue to work with our local partners along with EPA to do that. And finally, we will be ready, uh, to, to receive any mission assignments we may receive, uh, from the state of Florida through Federal Emergency Management Agency. And lastly, as the governor indicated, the Coast Guard is not only responding to a hurricane, uh, we are impacted by this as well. Uh, nearly 5,000 Coast Guard men and women and families call this area home. Uh, and so we're doing everything we can to support them, uh, to provide the assistance they need as they evacuate and their loved ones. Uh, stand the watch. Thank you, Governor.

Dir. Guthrie ([27:46](#)):

Good evening. Thank you, governor for your leadership. Uh, you've been right here with us the entire time, so, uh, I certainly appreciated that. And I know the men and women of Florida division of emergency management do as well. Florida, uh, Florida division of emergency management remains in constant contact with all 67 counties. Um, I have called about a dozen of those individuals in the highest impact area today. Um, we currently have more than 700 active missions, as the governor has already mentioned. This includes coordination of resources such, such as trucks of food, water, generators, generators, pumps, and most importantly, staff to staff shelters. We're mobilizing and deploying over a hundred thousand tarps to protect homes from storm impacts after the disaster, five, Florida urban search and rescue teams are activated and will be prepared to deploy to impacted areas around, uh, the state. As response recover, efforts begin. We have federal USR Teams from Texas, Virginia, Indiana, here to help us as well.

Dir. Guthrie ([28:48](#)):

We also have another, uh, team from Ohio that is currently mobilizing. We have state agencies, or I'm sorry, state, uh, emergency management agencies from around the country that have mobilized. We have about a dozen stretching all the way from Montana and Colorado, all the way to the, uh, East coast that have come in to assist us. We're currently coordinating the provision of mills for first responders staged in Orange County. If residents have any questions about resources for hurricane Ian, I urge them to reach out to their local emergency management agency or public safety office. If they cannot find the information there, they can go to our website at Floridadisaster.org/planprepare. At this point in time, I implore, I urge everyone that is in an evacuation zone that is been asked to evacuate, The time is now. You must evacuate now. There will be a point in time where you will not be safe to travel the roads. The time to evacuate is now. Get on the road. I wanna further emphasize this, and many of you know that I was a local emergency manager before I came here. There will come a point in time when local public safety officials will not be able to respond to your help, your cry for help. They will not be able to do it. And you may be left to fend for yourself. Again, the time to evacuate is now. Governor, I want to thank

you for your continued leadership and your partnership. Again, you, you've been steadfast and right here with us the entire time. Thank you.

Gov. DeSantis [\(30:38\)](#):

Yeah, and one of the things I think in terms of, of the evacuations of, of course, you have some areas that are in barrier islands, of course, would be very prone to storm surge. You also have in southwest Florida, really throughout the state, but certainly in the communities that that may get hit with the initial, uh, impact, uh, of the eye of the storm. You've got a lot of mobile homes and you have folks, and actually the way those are done, they're actually can withstand a hundred mile an hour winds in South Florida. They, I think they have to do up to 110 to be certified. But you're looking at a category three storm that is strengthening. Uh, it will become a category four storm, and it may even be a category four storm when it makes impact in what looks to be southwest Florida.

Gov. DeSantis [\(31:24\)](#):

So that is not a risk that you want to take, uh, if you are living in some type of mobile home or, or manufactured housing. And I know a lot of people, uh, have left and have sought shelters, but it's my understanding that, that not everybody has, uh, you still have time to do it. You do not have to, uh, evacuate hundreds of miles. Uh, you know, obviously if you have friends, family, some of that hotels that's preferable. But as a last resort, these shelters are open and, and I would just urge people to, to take advantage of that. Um, it's, uh, I know it's not easy sometimes to, to leave your home, and I know people don't wanna see anything, uh, bad happen when they get back. But, um, it's, uh, the stakes are high. This is a very powerful storm. It will weaken once it gets on shore and by the time it moves through the state, and it's not gonna cut through the whole state as a cat 4, but it very well may make impact as a cat 4, and that's really, really serious business. Okay. Any questions? Yes, sir.

Reporter [\(32:19\)](#):

Governor, how would you characterize your conversations with President Biden as in approaches?

Gov. DeSantis [\(32:24\)](#):

Uh, so I have not personally spoken with the president, but the FEMA has approved our pre-landfall request. Uh, we've had Grisha here, uh, really from since the weekend. Uh, Grisha has been here. She's always around here. And so, so we feel like we have a good relationship well with FEMA. Um, you know, I'm happy to, to brief the president if he's interested, um, in hearing what we're doing in Florida, You know, my view on all this is like, you know, you got people's lives at stake, you got their property at stake. Um, and we don't have time for pettiness. We gotta work together to make sure we're doing the best job for them. So, so my, my phone, my phone line is open and we're happy, but we are, we do appreciate the quick approval of the pre landfall declaration.

Reporter [\(33:05\)](#):

On the top, can you, um, clarify the 2.5 or about 2.5 million people that are in hurricane evacuation zones? How many of those are in mandatory evacuation zones and how many are voluntary?

Gov. DeSantis [\(33:18\)](#):

I, I think they're, they're almost most, almost all are mandatory, I would say. There's some counties that just don't do mandatory. Their view is, is we're gonna issue, uh, this, uh, this guidance. Uh, we, we, they urge them to do it, but their view is, you know, we're not gonna go take people out of their homes or

whatnot. So some of that may be a distinction without a difference. It just depends on how the counties, uh, counties, uh, apply it.

Reporter (33:42):

Are you hearing, uh, anything about the hotel situation across, you know, interior Florida where people are leaving the West coast heading inland? Is it, uh, is it filling up and backed up at hotels?

Dir. Guthrie (33:54):

So we, we have members from the FRLA that are a part of our ESF18, which is our business and industry sector, um, just right here on the floor to give us that information. Right now, they have not come to us and said that there is, you know, no vacancy in essence. So, uh, again, I reiterate what the governor's already said, you know, uh, expedia.com/florida, uh, to start finding hotel rooms. If you're, uh, in a situation where you have the means to pay for a hotel, you know, certainly there's, there's still vacancy in the state of Florida for that. If you cannot afford that, then you need to be moving to her shelter, and you need to be doing that now.

Gov. DeSantis (34:34):

Yes.

Reporter (34:35):

Uh, FEMA administrator, Chriswell said today that she acknowledged concerns that, uh, Florida as, as we said, lax response to the storm so far, and that

Gov. DeSantis (34:45):

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Give me a break. That is nonsense. Stop politicizing. Okay. Stop it. We declared a state of emergency when this thing wasn't even formed. We've had people in here, you've had counties doing, uh, they've done a lot of hard work and, and honestly, you're trying to attack me. I get, but like you're attacking these other people who've worked very hard and so, so that's just totally false. Um, I don't think we've ever, certainly since I've been governor declared a state emergency this early. Uh, we made sure that we were very inclusive with it. We said that there was a lot of uncertainty, and then we've worked to make sure, um, the preparations that have been done and all the, the stuff you talked to the people at the counties when they've needed something, stuff gets there very quickly because of what Kevin and his team have done.

Reporter (35:26):

Can we also get you to talk about the historical significance of this storm surge? I mean, we have had hurricanes in the past that have had a lot of water, but are you doing anything differently because of the amount of water and the way it's, it's, it's looking like it could land, as you said, sit in the, a part of the state for so long?

Gov. DeSantis (35:45):

Well, I think that's why you have evacuations that have been ordered in the low lying areas. And again, that's a county decision, but it's a decision we've supported and we've worked with them on, uh, because you do have potential historic storm surge. Now we were here 24 hours ago, you were looking at maybe 10-12 feet in the Tampa Bay area. Now that has shifted to where that type of surge may be

further down the coast in southwest Florida. Um, you have, um, Tampa is still gonna get potentially significant storm surge as well. And so that is something at that level, uh, is life threatening. You also have the situation where you could have, uh, almost like Hurricane Harvey was in Houston, where it gets on shore and is, is just slowly moving and meandering, dumping water and water and water. And that's gonna pile up and that's gonna cause uh, uh, a lot of problems with flooding.

Gov. DeSantis (36:36):

And so, you know, we've been talking about that the whole time. People understand that that's why the evacuations have not just been the barrier islands, but areas that are susceptible to that type of flooding. And I think if you look at like Charlotte, uh, Charlotte County and some of those areas, you know, you have a potential for major, major inundation there, and it's not just the people that live on the coast. And so, so that message I think has been delivered, uh, by the local emergency managers. I think they've done a good job.

Reporter (37:03):

How are restoration? Uh, you had mentioned, um, because the storm is gonna be basically sitting over much of the state for two days, maybe more, um, should people expect to have, um, you know, restoration crews not be able to access that area for a good while, you know, more than usual. And do we have, uh, crews in, in areas, I guess southeast Florida that can, that can get in there when it's appropriate?

Gov. DeSantis (37:29):

So, so, right. I mean, we've said from the beginning people are gonna lose power and you need to be prepared for that. And it's not gonna be something that's gonna automatically just go back on very quickly because you're gonna have extensive damage and you're gonna have to have crews be able to get in, roads are gonna have to be cleared. Some places where they may have to go over bridges, that those are gonna have to be inspected. Uh, so people should just understand that now there's a whole host of manpower that is stationed to be able to get in there as soon as possible. Because clearly we want people to be protected when the storm hits. That's first thing, protect lives. Then if there's somebody that's in jeopardy after the storm hits the search, the rescue, uh, we have assets that are stationed for that.

Gov. DeSantis (38:10):

Very, very significant. Um, then, uh, in terms of what do you do to get the normal society back resumption of key services starting with power? Obviously fuel communications, uh, you know, I've been in contact with ATT Verizon, you know, they have an enormous amount of assets and so those assets are, are, are deployed and, and they're gonna be responding cuz we know how important it is to be able to communicate. Uh, we do have, uh, uh, fuel contracts and we'll work to make sure the fuel's done. Uh, but I think it also depends on the extent of the damage. I mean, for example, Kevin has been working with the utilities to make sure that if there's damage to transformers, that we have the ability to get a replacement. We're not exactly living in a great supply chain environment right now. And so that's something that we've been sensitive to and Kevin's been sensitive to.

Gov. DeSantis (38:59):

So, so you may have problems there. Now if you have the, the replacement part that makes it better, uh, but that's gonna cause that, uh, how extensive is the damage to where these crews can get in Now,

FDOT and Highway Patrol, they're gonna work to clear these roads because that's something that's very significant. Uh, but I would also say, uh, you're gonna likely have power, uh, go out in, in, in a lot of parts of the state as this, as this thing goes through. I mean, you're gonna have tropical storm force winds and say Orange County in, in seminal, in Volusia, Flagler, those places, you know, there's gonna be trees knocked down, there's gonna be power lines knocked down. So there's gonna be a lot to take care of. Uh, so we've got the manpower ready, They're gonna work as hard as they can, but I don't think anyone should go into this thinking, you know, that somehow they may lose power for like one night and then it's just all gonna snap back on. Uh, you're talking about really, really significant impacts

Reporter ([39:53](#)):

In terms of supplies because obviously we have the ports closed down and I know there's a concern with fuel obviously, but are there other impacts that the general consumer across Florida might experience as we go through this process? Because if we have the ports closed down, we may not have the commodities coming in, and I don't know if that's you or,

Gov. DeSantis ([40:08](#)):

Well, the, but that the ports understand the vital role they play. Uh, they have to make decisions based on, on safety, which we understand, but, but they're all committed to immediately opening, you know, as soon as the storm passes and they understand how important that is. I, I do think though one thing may be a little bit different about this storm is just, okay, the storm happens. Uh, unfortunately there will be damage. You know, we get into the future, uh, because of the supply chain problems. We at large not tied to a port being closed for a couple days. Uh, replacing things in your house, doing things like that, it, it probably will take a little longer than it did in the past. And that's not anything unique to Florida. That's just the fact that we have, uh, so many interruptions that we've seen and the supply chain has been struggling for quite some time now. But, uh, at the end of the day, uh, we, the ports understand the vital role they play. Uh, we're committed doing whatever we need to do to help, uh, to make sure that, and I know FDOT is as well and, and we want to get the goods, uh, coming back, uh, as soon as possible. Okay. Thanks so much Bye bye.