



Sarasota County Communications

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Sarasota County Emergency Services monitoring Tropical Storm

Ida

Sarasota County Emergency Management is currently monitoring Tropical Storm Ida in the Gulf of Mexico. The anticipated landfall for Ida has shifted away from the West Coast of Florida, though some weather impacts associated with the storm system could occur in our area. Current projections indicate that Ida could make landfall somewhere along the Gulf Coast between Louisiana and the Florida panhandle early Tuesday morning.

Ida is anticipated to merge with a cold front, as well as wind shear and cooler water temperatures, causing it to weaken significantly prior to landfall. Although, the storm's center is projected to pass west of the gulf coast, residents are encouraged to be prepared for high winds, high surf, moderate rainfall, potential street flooding, flooding in low-lying areas, increased potential for rip currents and beach erosion.

Tropical Storm Ida continues to be a transitioning storm system whose intensity and track could change. Residents and visitors are encouraged to monitor your local weather media for up-to-date information regarding further development of this storm system.

The late season emergence of Ida serves as a reminder that the 2009 Hurricane Season is not over. While no evacuations are predicted for Ida, citizens are encouraged to make sure their disaster plan is in place with pre-determined evacuation routes and destinations. In addition, inventory your disaster supplies to be sure you have enough and that they are not out of date, check the batteries in all weather radios and don't forget to include your pets in your disaster planning.

The Sarasota County Web site, www.scgov.net, contains links to the National Tropical Storm Center, the Sarasota County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the National Weather Service. These sites contain helpful information on planning for disasters including information on strengthening your home or business against Tropical Storm damage, and convenient disaster planning checklists.

If you are not registered as a Person with Special Needs, (PSN) and would need special assistance in the event of a Tropical Storm evacuation, please contact Sarasota County Emergency Management at 861-5000 to learn how to register.

For any further information, please contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000. Residents can also follow the EOC at www.twitter.com/scgoveoc for emergency updates.