

Indian River County Emergency Management
Press Release Regarding Hurricane Isaias
July 31, 2020
8:00 p.m.

Release: As soon as possible

Summary of Current Information and Actions:

During a special briefing from the National Weather Service, east central Florida counties were advised that the track forecast for Hurricane Isaias continues to shift west to very near the east-central Florida coast. **Hurricane conditions are now likely for our area.** The strongest winds will be on the barrier islands, but damaging winds are also expected over the mainland portion of coastal counties, too. Any small deviations from the track will result in very large differences in impacts and duration of weather.

Impacts from Hurricane Isaias will likely include periods of heavy rain, sustained tropical storm winds to borderline hurricane winds of 60-75 mph, with gusts up to 90 mph along the barrier island and sustained winds of 35-45 mph inland with gusts up to 60 mph in passing squalls.

Considering these forecast changes, and out of an abundance of caution, **we are reversing our previous decision to not open shelters.**

As a last resort for evacuees, we will be ordering a **voluntary evacuation** for mobile/manufactured home residents, low lying areas, and the barrier island. We will be opening the following shelters at **2:00 p.m. Saturday**

- Special Needs Shelter – Treasure Coast Elementary – 8955 85th Street, Sebastian
- Pet-Friendly Shelter – Liberty Magnet School – 6580 81st Street, Vero Beach
- General Population – Freshman Learning Center – 1507 19th Street, Vero Beach

Evacuees are reminded that there is a risk for COVID-19 when around large groups of people, such as in a public shelter. You are encouraged to seek shelter at the home of a relative or friend.

Hurricane Isaias Update:

- Hurricane Isaias is a Category 1 hurricane with winds of 75 mph and about 195 miles ESE of Nassau, Bahamas.
- Hurricane Isaias is moving NW at 15 mph across the Bahamas today and tonight, then moving north very close to the Florida east coast over the weekend.
- The forecast brings Isaias dangerously close to east central Florida this weekend.

Watches and Warnings:

- A **Hurricane Warning** is in effect for the east coast of Florida from Boca Raton to the Volusia/Brevard County line.
- A **Storm Surge Watch** is in effect for the east coast of Florida from Jupiter Inlet to Ponte Vedra Beach.

Indian River County Possible Impacts:

- **Since the forecast arrival of tropical storm force winds will be late in the evening, decisions on the closure of barrier island bridges will be made tomorrow and distributed as soon as possible.**
- With the current track now along or just offshore our coast, any small deviations of the track will result in very large differences in impacts and duration of weather.
- Strong tropical storm to minimal hurricane conditions are likely.
- Periods of heavy rain (4-6")
- Sustained tropical storm winds to borderline hurricane winds of 60-75 mph with gusts up to 9-mph along the barrier islands and sustained winds of 35-45 mph inland with gusts up to 60 mph in passing squalls.
- Dangerous rip currents.
- Rough surf and hazardous seas.
- Intracoastal waters very rough.
- Temporary loss of power

Timing:

- The estimated time of arrival of tropical storm winds for our area is estimated to be sometime between 11:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. tomorrow into Sunday. The duration is estimated to last 8-12 hours.

Reporting Damage:

- Flooded/impassable roads – Call the **non-emergency line** of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office at 772-569-6700.
- Flooding or damage to your home:
 - If insured - contact your home owner's insurance company
 - Send an email to esf5@ircgov.com and include:
 - Name
 - Address
 - Phone number
 - Type of damage

IRC Emergency Management will provide information to the National Weather Service for documentation purposes.