

>> Testing the captioning.

(Standing by).

>> Check.

>> Good afternoon, I'm Kevin Captain, community information director for Volusia County government. Today system November 7th, and we regret to advise that we're still in hurricane season. As of this morning, the disturbance north of the Bahamas has been named Subtropical Storm Nicole. This storm is predicted to become a very large subtropical storm with the potential of being upgraded to either a tropical storm or possibly even a hurricane. The direct path and intensity of the storm is not entirely certain, however what we do know is that all of Volusia County will experience some effects, especially those who live on the coast. Now is the time to start making preparations. Ensure that you have enough food and water. Remove debris around your home, clean your gutters, and secure any loose items such as yard and patio furniture. Restock your flashlight batteries, especially if you used them during Hurricane Ian, you may need some fresh ones. If you are in need of sandbags, visit our public information site Volusia.org/pin. Additionally you can call our emergency management team from 8-5 at 386-254-1500. As you know, our coastline was severely damaged by Hurricane Ian. Volusia County and our coastal municipalities have coordinated to deliver notices to property owners along the coast to know of the threat of this storm. We strongly recommend you make your final preparations today if you live along the coast, and then move to a safer location as soon as possible. Currently, we're anticipating rainfall anywhere from 4-8 inches through Friday, and Jim Judge will give you more information. This could lead to flooding, making roadways impassible. Please use extreme caution if you have to travel and come across water on the road way. For residents in the Stone Island area, Enterprise, Lake Hardy Woods, or other areas significantly impacted by flooding, please go out and get the needed supplies that you need today. This storm is likely to rise the water levels in these areas again and possibly severely limiting the access to and from your communities. With that I would like to turn it over to emergency management director, Jim Judge. Jim?

>> Thank you very much, Kevin. Good afternoon, everyone. Volusia County, currently we are under a tropical storm watch. South of us, they're under a hurricane watch and we could very well see a category one hurricane come along shore somewhere along the Treasure Coast area. We're also under a storm surge watch. With that we already have some dangerous coastal marine conditions. If you've been over to the beach, the wave action is significant and only going to get worse. The onshore winds could increase tomorrow. 20-25 mile an hour winds inland, 25-30 along the coast. But we could get gusts up to 35-45 miles an hour. Storm surge on top of a full moon, on top of high tides, 2-4 feet. It could be 5 feet in certain locations. Wave action as we get into the day Tuesday evening, Wednesday could be up to 6-8 feet, going to as high as 8-10 feet on Thursday.

Again, getting with these astronomic conditions with higher than normal tides. Halifax River, all along the coastal waterway could increase 2-3 feet. Those who live along innercoastal, please take that into consideration.

There's a difference between the high tides along the beach and along the Halifax River. Several hours difference between that. Rainfall, 6-8 inches all the way from the coast to the river. Volusia County management is at a level 2 activation. Level 1 on Wednesday morning. Working with the school district, we have placed two shelters on standby. One special need shelter and one general population shelter.

Both will be pet friendly and more on that tomorrow. If an evacuation is ordered, it will be voluntary for those folks who would like to seek a safer location than one they're currently at. And we will experience two high tides each day. For instance, Wednesday morning will be at 8:41. And what they tell us is that the morning high tides are higher than the ones in the evening with that Wednesday high tide at 8:59 p.m., then again Thursday at 9:23 a.m. And then Thursday evening at 9:42 p.m. The good news, if there is any out of this whole thing, once the system does make land fall along the Treasure Coast, it is forecasted to go out into the gulf and then go into the big bend, and move that way very quickly. It's not like with Ian where it was very slow and we absurd with all that rainfall. ? suffered with all that rainfall. We did a brief with our cities a little while ago and we will continue going forward. We're also in communications with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the National Hurricane Center, and with the National Weather Service out of Melbourne, and region five, Volusia County all the way to Martin, Lake County, Orange. Along the beach, we've had significant damages along that, and quite concerned about what this weather, what the storm surge, and what those waves will do to those already damaged and those potentially in harm's way. With that, let me bring up Jessica Fentress with our Coastal Division.

>> Thank you, Jim. To our residents on the coast, this is likely your last day to make any repairs to your seawalls or other preparations before the storm hits. Starting tonight, and into early morning, the tide will start to get too high. Our coastal division staff has already been making preparations for the upcoming storm event. Our trash bins and portalets have been removed and facilities will be turned off. As a reminder, many of our structures are still not safe due to the damage sustained from Hurricane Ian. The impact of the storm will likely deteriorate those structures even more and may damage those previously unharmed. Once the storm passes, we recommend not only going onto any structures until we've had ample time to assess the damage, but give us time to clear the area for you. With this, I'm going to give you to Chief Andrew Ethridge with Beach Safety. >> Currently we're city open for beach driving and access throughout this day. That will give current residents time to get down and do last-minute preparations for their properties. By the end of business day today we will close to driving and will remain closed throughout the duration of the storm. Currently my staff is preparing the beach by removing our assets and life guard towers off of the beach. With these incoming waves and currents, it's going to be very dangerous to be down there. We'll have a difficult time getting to anybody caught in rip currents or anything like that. Take this time to hunker down in the middle of the storm, wait it out, don't go down to the beach throughout this storm. For a couple of days until this storm passes, stay off the beach, stay out of the water, and get us a chance to get back down there after it passes, we'll reevaluate the beach as soon as we can, get things put back into place and move forward. Stay out of the water, off the beach until this storm passes. With that, I'll give it back to Kevin Captain.

>> Thank you, Chief Ethridge. Just some closing announcements before we totally close out. All Volusia County Public Schools are closed tomorrow for Election Day. And Friday for Veterans Day. At this time, school will be in session Wednesday and Thursday November 9th and 10th. However, that is subject to change as we learn more about the storm's trajectory and potential impacts. For updates regarding school closures, you can visit the Volusia County School District's website at VCSEDU.org. Election day is tomorrow. As the significant impacts of the storm are not likely to arrive until Wednesday or later, all Volusia County voting locations are planned to be opened as originally planned. To learn more about election information in Volusia County, visit the supervisor of election website at Volusiaelections.gov. The Volusia County Fair is also making an adjustment due to the storm. The

Prospect Steer Show will be moved to tonight at 8 p.m. The removal of all Prospect steers will be done immediately after the show or the following day from 8 a.m. to noon. You can visit the Volusiacountyfair.com to stay informed. It is possible the fair may close later this week. We encourage residents also to utilize what we call the Know Your Zone feature on the Volusia County Emergency Management website, as well as the Volusia County Emergency Management Mobile app. This feature will assist residents to identify if you are in an evacuation zone or if you live in a low-lying flood-prone area. It also provides evacuation routes and other useful tips to prepare for such an event. This is also the time to take pictures and document the condition of your property and home prior to the storm.

In the unfortunate event your property or home is damaged from the storm, this will help substantiate your claim to the insurance company or to other assistance programming. Again, this is the time to start making plans. Don't let your guard down. Even if the storm does not transform into a hurricane or directly hit Volusia County, we're still likely to receive substantial rain and tropical force winds. There is potential for significant damage. To receive the most up to date information visit Volusia.org/pin, download the emergency management app, and visit us on Facebook or Twitter or call us. Also, there's been a lot of questions about debris. There's continuing debris out on the streets. The city and county contractors are doing the very best they can to pick up as much debris as they can before the storm hits. With that, I'll take any questions and we can appropriate the questions to the respective person.

>> Hi, I'm Sheldon Gardner, a reporter at the Daytona Beach News Journal. How much impact could the storm have on erosion on the coast and if there are any structures on the verge of collapse that could collapse in this?

>> Jessica?

>> So, I'm going to be very honest with everybody out there. We are at a critical point right now with the state of our beaches. Hurricane Ian was a very long-duration storm event. In no way did we think we were coming back to significant widespread, substantial seawall failures across our coastline when we came back from that storm. It's only been a little over a month. The local building officials in unincorporated Volusia County, but the municipalities each have building officials monitoring the structural integrity. In regards to erosion in our ocean, our buffer is gone. They're calling for a significantly high swell event on top of a lunar high tide on top of a wind situation with a large fetch out there. The potential for impact is very significant with regards to erosion. If you are an ocean-front property owner, I would take this very seriously. And if you are uncomfortable or nervous with the structural integrity of your house, I would urge you to find shelter elsewhere.

>> Is there anything people are doing today to help prevent that? Shore up the structures? Anything they can do?

>> There are contractors out there right now. It has to be permitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection if you want to do shore protection temporary or permanent. They are working closely with the private property owners. You know, you can do sandbags. If you can find some sandbags and place them as a tow protection measure, that would be beneficial if you own oceanfront property.

>> Just one question about debris. The county put out an advisory saying people should try to get their debris out from Ian by the night. Are you advising people to wait on that until this gets passed?

>> You know, as far as debris, we still have that continued message. People can still put it out on the road. As I said, the contractors are working diligently to try to get it done as soon as possible. While we can't make any guarantees, what we can tell you is that they're doing the very best they can.

>> Jessica, can I ask you real quick, can you quantify how many structures at this point would be in jeopardy? I know of at least two condos out and probably a few homes. Do you have an idea of how many homes on the edge that could create real disaster?

>> I don't have that number.

>> A couple dozen, dozen?

>> I think in the county we have a dozen. If you add into play your coastal municipalities, you probably have about two dozen. Now that number may change in three days. Because this is a compounding structure or a compounding storm event where the damages you already start off with, you may have more damages tonight and even more damages tomorrow and even more damages the following day. It's going to be compounding impacts. If you survive tonight's storm event, you're not safe tomorrow.

>> Those evacuated completely, closed up due to Ian, at least several dozen in our county that are in jeopardy.

>> I know there are about two dozen being watched by the local municipalities and local building officials.

>> Question for Jim. Rebecca with News 13. What's your message to any local residents who may not have started any storm preps yet?

>> Well, you know, I'd look at this almost like a large forest fire. Somebody knocks on your door and tells you you've got 10 minutes to get out. Now you've got some time. You've got today and into tomorrow. But once we get into Wednesday, especially Wednesday evening, then certain conditions are going to deteriorate rapidly. But then also, wanted to mention, too, we've had fire, EMS, law enforcement, our building officials, and we actually even want to assure the governor that we're taking every precaution to make sure we're getting people out of harm's way in those structures. Tim Morgan, the sheriff's office will be working, knocking on doors, making sure the city is doing everything they can do for those structures that are problematic, that residents understand the dangers coming our way this week. Did I answer that?

>> Ian Cassette with Fox 35.

The duration event, I've been told even after post-Ian that the high tides were relatively high against the walls in Daytona. What are we looking at long-term with this? Are there long-term implications with another event on top of this with a compromised state that some of the beaches are in?

>> What you're experiencing right now with your high tides is that the beach has been deflated. Since Hurricane Ian was such a long-duration storm event, it ended up deflating your beach profile. You have

more seawalls exposed. That big beautiful sand berm that everybody got stuck in this summer is gone. And Volusia County is notorious for February and March nor'easter events. Any ocean-front property owners who haven't taken the time to do temporary or permanent measures, start that as soon as possible, because we have another five months to go through where we could have conditions that might not be a named hurricane, but it could still provide damages to private property.

>> Hang on, Jessica.

>> Also, does FEP still have people here, if property owners want to go visit and talk about what they can do after this passes through? Is there still a representative around they can go talk to?

>> Go to Volusia.org/beachcleanup. All one word. No hyphens or lower case, all one word. You'll find all the quick information you need to, along with phone numbers to Volusia County employees who can assist you with what you can and can't do on the beach. The, FDEP is not in town this week, but they are planning on being here next week because we anticipate some pretty severe impacts this week.

>> Thank you.

>> We can arrange for a phone call with DEP if someone is in need of emergency repairs and they have not initiated that process yet.

>> All right. Any other questions? All right. We will continue to keep you informed. Just continue to watch Volusia.org/pin. Again, the emergency management app, the emergency management Facebook page, and Twitter. With that, we'll close today's conference. Please stay safe, stay alert, take care, and help your neighbors.