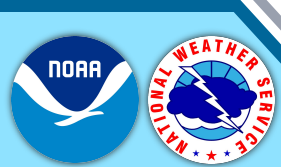


WELCOME

Florida Tropical Training Week 2026

**PRESENTED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICES
SERVING THE STATE OF FLORIDA**



TRAINING TIMELINE

DAY 1
(Monday)

**Getting
Ready**

DAY 2
(Tuesday)

**Hunker
Down**

DAY 3
(Wednesday)

**Post-Storm
Safety**

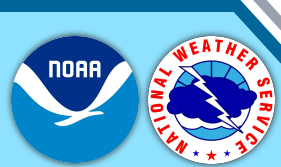
DAY 4
(Thursday)

**Lessons
Learned &
Panel
Discussion**

Training Website:

weather.gov/jax/FTTW2026





TODAY'S PRESENTERS

11 AM



Kelly Godsey
NWS
Tallahassee
Florida



Matt Anderson
NWS
Tampa Bay
Florida

1 PM



Jennifer Hubbard
NWS
Tampa Bay
Florida



Will Ulrich
NWS
Melbourne
Florida

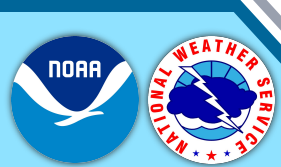
7 PM



Kelly Godsey
NWS
Tallahassee
Florida



Matt Anderson
NWS
Tampa Bay
Florida



CHAT ASSISTANTS



Morgan Barry
NWS
Mobile, AL



Bryce Tyner
NWS
Key West, FL



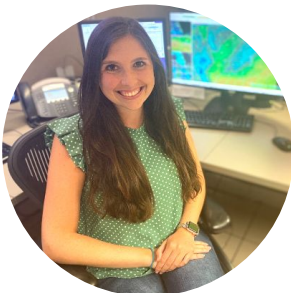
Sammy Hadi
NWS
Miami, FL



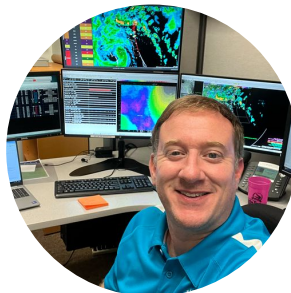
Megan Tollefsen
NWS
Melbourne, FL



Angie Enyedi
NWS
Jacksonville, FL



Cassie Leahy
NWS
Melbourne, FL



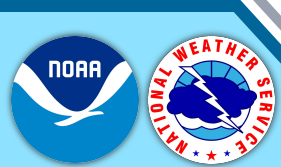
Ben Nelson
NWS
Jacksonville, FL



Michael Vuotto
NWS
Key West, FL



Paige Klingler
NWS
Jacksonville, FL



SEASONAL READINESS

What Can You Do NOW?

Seasonal
Readiness

Monitoring
the Tropics
Days 6-7

Gearing Up
for Impacts
Days 3-5

Hunker Down
<48 hrs to
Impact

Post-Storm
Safety

Identifying your vulnerability

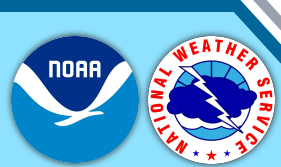
Seasonal Preparedness ~ *What Does it look like?*

Evacuation Readiness



Visualize past tracks & storm frequency





KNOW YOUR RISK

Tropical Cyclone Hazards

**DAMAGING
WINDS**

**EMBEDDED
TORNADOES**

**STORM
SURGE**

**FLOODING
RAINFALL**

**COASTAL
HAZARDS**

WIND RISK



Photo Credit:
Peter Blasl



STRUCTURE INTEGRITY

newer construction = newer building codes

Florida construction since 2002 must:

- ✓ have impact-resistant glass or shutters
- ✓ withstand hurricane force winds

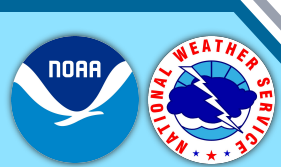
mobile & modular homes: can roll or lift off of foundation (*tie-downs may lower risk*)



STRUCTURE EXPOSURE

large trees or tall objects near home
– *impact exposure*

facing open areas
– *wind exposure*

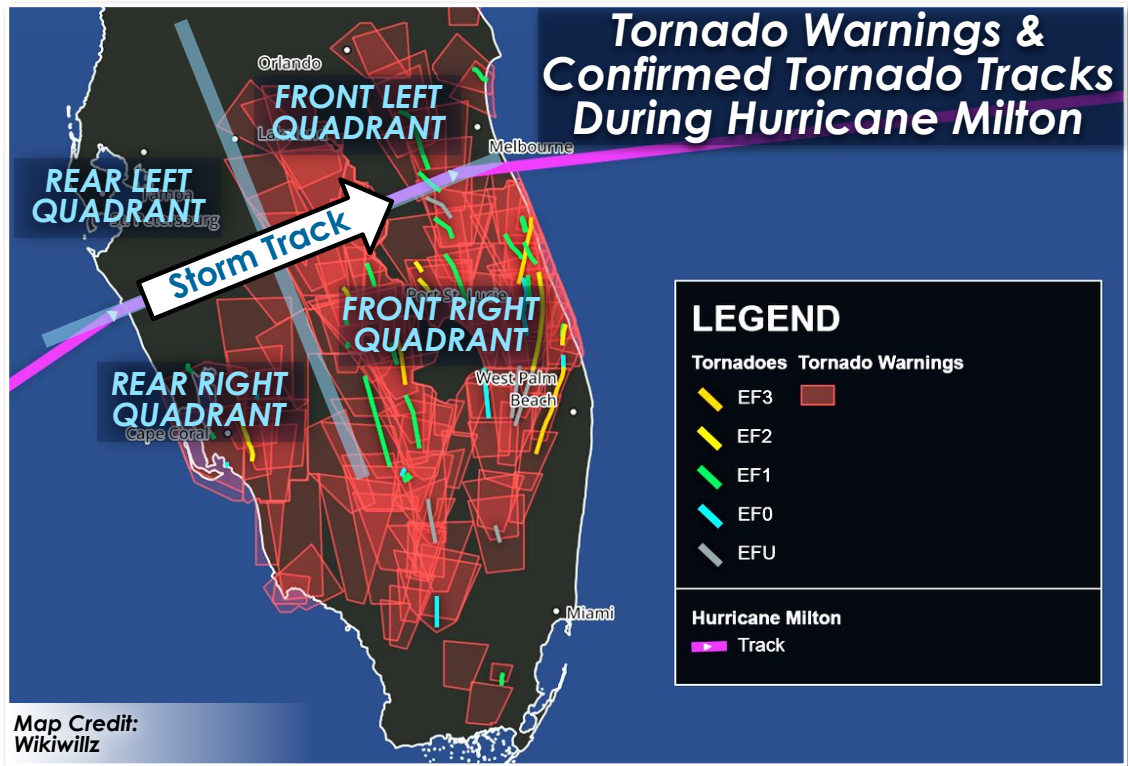


TORNADOES

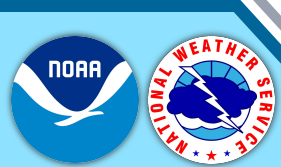
Tornadoes

associated with tropical systems are **not uncommon**

Tropical cyclone tornadoes are **most common** in the **front right quadrant** of storm



Hurricane Milton (Oct. 2024) resulted in **45** confirmed tornadoes in southern Florida



SURGE RISK

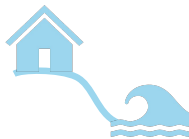


Photo Credit:
USAF MSGt Mark Olsen



LOCATION

proximity to coast, intracoastal waterway, tidal rivers increases risk



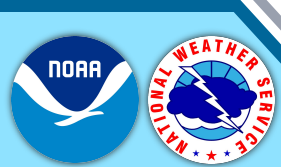
ELEVATION

structures not elevated near tidal bodies of water have greater surge risk



STRUCTURE

structural composition & integrity influences resilience to storm surge
– wood more vulnerable, concrete block less vulnerable



FLOOD RISK



LOCATION

proximity to inland lakes, rivers, creeks, & low-lying and/or poor drainage areas



ELEVATION

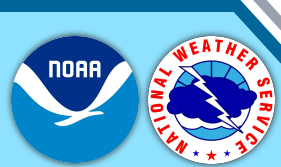
structures not elevated near inland bodies of water or near poor drainage areas have greater flood risk



FEMA Flood Zones
find your zone:

msc.fema.gov/portal/search





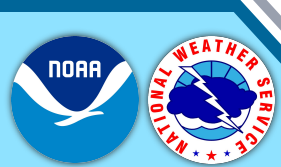
FLOOD vs EVAC. ZONES

FLOOD ZONES

- Mapped by **FEMA**
- Represented by Letter(s)
- Tells the homeowner the risk of property flooding from **rainfall**
- Does **NOT** relate to flooding from storm surge

EVACUATION ZONES

- Determined by local **emergency managers**
- Identifies areas, by letter(s), prone to storm surge inundation during **tropical events**
- Areas that may need to be **evacuated** during a tropical event



KNOW YOUR ZONE

Are you in an evacuation zone?

Are you flood prone?

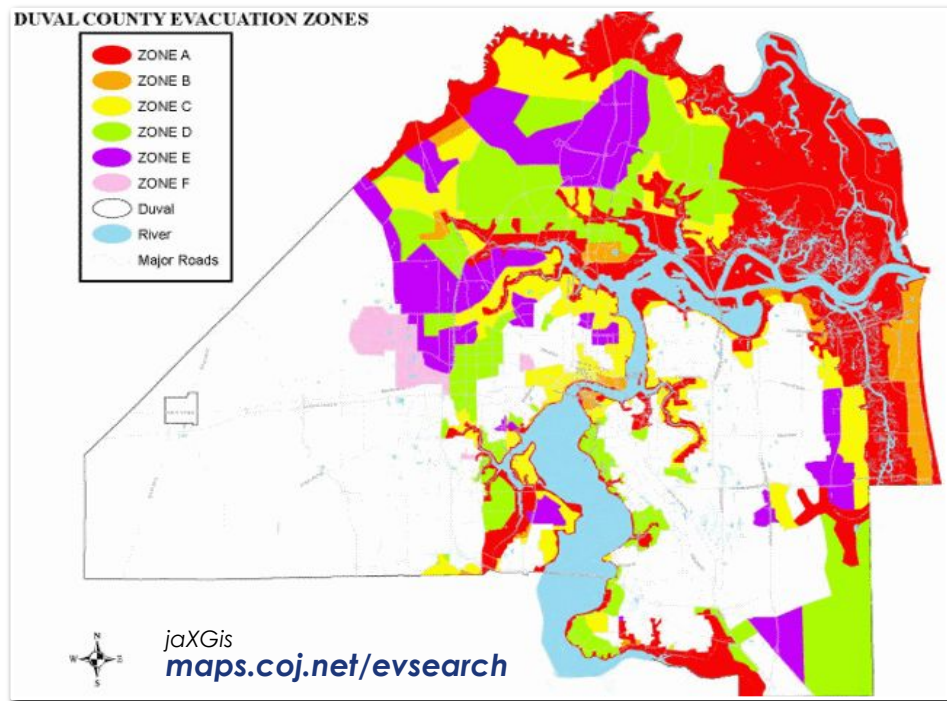
Are nearby roads flood prone?

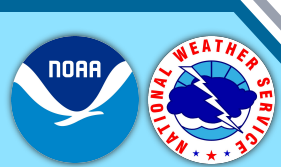
Are you able to be self-sufficient
for *numerous* days?

Visit your county [Emergency Management](#)
website or [Florida Division of Emergency
Management](#) for Evacuation Zone Map:



know your zone
floridadisaster.org/knowyourzone





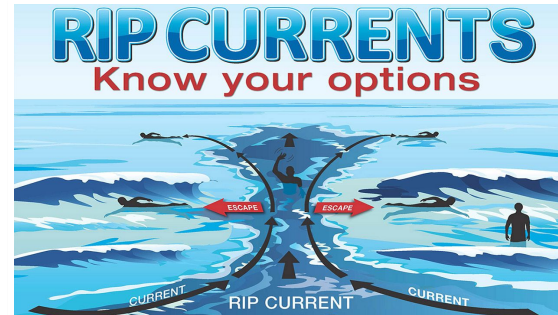
COASTAL HAZARDS

Dangerous rip currents & high surf can lead to **very dangerous conditions well-ahead of a storm**

If **caught** in a rip current...

- ✓ Try to **stay calm**
- ✓ **Don't fight** the current
- ✓ **Swim out** of current, *then to shore*
- ✓ **Can't escape? Float/tread water**

Always swim at beaches with lifeguards!



BEACH WARNING FLAGS

BANDERAS DE ADVERTENCIA EN LA PLAYA

- Water Closed to Public**
Agua Cerrada al Público
- High Hazard**
High Surf and/or Strong Currents
Peligro Alto, Resaca Alta y/o Corrientes Fuertes
- Medium Hazard**
Moderate Surf and/or Currents
Peligro Medio, Resaca Moderada y/o Corrientes Plenas
- Low Hazard**
Calm Conditions, Exercise Caution
Peligro Bajo, Condiciones Calmas, Tenge Cuidado
- Stinging Marine Life**
Man o' War, Jellyfish, Stingrays
Animal Marino que causa picaduras: Fregato, Pterópodos, Medusas, Rayas

Distant Hurricanes Can Be Deadly

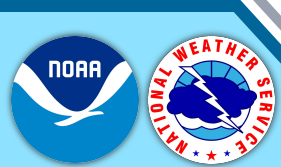
Hurricanes that are far away can still create deadly rip currents and waves.

Never assume that the ocean is safe, even if the weather is nice.

For maximum safety, swim near a lifeguard.

✓ Check the forecast before you go:
weather.gov/beach





PREPARE BEFOREHAND

Hurricane preparedness should begin **BEFORE** the **season** begins!

Hurricane Preparedness

weather.gov/hurricane



Prepare Before Hurricane Season



Develop an evacuation plan



Assemble disaster supplies: food, water, batteries, charger, radio, cash



Get an insurance checkup and document your possessions



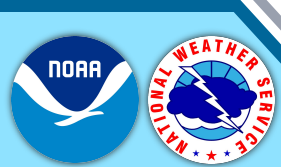
Create a communication plan with a hand-written list of contacts



Strengthen your home



Don't wait until a storm is imminent!



STOCK SUPPLY KIT

✓ Medication

Did you know? Florida statutes state that you may be able to receive up to a 30-day supply of prescription medicine in advance, when a tropical cyclone threatens your area
FL Statute 465.0275 -- [flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2024/0465.0275](https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2024/0465.0275)
FL Statute 252.358 -- [flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2022/0252.358](https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2022/0252.358)

✓ Special Dietary Needs

✓ Water (1 gal. / person / day)

✓ Cash

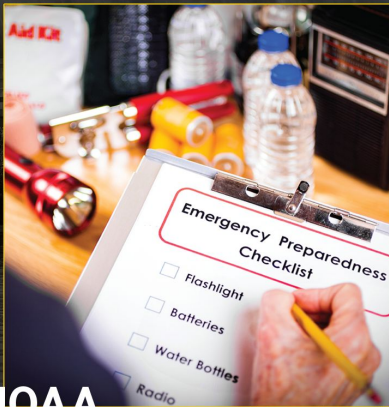
✓ Comfort items

✓ Pet items

✓ Shared resources with neighbors?

Hurricane Preparedness

Assemble Disaster Supplies



-  Food & water
-  Medicine & prescriptions
-  Keep gas tank full
-  Cash on hand
-  Radio, batteries, phone chargers

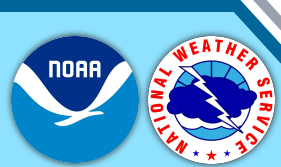
NOAA

weather.gov 

Beat the rush & prepare in advance.
Don't wait until the last minute!



Available
Guidance:
ready.gov/kit



EVAC. & SHELTER PLAN

When will you go?

Where will you go?

How will you get there?

Does shelter accept pets?



Available
Guidance:
ready.gov/plan

Hurricane Preparedness

DEVELOP AN EVACUATION PLAN

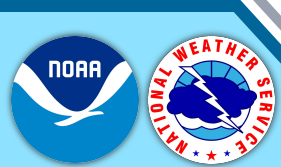


Find out today if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone and identify trusted sources for receiving evacuation orders. Plan for multiple options on where to go and how to get there. Have a go bag for supplies and a plan for your pets. Be prepared to leave immediately if ordered to evacuate.

-  Find out if you live in an evacuation zone
-  Plan several routes
-  Have a go bag for supplies
-  Plan for your pets
-  Follow evacuation orders if given

weather.gov/hurricane 

Have a plan **before** you need to enact it!



EVACUATION READINESS

Evacuation is needed when...

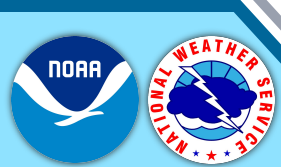
- ✓ Your Evacuation Zone is requested to evacuate
- ✓ Your location, or access routes to your location, are expected to be inundated by storm surge
- ✓ A household member is Special Needs

example: household member relies on power for life-safety



Photo Credit:
Getty Images

*Consider that **emergency services may not be able to reach you** during or after a storm*



EVACUATION READINESS



Have **supplies packed**
already in your vehicle if possible



Pre-plan **route to shelter**
know where you're going



Be ready to leave
as soon as you're told to do so



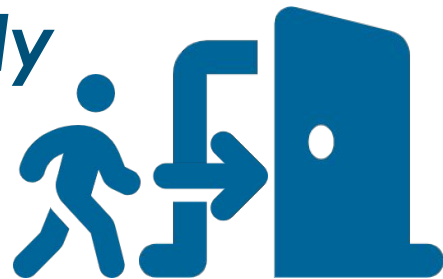
Monitor **Official Sources** for Evacuation Orders:
County/State Emergency Management, City Officials, Local News

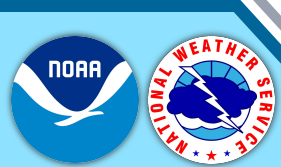


Don't Delay!
the longer you wait, traffic/lodging issues may arise

KNOW WHAT TO DO

Be Ready
Be Set
GO!





EVACUATION READINESS

VOLUNTARY

vs

MANDATORY

extremely important to know your evacuation zone

*Voluntary orders**

- Highly suggested to evacuate
- Consider special needs, as well as the condition and safety of your home
- **Threat to life and property may still escalate!**

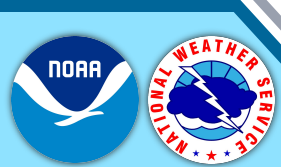
EVACUATE
WHEN TOLD TO
DO SO BY
EMERGENCY
OFFICIALS



*Mandatory orders**

- Life-threatening conditions expected
- Resources likely to be limited
- YOU may become partially or even entirely isolated
- **You assume 100% responsibility if you don't evacuate**

**Note: Orders will be different from location to location. Follow the directions from your emergency officials!*

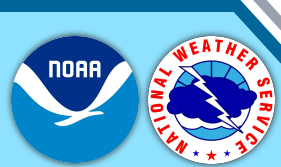


EVACUATION READINESS

What would most influence your decision to evacuate? 🤔

1. Seeing my neighbors leave
2. Fear of storm strength or category
3. Official evacuation orders
4. Family or friends urging me to leave
5. I'm not leaving...no matter what





EVACUATION READINESS

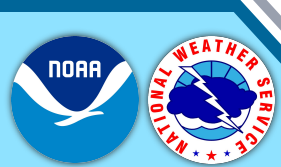
WHERE TO EVACUATE



“MOVE AWAY FROM THE WATER”

- ✓ If requested to evacuate, your location is **vulnerable to storm surge inundation**
- ✓ Evacuation locations: **local family, friends, nearby hotels, & county shelters**

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO EVACUATE FAR
to find safe shelter from storm surge!
-- typically 10s of miles, not 100s of miles

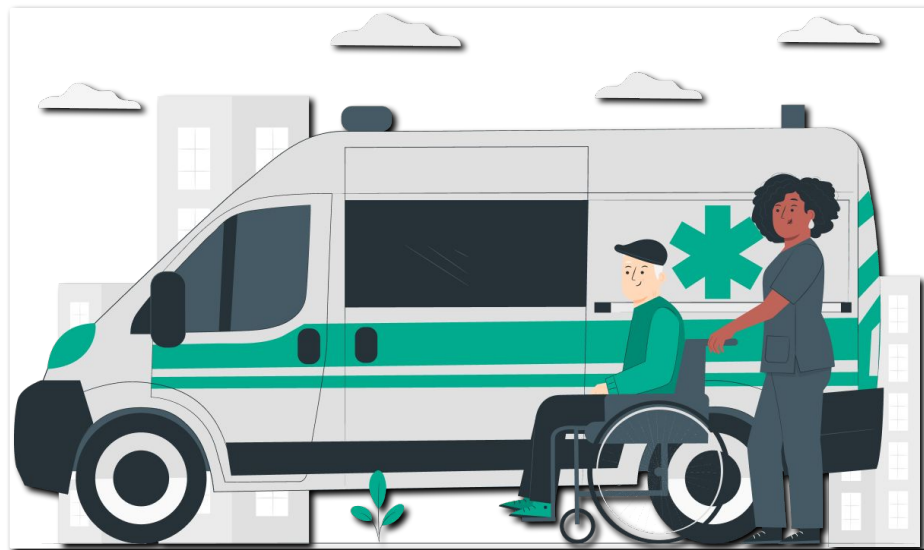


EVACUATION READINESS

REGISTER FOR EVACUATION ASSISTANCE

When to consider registering:

- If you **need assistance** getting to a **public shelter**
- If you **rely on electricity** for **life-saving devices**
- If you **need assistance accessing medication** during a disaster

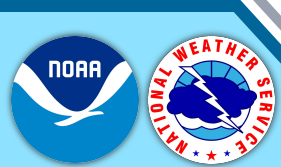


Consider that **emergency services may not be able to reach you** during or after a storm



Available
Guidance:

snr.flhealthresponse.com

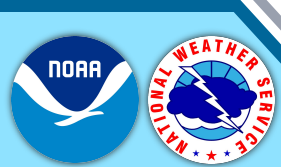


EVACUATION READINESS

If you had to evacuate right now, what would be your biggest concern? 🤔

1. Finding a pet-friendly place to go
2. Cost of evacuating
3. Traffic or road closures
4. Leaving my house behind
5. Not knowing where to go





TAKING SHELTER

SHELTERING ~ AT HOME

- ✓ **Stay indoors**
 - Do not conduct outdoor assessments during a storm, wait until it is safe to do so
- ✓ Remain **away** from **windows, doors, exterior walls**
- ✓ Shelter **away** from where large **trees could fall** onto or into structure
- ✓ **Monitor official sources** for tornado, flash flood, & extreme wind warnings



Photo Credit:
FEMA

*Prepare your shelter location in advance.
Don't wait until the last minute!*

TAKING SHELTER

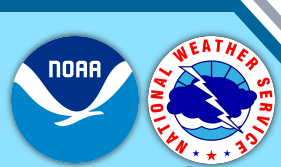
SHELTERING ~ AT SHELTERS

- ✓ Consider **other options first**
- ✓ **Only basic necessities** may be **provided**
- ✓ **Bring only medical & personal items**
- ✓ **Check if pet-friendly**
– bring carrier, food and water, comfort items, and documentation
- ✓ Remain **away** from **windows, doors, exterior walls**



Photo Credit:
FEMA

*Know your shelter location in advance.
Don't wait until the last minute!*



TAKING SHELTER SHELTERING ~ ELDERLY & SPECIAL NEEDS

✓ Medical equipment

- Have backup power sources in case of an outage
- Special Needs Registry: snr.flhealthresponse.com

✓ Home care or treatment options

- Understand emergency plans, identify backup providers

✓ Identify yourself

- Wear medical alert bracelet/pendant to aid first responders

✓ Helping others help you

- Make others aware of how to access your home, emergency supplies, medication, & other lifesaving equipment

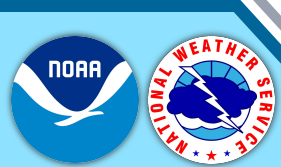
✓ Considerations for deaf/hard of hearing & blind

- Bring special devices to help you communicate, consider extra hearing aid batteries, label supplies in Braille



Photo Credit:
Red Cross

Confirm shelter can
accommodate special needs



SEASONAL AWARENESS

Monitoring the Tropics?

**Seasonal
Readiness**

**Monitoring
the Tropics**
Days 6-7

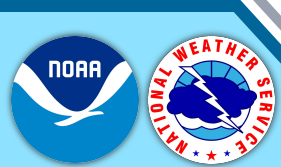
**Gearing Up
for Impacts**
Days 3-5

Hunker Down
<48 hrs to
Impact

**Post-Storm
Safety**

Credible Forecast Sources

Tropical Monitoring tools



CREDIBLE SOURCES

FORECAST SOURCE ~ CAUTIONS

SENSATIONALISM vs SCIENCE



- Show one forecast model
- Specific impacts too early
- Early landfall prediction

SOCIAL MEDIA-ROLOGISTS

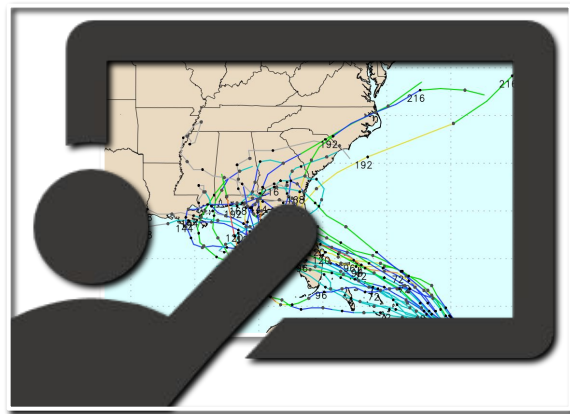


- Hype vs Science
- Clicks vs Credibility
- Distant Friends/Family (*good intentions*)

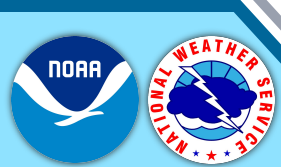
ANCHORING BIAS



- People tend to base actions on first forecast
- Dangerous for appropriate preparedness
- Monitor storm forecast/updates



Know your sources



CREDIBLE SOURCES

GOVERNMENT SOURCES



NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER ~ hurricanes.gov

Storm-scale forecasts: *size, intensity, track*

NWSNHC @NHC_Atlantic



LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ~ weather.gov

Downscaled NHC Forecast: *local impacts, where, when*

(for your local office: click the map or enter your ZIP code)

NWS @NWS



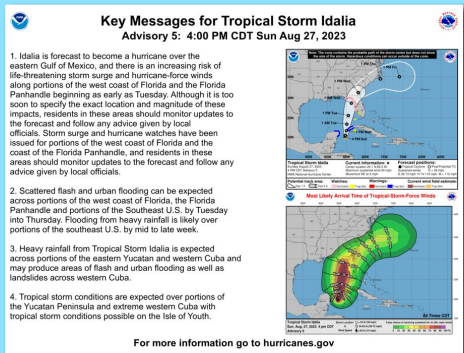


MONITORING TOOLS

TROPICAL WEATHER FORECASTS

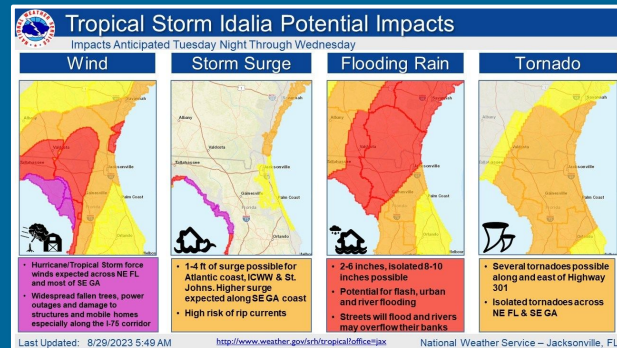
NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

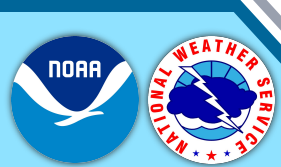
- Storm forecast – size, intensity, track
- Regional Scale View & Impacts
- National & State Level Support



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICES

- Downscale NHC forecast for local area
- County to City level View & Impacts
- State & County Level Support





MONITORING TOOLS

FEMA APP

Why should you download it?

- Free
- Bilingual
- Set alerts for up to 5 locations
- Customize alerts
- Pre- & Post-Storm Guidance
- Local Shelter Information
- Additional resource for redundancy

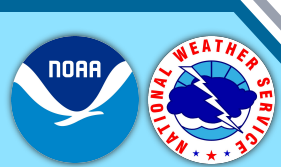


Apple App Store



Google Play Store





MONITORING TOOLS

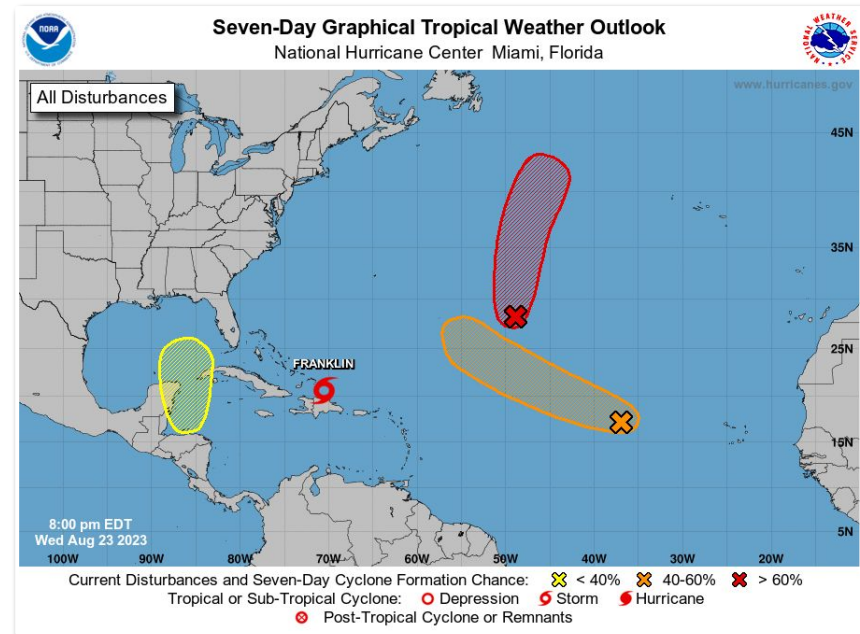
TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK (2-Day & 7-Day Graphical Outlooks)

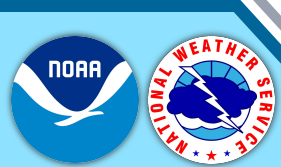
How is it useful?

- “Something’s Brewing”
- Potential tropical development areas
- Where surface low may form:
NOT impact areas!



Available at
National Hurricane Center:
[hurricanes.gov](https://www.hurricanes.gov)



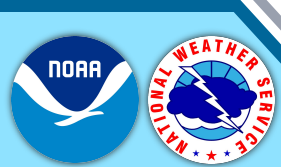


Nat'l Hurricane Center

WEBSITE
DEMO



hurricanes.gov

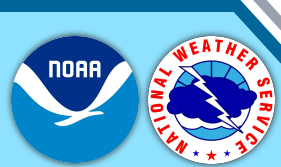


Evacuation/Flood Zone

WEBSITE
DEMO



floridadisaster.org/knowyourzone

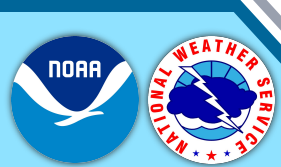


Special Needs Registry

WEBSITE
DEMO



snr.flhealthresponse.com



LINKS MENTIONED



FDEM
Evacuation Zones
floridadisaster.org/knowyourzone



**NOAA Historical
Hurricane Tracks**
coast.noaa.gov/hurricanes



**National
Weather
Service**
weather.gov



**National
Hurricane Center**
hurricanes.gov



FEMA
Flood Zones
msc.fema.gov/portal/search



Ready.gov
Develop Your Plan
ready.gov/plan



**Florida Special
Needs Registry**
snr.flhealthresponse.com



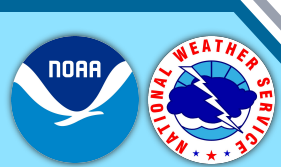
Ready.gov
Build Your Supply Kit
ready.gov/kit



FEMA
App
Apple App Store



FEMA
App
Google Play Store



TOMORROW

Gearing Up & Hunkering Down

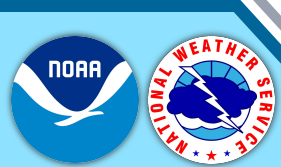
**Seasonal
Readiness**

**Monitoring
the Tropics**
Days 6-7

**Gearing Up
for Impacts**
Days 3-5

Hunker Down
<48 hrs to
Impact

**Post-Storm
Safety**



THANK YOU!

Training Website



FL Tropical Training 2026



**BE PREPARED.
STAY AWARE.**

Submit questions



via Google Forms



Certificate Of Completion



**Thank you for attending Day 1 of
Florida Tropical Training Week
July 27th 2026**

PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE