

Storm Isaias Press Conference

Sunday, August 2, 2020

Jim Judge – Director, Emergency Management of Volusia County

Well, good afternoon everyone, Jim Judge here with Volusia County Emergency Management, and of course a brief update on the current situations here in Volusia County.

Well, a couple of days ago we were looking at hurricane conditions. We were under a hurricane warning, but luckily now we are under a tropical storm warning, which is certainly a little bit lower level situation, and the conditions are not forecast to be as bad as they were a couple of days ago. However, we still anticipate some pretty significant weather overnight. We will have some strong tropical storm force winds coming in along the coast. We do have one to two feet of storm surge, and even a little bit higher along Ormond Beach and New Smyrna Beach, so we will be monitoring that closely as well.

Also, a couple of days ago, based on the conditions at that time, we decided to open up four shelters. Two special need shelters, one a general population shelter and one a pet-friendly shelter. We had the Fairgrounds, we had Freedom Elementary, Galaxy Middle and the DeLand High School. So, really, through the day today we opened them up at 8:00 o'clock this morning, and nobody showed up. We only had a couple of people who then decided to go home. So, all four shelters have been closed at this point.

And, we are starting now to get some of those outer bands, and so the weather will be deteriorating through the evening tonight, and certainly overnight. We anticipate the worst conditions to be around 3:00 to 4:00 o'clock in the morning with those sustained tropic storm force winds, and again, along the coast. We will have two to four inches of rain along the coast and possibly one to two inches of rain inland. So, you know it's going to be a pretty blustery night tonight, but still conditions are favorable if you still need to bring down the wind chimes, bring down your hanging plants, pick up any items you find around the yard that could be picked up and blown by the wind. So, it's a good opportunity now to take those final precautions for your home and also be careful through the overnight hours.

There is always chance that we could lose power, so if you have that AMFM radio, it might be a good idea to take that out and put some fresh batteries in, and make sure that it's working well. But, if we do

lose power overnight you can stay in touch with all of us here at the Emergency Operations Center, as well as with the local news, to be able to keep up with conditions in Volusia County.

So, with that, again, overnight hours are still going to have some pretty good weather coming in with sustained tropical storm force winds, but again that is going to be right along the coast. Windy conditions inland but again not as significant.

So, we continue to monitor the storm and again, tropical storm Isaias is offshore and also the stronger winds are to the north and east, which always the right front quadrant of a hurricane is going to be the most significant, which also keeps those stronger winds and rain offshore. So, that is also good news for us.

So, continue to monitor the weather as we do. You can also go to Weatherbug. We've got several cameras up on Ormond and Ponce Inlet, as well as the main lifeguard center. And, also, there is WeatherSTEM. We've got a great site out in Oak Hill and also a weather site out at Beach Headquarters. So, you get great information, wind speeds and a lot of good weather information that we also monitor here at the EOC.

So, with that, thank you, and have a safe evening.