

City of Neptune Beach Tropical Storm Ian Update 1:30PM Thursday, Sept. 29th

The Neptune Beach Police Department is fully-staffed and emergency operations are activated. The Public Works Department has completed much of their hurricane preparation goals and are being sent home at Noon today. Crews are also on standby should any further trees come down. As of right now, operations will continue without any changes to the City's Emergency Operations plan. Downed trees and debris are increasing but are easily manageable. Hurricane Ian has weakened as expected while crossing the state, but don't let your guard down.

At this time, there are no evacuation orders, but the beaches remain under a Tropical Storm Warning and a storm surge warning. As was said from the beginning, if you flooded during Irma, you may likely experience flooding with Ian. It is still



important to know your evacuation zone, you can check your zone by following this link [Check Your Evacuation Zone Here](#). Should you choose to evacuate, shelters have been opened at Legends Center, LaVilla Middle School and Landmark Middle School.

As more information becomes available from the Emergency Operations Center, any decision made will be done with safety of our Residents as the Number One priority, and protecting property is the secondary objective.

Duval County remains with a Hurricane Watch, as of 11AM today, meaning that hurricane-force winds are possible within the next 48 hours.

Emergency plans ([JAX Ready Preparedness and Response Guide](#)) and emergency supply kits should already be fully-stocked. Continue to monitor official forecast sources. For information on Hurricane Preparedness, and to get the City of Neptune Beach's latest updates, please visit: www.jaxready.com, www.hurricanes.gov/prepare, and register for the City's mass notification system: AlertNeptune by clicking here: <https://www.ci.neptune-beach.fl.us/subscribe> and filling out the form.

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secured city facilities. Garbage cans at the beach and the parks have been picked up, and hurricane doors have been installed on City Hall.

Public Works employees worked alongside the Police Department to remove downed trees and debris from roadways last night and this morning. They continue to ensure that ditches, swales and drain inlets and outfalls are clear of debris ahead of the expected rains. As soon as any storm passes, Public Works will be activated to begin restoration and recovery, including removing fallen trees and limbs from roadways.

Public Works First Responders closed in the dune openings at Seagate Ave. and Atlantic Blvd. *If you need assistance, please contact the non-emergency number for the Neptune Beach Police Department: (904) 270-2413, or 911 for any emergency.*

SANDBAGS: The City has exhausted its supply of sandbags and over 14tons of sand has been utilized by Residents over the last few days.

Earlier in the week, **Jax Dirtworks** notified the city that it had a limited supply of sand available and that it was offered first come first served. Residents will need to bring their own shovel and sandbags to fill. Sandbags were available earlier this week at Ace Hardware and other Home Improvement stores in the area.

Jax Dirtworks – 310 Mealy Dr. Atlantic Beach, FL. 32233, near Dutton Island. (904) 683-3124.

Public Works: Aside from staffing the sandbag filling station, public works employees have secured sites around the City and taken care of yard debris and



Dangerous Debris: High winds are expected, the City requests that all Residents secure lightweight outdoor items, like lawn furniture, yard signs, and garbage cans. Any unsecured items have the potential to cause damage to your property or your neighbors' property.

Yard debris should already have been picked or secured. Be aware that falling limbs can cause severe injury or death.

Steer Clear of Flooded Roads: There is potential for Ian to produce significant rainfall throughout Duval County and Northeast Florida, and a storm surge warning, has been issued for our area in addition to a Hurricane Watch.

Beach and Oceanfront: Currently, dangerous surf conditions exist at the beach, stay out of the water. Resources may not be available to help if you get into trouble while in the water. Please do not swim, surf, or otherwise enter the water on any boat or any other vessel until further notice. Please stay at home, don't visit the beaches and create unnecessary road traffic, and/or risk to public safety officials. **DOUBLE RED FLAGS – WATER IS CLOSED, It is unlawful to enter the water when the water is closed.** This closure is meant for the safety of bathers and beachgoers as well as for the safety of first responders.

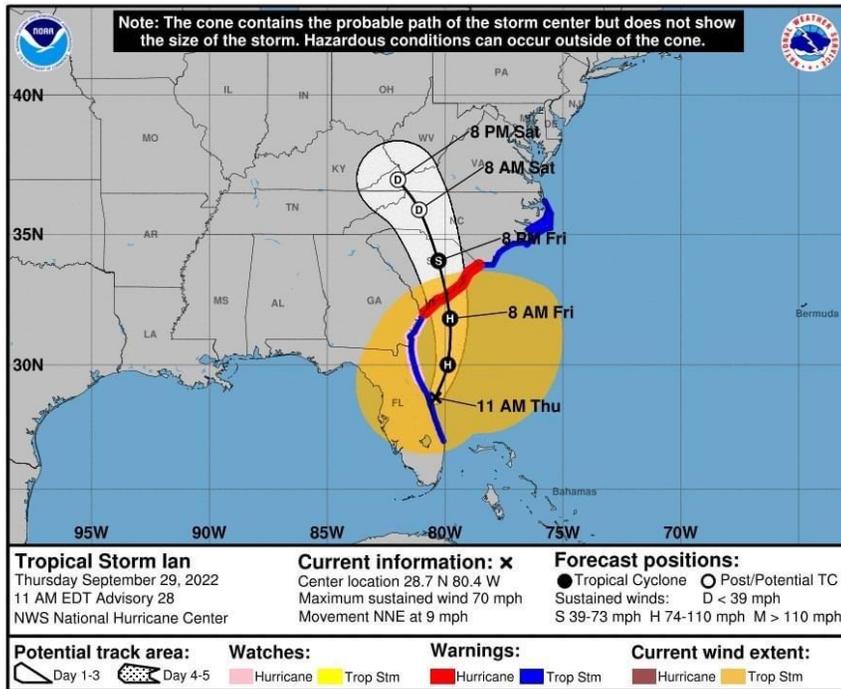
In case of an emergency call 911.



Bridges: Please consider when making plans that if bridges close, you will not be able to return home until they reopen. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) works closely with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Florida Highway Patrol to monitor wind conditions at area bridges. If winds exceed specified levels, FDOT will work with all law enforcement to close affected bridges. Any bridge closure will be communicated via: <https://www.ci.neptune-beach.fl.us/>, local media channels, social media, the JaxReady mobile app, and AlertNeptune.

If the Kings Road Bridge floods, the "back gate" through Jacksonville Beach is open (Seagate/Lakeside Gate).

As of the briefing at 10AM, Florida Highway Patrol reports that bridges are open and that interstates are being monitored. Again, if bridges close then you may not be able to return home until they reopen.



Details of the Storm: As of 11AM, Hurricane Ian weakened significantly as it exited the state on the Atlantic side at Cape Canaveral. NWS advises its important to not let your guard down as Wind at the Beaches is expected to be close to Nor'Easter conditions. Sustained winds of 18-24 MPH with gusts between up to 65MPH are expected.

Potential Storm Surge for the Intracoastal, Saint Johns River and Atlantic Coast is between 3-5ft. Surge will increase if Ian emerges South of the City into the Atlantic and travels North along the Atlantic Coast. Storm Surge is expected as early as Wednesday evening, peaking Thursday Night and Friday morning.

Rainfall expectations have been downgraded to 3-6" for the rest of Thursday into this evening.

This will significantly lower estimated tidal flooding impacts. It is expected that there will be some overwash through beach access possible and moderate tidal flooding, comparable to Irma in the intracoastal waterway. Some dune erosion is expected.

Ian is expected to gain strength while over the Atlantic, but will pass at its closest point approximately 70 miles offshore at approximately 2-4AM tomorrow morning.

Flooding Impact: Moderate tidal flooding is expected, likely approaching the worst Thursday evening during hightide. Major flooding due to high tide, heavy rainfall and storm surge expected along the St. Johns River basin. If Residents flooded during Irma, it is expected that they will flood again, and now is the time to take precautions.

Avoid walking through deep or rushing water. If you need assistance crossing deep or moving water, please call the NBPD non-emergency number: (904) 270-2413, or 911 if an emergency.

Garbage Collection: County landfills are closed, and garbage collection has been suspended. Please secure all garbage cans and recycling bins inside or tie them down. Further information will be available about operations resuming later this week.

City Services: To give City Hall staff time to prepare for the incoming weather at their own homes, City Hall will be closed beginning at Noon on Wednesday, all-day Thursday and Friday and is expected to reopen on Monday. The Police Department and Public Works will operate as usual until it is unsafe for staff and officers to be outside. At this time, it is believed that emergency operations will continue through the duration of the storm.



Evacuation: There aren't evacuations ordered at this time, but it is always prudent to know your evacuation route.

Shelters: Duval County Public Schools have activated shelters. Currently Residents may go to an emergency shelter at Legends Center: 51303 Soutel Dr. Jacksonville, Fl. 32208, LaVilla Middle School: 501 N. Davis St. Jacksonville, Fl. 32202, Landmark Middle School: 101 Kernan Blvd. N. Jacksonville, Fl. 32225 and Atlantic Coast High School: 9735 R G Skinner Pkwy. Jacksonville, FL. 32256, beginning at 5PM today.

Declaration of Emergency: The City Council declared a state of emergency, September 27, 2022 at 3:30 PM.

As more information becomes available, the City will notify Residents through AlertNeptune and social media.

***Submitted by City Manager Stefen Wynn at 1:30PM, September 29, 2022*