

Hurricane Irma live updates: Storm batters Georgia and South Carolina

SEPT. 11, 2017, 1:09 P.M.

Storm surges are jeopardizing cities along Florida's Gulf and Atlantic coasts, and the National Hurricane Center says Irma is still producing some hurricane-force wind gusts after spinning off tornadoes in the state's central core. The eye is now headed for Georgia.

- Irma has been downgraded to a tropical storm, but the danger lingers for Florida's Gulf and Atlantic coasts
- The storm took a parting swipe at north Florida this morning before it started battering Georgia and South Carolina
- More than 155,000 people in Florida are still in shelters; more than 6 million Floridians lack power
- Irma has devastated several Caribbean islands
-

SEPT. 11, 2017, 1:09 P.M.
REPORTING FROM ORLANDO, FLA.

Irma death toll rises by two after an electrocution in Florida and a fatality in Georgia

John Cherwa



Downed power lines can be deadly and cause electrocution if encountered in water or on land. (Ricardo Ramirez Buxeda/Orlando Sentinel)

The death toll in Florida from Hurricane Irma grew by one Monday afternoon when a 51-year-old man in Winter Park, a suburb of Orlando, was found dead in the street because of electrocution.

Officials in Georgia also confirmed a storm-related death, bringing the U.S. toll to at least seven, to go along with the 37 reported fatalities in the Caribbean.

Such tolls are difficult to determine because it is sometimes impossible to tell if a death was the direct result of a storm or something else.

At least four people died as a result of traffic accidents on Florida roads soaked by Irma.

A sheriff's deputy and a corrections officer were killed in a two-car crash in Hardee County, south of Tampa, on Sunday morning.

A woman was killed in a car accident in Orange County when she struck a guard rail on Sunday.

And a man in Monroe County, near the Florida Keys, lost control of his truck, possibly because of high winds, and died.

In Miami-Dade County, a man died of carbon monoxide poisoning due to his use of a generator. This can happen if generators are used inside without proper ventilation.

Another storm-related fatality may have occurred in Shark Key, where a man was found dead in his home. But it's not clear whether the death was related to first responders not being able to assist the man.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency confirmed the storm-related death in Worth County, about 170 miles south of Atlanta, but provided no further details.

Full CoverageGeorgia

SEPT. 11, 2017, 12:41 P.M.

Tropical Storm Irma brings extensive flooding to Georgia coast



Joey Spalding walks back to his truck on Tybee Island, Ga. (Stephen B. Morton / Associated Press)

Communities along the Georgia coast are seeing extensive flooding from Tropical Storm Irma.

Irma's storm surge pushed water ashore at the high tide Monday afternoon, and heavy rainfall made the flooding even worse.

On Tybee Island, east of Savannah, Hollard Zellers saw waist-deep water in the street as he went to fetch a kayak.

About 3,000 people live on Tybee Island, which is Georgia's largest public beach. The city manager, Shawn Gillen, said the waters seemed to be receding quickly, but most of

the island appeared to have some level of flooding, and there was water in many homes.

Storm surge also sent floodwaters into downtown St. Marys, just north of the Georgia-Florida line. St. Marys Police Lt. Shannon Brock said piers and boat docks were heavily damaged, and many boats sank.
Full CoverageThe Keys

SEPT. 11, 2017, 12:23 P.M.
FLORIDA CITY, FLA.

Frustrated Florida Keys residents wait for permission to return to evacuated homes

Patrick J. McDonnell



Warren Stincer waits at a checkpoint along Route 1, the only road going in and out of the Florida Keys on Monday. (Marcus Yam / Los Angeles Times)

There is no gas at the RaceTrac gas station along Route 1 here, and the mini-market is shut down. The site is like a lot of other anonymous roadway establishments, featuring some palm trees, shrubbery and patches of grass across the road from a flooded thicket.

But the unremarkable petrol stop has become a terminus for stranded residents seeking to go back to their homes in the Florida Keys, as well as for dozens of journalists keen to survey the damage there in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

Florida authorities on Monday were stopping all southbound traffic here, a 20-minute drive or so from Key Largo. There is no other roadway south.

Frustration was mounting among those who want to go back home after obeying a mandatory evacuation order declared as Irma headed for Florida.

A dozen or so inhabitants of the Keys waited at the gas station, below a sweltering Florida sun, a day after the powerful storm moved on. Joining them were a half dozen or so TV satellite trucks and other media vehicles.

“I’ve got a house full of food and water waiting for me back home, but they won’t let me through,” said Warren Stincer, a boat captain and carpenter from Key Largo who evacuated his home last week.

“I’m sorry I ever agreed to evacuate. Now I’m stuck here with no food and no water. My home is just 20 minutes down the road and I know the road is clear. I’m very disappointed with our officials.”

He had heard that his home wasn’t damaged in the storm.

“My house is fine, my boat is fine, the road is fine — everything’s OK,” said Stincer.

“They just won’t let me back in.”

Joe Sanchez, spokesman for the Florida Highway Patrol, told reporters gathered here that the road would remain closed to all but emergency crews until authorities determined that it was safe.

Units of the Florida National Guard and other agencies have been dispatched to the Keys for the cleanup. Pickups ferrying bulldozers and other heavy equipment were being allowed through the police checkpoint.

“It’s a question of safety,” said Sanchez, addressing a gaggle of disappointed journalists. “There is debris in the roads. There is flooding. It’s just not safe yet.”

That was no consolation for Stincer and other residents of the Keys, including Odalis Padron, who was waiting on a grassy knoll at the edge of the gas station with her pet poodle, Taini. A tree and a rain umbrella provided some shade from the sweltering sun.

“People tell me the road is good, I don’t know why they won’t let us in,” said Padron, of Key West, expressing the general sense of frustration. “All we want to do is go home.”
Full CoverageThe Keys

SEPT. 11, 2017, 11:17 A.M.
REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON

More than 10,000 U.S. service members are supporting relief efforts in Florida region

W.J. Hennigan



The U.S. aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln in 2012, (U.S. Navy)

About 10,400 U.S. service members are supporting relief operations in the Florida region. The U.S. military says it has coordinated the evacuation of 1,904 people since Friday.

The Air Force is pre-positioning search and rescue units in Florida in Key West, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Patrick Air Force Base and Orlando to support state, local and national authorities.

The Air Force flew in about 300 doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals over the weekend to help issue relief aid.

The aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln arrived off Florida's east coast on Sunday night with 24 helicopters, and was prepared for operations in southern Florida and the Florida Keys on Monday morning. The amphibious assault ship Iwo Jima and amphibious transport dock ship New York also arrived.
Full CoverageOrlando

SEPT. 11, 2017, 10:55 A.M.
REPORTING FROM ORLANDO, FL

Central Florida starts its cleanup after Hurricane Irma

John Cherwa



Downed trees were a common sight through much of central Florida. (John Armstrong/Orlando Sentinel)

The morning after Hurricane Irma rumbled through central Florida with howling winds and torrential rain, the region was working to clean up damage that mostly amounted to downed trees and power lines and some flooding.

There was hardly a neighborhood in this vast tourist corridor that did not have upended trees and no power. More than half a million people were without power.

Winds blowing at 30 to 40 mph were hampering the cleanup effort, although in many neighborhoods people were out with rakes and power saws.

"I'm so proud of the people of Orlando for taking Irma seriously," the city's mayor, Buddy Dyer, said at a news briefing. "This morning I was out in many of the neighborhoods in our city and was pleased to see neighbors out helping other neighbors clean up yard debris and clear trees from yards."

Overall the damage was much less than it could have been. There were one reported storm-related death, a traffic fatality on a toll road on Sunday.

Seminole County, a collar county around Orlando, lifted its curfew at 11 a.m. Orange County still has a curfew in effect until 6 p.m.

The major theme parks of Disney World, Universal and SeaWorld are all going to try to open on Tuesday. SeaWorld reported that all its animals and personnel were safe.

Stormwaters flooded a neighborhood of 24 homes south of Pine Hills. But the National Guard, in some cases using boats because the water was too deep for their vehicles, rescued all the residents without any reported injuries. The waters were as deep as three feet, but have already started to recede, and residents are expected to return to their homes Monday to assess damage.

Other areas of low-lying Orange County also reported flooding, although no injuries were reported. Some parts of central Florida had as much as 10 inches of rain.

A large sinkhole was reported in east Orlando and a few small ones have also occurred, making some roads difficult to drive.

Many lift stations in Seminole County were damaged, and residents were asked to limit their use of showers, laundry and flushing toilets until the stations were fixed.

Full Coverage

SEPT. 11, 2017, 10:22 A.M.
REPORTING FROM BONITA SPRINGS, FL

In Bonita Springs, waist-deep polluted water flows through houses hit by

Hurricane Irma

Evan Halper



(Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times)

Some of the Floridians hardest hit by Irma live in a modest residential neighborhood near the river in Bonita Springs, where waist-deep polluted water flows through their houses.

But that isn't keeping some of them from staying put. As a members of a rescue team cruise the flooded streets in a motorized raft, they say they are finding residents trapped in their homes who have no interest in leaving. The residents were determined to see the hurricane through in their homes, and now they are determined to stay in them until they are fully habitable again.

Some found their way onto plastic boats. Others pushed away debris such as nearly fully submerged garbage cans bobbing along the streets.

It could be a week before the massive pond of sewage-tainted storm water engulfing their properties recedes.

"They are happy stuck in their houses. They are saying, 'We have enough food and water, we are going to be fine,'" said Lt. Manny Hernandez of the Bonita Springs Fire Control & Rescue District.

The rescuers have been knocking on every door in the neighborhood as they float by. Some residents take up the offer and leave their homes, but others say, no, thank you.

Hernandez said he figured there were about a dozen people in homes inundated with waste-deep water. How many of them called for a rescue once the storm passed? Zero, he said.

The neighborhood is a wreck right now, and there are others like it nearby. Yet locals are surprised to see how few communities look that way. Forecasters predicted many, many more homes would be destroyed.

Even right across the beach in downtown Naples, where devastation was forecast, tony beach homes endured the storm with just a few scrapes and no serious water damage.

"The damage hasn't been as bad as I expected," said Hernandez as he waited for the rescue raft to get back from its rounds.

Fort Myers

SEPT. 11, 2017, 9:21 A.M.
REPORTING FROM NAPLES

There's still flooding in Naples. But the birds are drying their feathers

Carolyn Cole



In #Naples, FL birds dry their feathers on felled trees after #Irma Hurricane. Damage on the island was not as bad as anticipated. 9:40 AM - Sep 11, 2017



In #Naples, FL, John Jenkins, age,52, survived a direct hit of #Irma Hurricane in the new home he built. 9:14 AM - Sep 11, 2017



In #Aqualane Shores #Naples, surge water is about one foot deep from #Irma Hurricane. 10:58 AM - Sep 11, 2017

Orlando

SEPT. 11, 2017, 9:09 A.M.
REPORTING FROM ORLANDO, FLA.

**Disney World may not reopen until Tuesday as Hurricane Irma damage
assessment continues**

Dewayne Bevil and
Paul Brinkmann



Disney World and other Florida theme parks are closing as Hurricane Irma approaches the state 11:21 PM - Sep 9, 2017

Even though Hurricane Irma has passed through central Florida, Orlando's theme parks — including all four at Walt Disney World — may not reopen until Tuesday.

All major attractions were closed Sunday and Monday as the storm worked its way up the length of the state.

Tropical-storm-force winds are expected to linger well into the afternoon, and Orlando is under a curfew until 6 p.m. Monday.

"We are beginning an initial assessment of our property," a Disney World spokeswoman said Monday morning. "While we experienced high winds and rain, we maintained power throughout the storm."

Disney decided on Friday it would close Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney's Hollywood Studios and Disney's Animal Kingdom parks for two days. Its Disney Springs shopping and entertainment complex is also closed. The company's hotels stayed open to guests.

Disney closures are rare. This one is the fifth since the Florida resort opened in 1971.

SEPT. 11, 2017, 10:36 A.M.

REPORTING FROM FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

Hurricane Irma cuts power to more than 7 million homes and businesses



Flooding on San Marco Island, Fla. (Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times)

Nearly 7.2 million homes and businesses are without power in multiple states as Tropical Storm Irma moves through the Southeast.

The vast majority are in Florida. The state's emergency management officials said the storm had cut power to more than 6.5 million account holders across the state as of Monday afternoon.

Eric Silagy, chief executive of Florida Power & Light, said Irma caused the most widespread damage in the company's history. It affected all 35 counties in the utility's territory, which is most of the state's Atlantic coast and the Gulf coast south of Tampa.

The most extensive damage was likely in the Naples area, but a full assessment was ongoing. He said 19,500 electric workers have been deployed in the restoration effort.

Still, he said, it will take days for many people to be restored and, in some cases where the damage was extensive, weeks.

Meanwhile, Duke Energy reported Monday morning that more than 860,000 of the homes and businesses it serves in Florida were without power.

Georgia reported more than 570,000 homes and businesses without electricity, and there were 80,000 in South Carolina.

This post has been updated with more than 7 million homes and businesses without power in multiple states

SEPT. 11, 2017, 8:07 A.M.

REPORTING FROM NAPLES, FLA.

In a Naples mobile home park, neighbors count their blessings

Evan Halper



Terry Thompson, 65, near his home in Riverwood Estates in Naples, Fla. (Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times)

Terry Thompson moved into his home in the Riverwood Estates Mobile Home Park in Naples two weeks ago. Remarkably, it was still there on Monday.

"There's a lot of cleanup," the 65-year-old Air Force veteran said as he assessed the situation around his home. Though it was intact, his neighbor's carport had flown off and smacked into his wife's car. Siding had blown off the house. Water still covered many of the streets. Debris was everywhere.

Thompson said he rode out the storm with his dog in the mobile home.

"It was wild. ... The house was lifting and moving and shifting. All sorts of things were going on," he said.

John Jenkins, 52, also lives in a brand new mobile home in Riverwood Estates. The street in front of the house was still underwater Monday morning, but his house was standing and mostly intact — which couldn't be said for all his neighbors' homes.

During the storm, he said, he went out twice and had to take aluminum sheets that were prying loose from his neighbor's carport and get them out of the path of his house.

"It was quite interesting," he said. "Their carport was peeling apart and coming at our house. ... I was worried about all the debris."

A friend drove by and Jenkins reached in the driver's side window and gave him a hug. "I love you," he said. He asked if the friend was OK. The friend reported that his house was fine.

The stakes were particularly high for Jenkins, who couldn't get the bank to fund a loan for his home. "I put everything I got in the world into [buying] it," he said.
Fort MyersMiamiSt. PetersburgTampa

SEPT. 11, 2017, 7:52 A.M.
MARCO ISLAND, FLA.

Irma heads to Georgia after some in Florida say they dodged a catastrophe

Evan Halper and
Laura King



Sue Przybylski stands in shallow water near her home in Naples, Fla. (Carolyn Cole/Los Angeles Times)

Florida awakened to a debris-pocked panorama, with millions lacking electricity in steamy heat as Irma — now downgraded to a tropical storm — took a parting swipe at a band of north Florida and aimed for Georgia.

As the storm passed, the danger lingered: Storm surges jeopardized cities along Florida's Gulf and Atlantic coasts, and the National Hurricane Center said Irma was still producing some hurricane-force wind gusts after spinning off tornadoes in the state's central core.

Although the storm's raging winds and punishing rains lent it an apocalyptic feel as it unfolded, initial damage assessments appeared significant and widespread, but short of catastrophic.

By 8 a.m. Monday, the storm, still remarkably wide in its radius, had moved about 105 miles north of Tampa, which along with St. Petersburg was spared a direct hit the night before, with the storm passing to their east through inland counties.

READ MORE

SEPT. 11, 2017, 5:26 A.M.

REPORTING FROM TAMPA, FLA.

Irma weakens to a tropical storm, but winds remain near hurricane force

Associated Press



(Associated Press)

A weakened but still dangerous Irma pushed inland Monday as it hammered Florida with winds and floodwaters that created hazards even for rescuers trying to help beleaguered residents.

Irma was downgraded to a tropical storm over Florida, but it still had winds near hurricane force. Its outer bands were also blowing into Georgia, where the storm's center was expected to arrive later in the day. With rough conditions persisting across Florida, many communities in Irma's wake feared what destruction would be revealed when daylight came.

Winds knocked a utility pole and power lines onto a sheriff's cruiser late Sunday in Polk County east of Tampa, illustrating the dangerous conditions for emergency personnel. A deputy and a paramedic, who had just escorted an elderly patient to safety, were trapped for two hours until a crew could free them. Both were unhurt.

More than 120 homes were being evacuated early Monday in Orange County, just outside the city of Orlando, as floodwaters started to pour in. Firefighters and the National Guard were going door to door and using boats to ferry families to safety. A few miles away, 30 others had to be evacuated when a 60-foot sinkhole opened up under an apartment building. No injuries were reported in either case.

In Redington Shores west of Tampa, attorney Carl Roberts spent a sleepless night riding out Irma in his 17th floor beachfront condo. After losing power late Sunday, he made it through the worst of the storm shaken but unhurt.

"The hurricane winds lashed the shutters violently, throughout the night," he wrote in a text message, "making sleep impossible."

As morning broke, he couldn't open the electric shutters to see outside.

"It's so dark in here," he said.

Nearly 4.5 million homes and businesses across Florida lost power, and utility officials said it will take weeks to restore electricity to everyone. More than 100,000 were in the dark in Georgia.

Irma's center was about 105 miles north of Tampa when forecasters announced it had weakened to a tropical storm. However, they warned its maximum sustained winds were 70 mph and that the storm was still producing higher gusts.

The monster storm, which arrived in Florida as a Category 4 hurricane, has toppled at least three construction cranes — two over downtown Miami and one in Fort Lauderdale.

People in the heavily populated Tampa-St. Petersburg area had feared a first direct hit from a major hurricane since 1921, but the storm weakened to a Category 2 as it approached that area.

Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn said the situation was not as bad as it could have been, but warned residents that a dangerous storm surge continued. He also described downed power lines and other debris.

"What we feared the most was the surge," he said in an interview on MSNBC. "The surge is yet to be finished."

Meanwhile, rescue efforts ramped up in the evacuated neighborhood near Orlando as National Guardsmen in helmets and fatigues rolled through standing water in a high-clearance vehicle. Firefighters rescued a puppy from one of the homes there and leashed the anxious dog to the front of one of their trucks to give it water and snacks.

As the sun rose in Orlando, many tried to survey the damage, but authorities warned that conditions remain dangerous and asked people not to venture outside because of a curfew.

No deaths in Florida were immediately linked to the storm. In the Caribbean, at least 24 were people were killed during Irma's destructive trek across exclusive islands known as the vacation playground for the rich.

In one of the largest U.S. evacuations, nearly 7 million people in the Southeast were warned to seek shelter, including 6.4 million in Florida alone. More than 200,000 people waited in shelters across Florida.

Next, Irma is expected to push into Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and beyond. A tropical storm warning was issued for the first time ever in Atlanta, where many schools canceled classes.

Bryan Koon, Florida's emergency management director, said late Sunday that authorities had only scattered information about damage.

"I've not heard of catastrophic damage. It doesn't mean it doesn't exist. It means it hasn't gotten to us yet," Koon said.

In the low-lying Keys, appliances and furniture were seen floating away, and Monroe County spokeswoman Cammy Clark said the ocean waters were filled with navigation hazards, including sunken boats.

The county administrator, Roman Gastesi, said crews would begin house-to-house searches Monday morning to check on survivors.

About 30,000 people heeded orders to leave the Keys as the storm closed in, but an untold number refused, in part because, to many storm-hardened residents, staying behind in the face of danger is a point of pride.

John Huston, who stayed in his Key Largo home, watched his yard flood even before the arrival of high tide.

"Small boats floating down the street next to furniture and refrigerators. Very noisy," he said by text message. "Shingles are coming off."

Irma once was the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the open Atlantic, a Category 5 with a peak wind speed of 185 mph. For days, forecasters had warned Irma was taking dead aim at Florida. Irma made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane Sunday morning at Cudjoe Key, not far from Key West. It then rounded Florida's southwestern corner and hugged the coast closely as it pushed north.
SEPT. 11, 2017, 4:28 A.M.
REPORTING FROM TAMPA, FLA.

Nearly 4.5 million without power in Florida



Hurricane Irma evacuees use flashlights at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Estero, Fla. (Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times)

Nearly 4.5 million homes and businesses across Florida have lost power as Hurricane Irma moves over the state.

Utility officials say it will take weeks to restore electricity to everyone. Farther north, more than 100,000 are in the dark in Georgia.

Much of eastern Alabama and coastal South Carolina are under tropical storm warnings as Irma pummels Florida, weakening on its march northward.

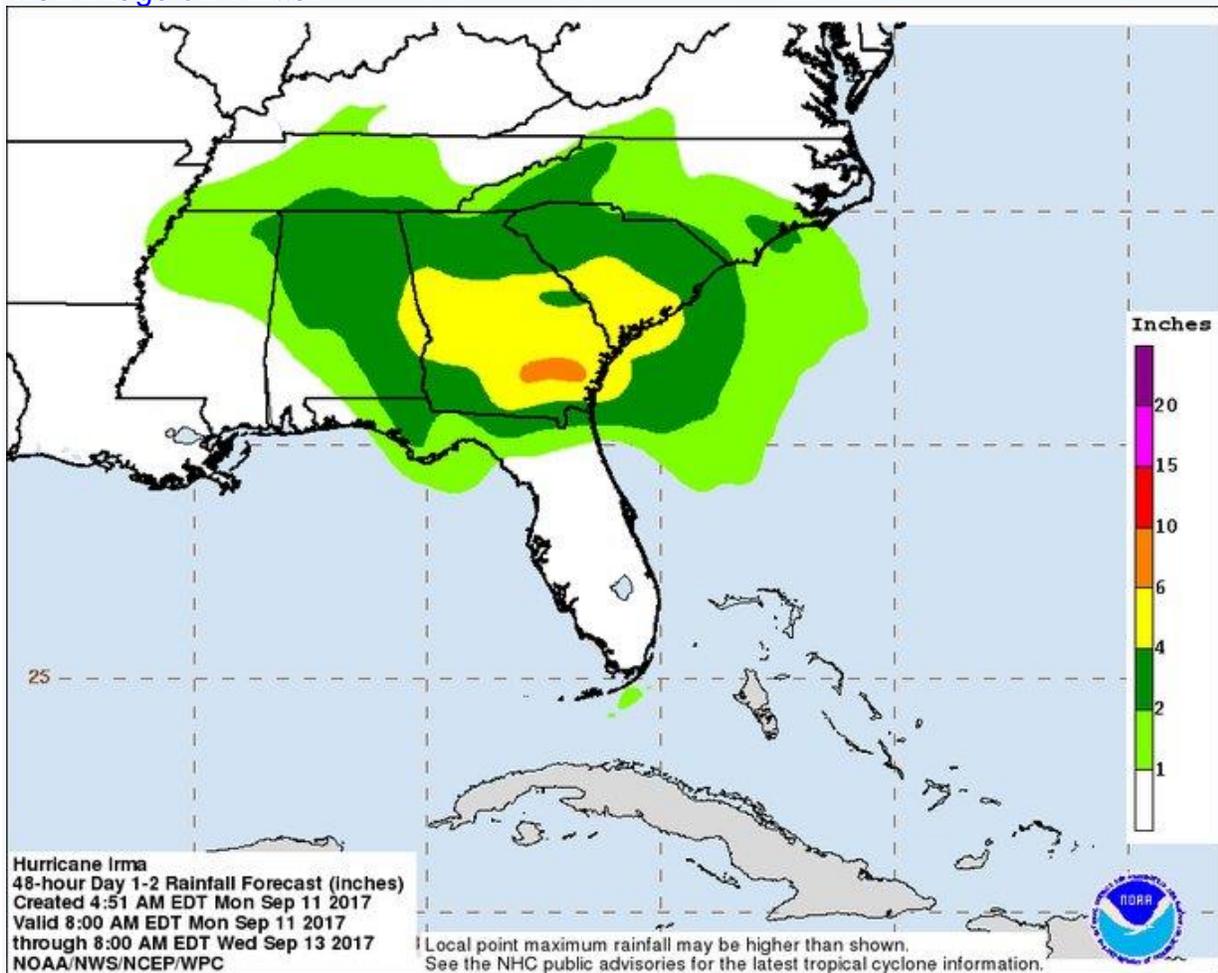
The National Hurricane Center predicts the storm will cross Monday into southwest Georgia, where a hurricane warning was in effect for a large rural area including the cities of Albany and Valdosta.

Rain was falling in parts of the state, including metro Atlanta, early Monday.
SEPT. 11, 2017, 2:42 A.M.

Irma's winds slightly weaken as the storm moves further north

Brian de los Santos

[View image on Twitter](#)





NHC Atlantic Ops

Here is the latest rainfall forecast graphic for #Irma from @NWSWPC
5:29 AM - Sep 11, 2017

Hurricane Irma's maximum sustained winds slightly dropped to 75 mph as it made its way across central Florida and headed north early Monday, the National Hurricane Center said.

The storm weakened to Category 1 late Sunday — its maximum sustained winds were at 85 mph then. The National Hurricane Center said it expects the storm to weaken to a tropical depression by Tuesday afternoon.

Storm surge warnings remained in effect for parts of the coasts of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.
SEPT. 10, 2017, 11:18 P.M.
ORLANDO, FLA.

Irma weakens to Category 1 storm as it pushes north of Tampa

John Cherwa



Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irma wind forecasts (National Hurricane Center)

Irma has weakened to a Category 1 storm as it continues to push north through central Florida, the National Hurricane Center said.

The eye of the storm is now 25 miles northeast of Tampa, and its maximum sustained winds have slowed to 85 mph. The hurricane was expected to decrease to a tropical storm later Monday.

Still, hurricane-force winds were extending 80 miles from the storm center, and tropical storm-force winds up to 415 miles from the eye.

Wind gusts of hurricane force have recently been reported at Orlando International Airport, the hurricane center said.

The storm has ravaged through Florida since early Sunday, ripping roofs from homes, flooding neighborhoods and cutting power to thousands of homes.

SEPT. 10, 2017, 9:23 P.M.

REPORTING FROM ORLANDO, FL

Hurricane Irma aims its fury at central Florida, moving east of Tampa Bay



Wind and rain have pelted central Florida since mid-afternoon. (Ricardo Ramirez Buxeda/Orlando Sentinel)

Hurricane Irma, after making an unexpected turn to the north-northeast, continued its march up the state Sunday night, this time heading for central Florida. The eye of the

storm is about 50 miles east of Tampa Bay, and it is expected to cross over the greater Orlando area between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m.

The 11 p.m. National Hurricane Center advisory has the storm heading north before turning slightly back toward the northwest once it crosses through the west Orlando area. Some models have the storm crossing the line between Lake and Orange counties, slightly west of Orlando, before its expected turn back through Marion County and the city of Ocala.

But one thing that has become clear about Irma in the last few days is that it doesn't always do what it is expected to do.

The sudden turn spared Tampa a greater impact but put the tourist corridor in Orlando directly in the storm's crosshairs. From a practical standpoint, the more time the storm stays over land, the quicker it will weaken. And Orlando, 35 miles inland, does not face threats from storm surge.

Wind gusts are expected to be in the 80 to 100 mph range. Minimal hurricane force wind gusts of 75 mph have already been reported at Orlando International Airport earlier Sunday.

Central Florida was beset by tornados earlier in the day. Twisters damaged 18 mobile homes in Brevard County, home of the space program, without any injuries. A motorist in Orange County was killed when her car hit a guard rail.

Already 5 to 6 inches of rain have fallen, more in some areas. The storm has toppled trees and caused massive power outages throughout the area. Flash flood warnings have been issued in low-lying areas.

As the storm approaches, the risk of tornados grows less as even those severe wind funnels can't survive in the high winds of a hurricane.

UPDATE 9:23 p.m.: The post was updated with Irma's latest location.
SEPT. 10, 2017, 7:27 P.M.

Stranded by Irma, manatees get rescued by bystanders and deputies

Matt Pearce



Great job today by Deputies Mizner and Hart as they helped rescue two Manatees that were stranded in receding water. 6:42 PM - Sep 10, 2017
Twitter Ads info and privacy

As coastal Florida residents discovered Sunday, one of the strangest side effects of Hurricane Irma was the way the storm drained seawaters away from shorelines, leaving huge mud flats behind where water used to be.

That wasn't the only unusual discovery.

In the partially drained Sarasota Bay, south of Tampa, residents spotted a pair of brown lumps out in the muddy flats.

They were manatees, the peaceful, lumbering aquatic mammals that frequent Florida's waters. They had gotten caught out of the water because of the storm.

"We had to do something about it," Tony Faradini-Campos of Sarasota told the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. "We couldn't just let those manatees die out there. We shared the pictures on social media and it just blew up."

Two sheriff's deputies from Manatee County -- yes, that's right -- came to help.

"They put some tarps under the manatees and they kind of used that as a luge and got him back out there," Faradini-Campos told the newspaper. "I was a little scared that the tide was going to come in. We were advised just to get out of the bay for our safety" before the storm waters came rushing back in.

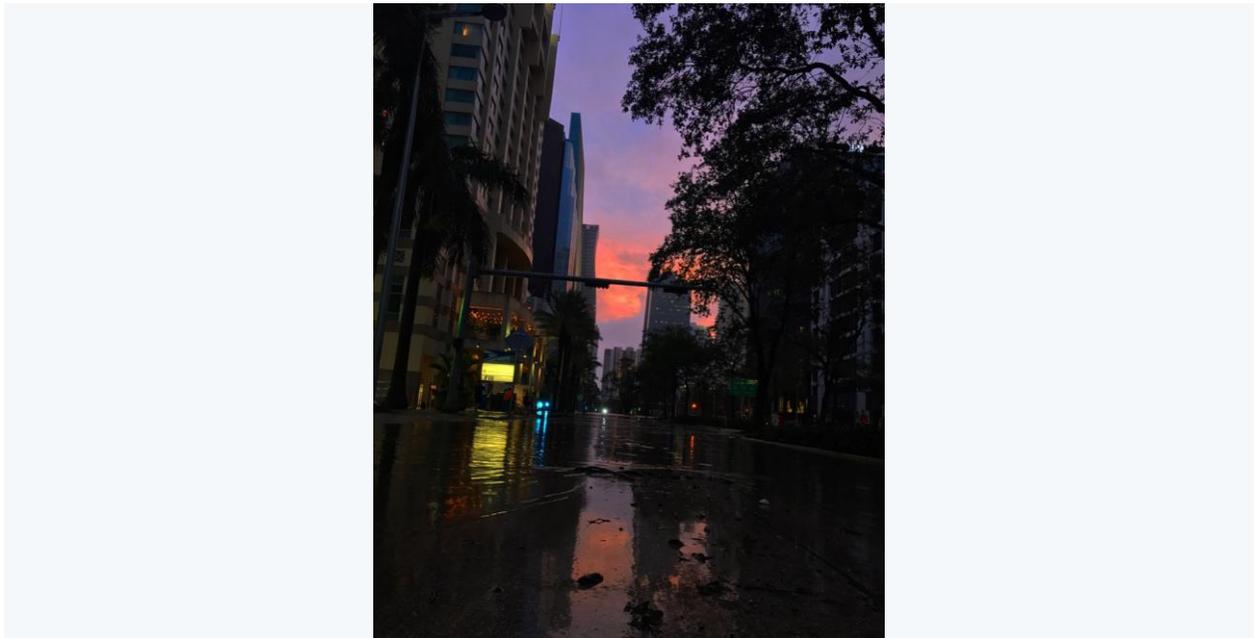
Faradini-Campos wrote on Facebook that the manatees were successfully moved to deeper water.

Manatees are aquatic mammals and breathe air. Adult manatees can weigh 1,000 to 3,500 pounds.

Manatees are protected under federal and Florida law, which states that "it is unlawful for any person, at any time, intentionally or negligently, to annoy, molest, harass or disturb any manatee." They were recently downgraded from "endangered" to "threatened" species status.

SEPT. 10, 2017, 6:04 P.M. MIAMI

As evening falls, Miami residents start to peek outside



Hurricane #irma leaves behind flooding and a colorful sunset #brickell #miami
7:43 PM, Sep 10, 2017
[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

As night fell Sunday on Miami, the winds, while still fierce, had diminished to the point where it was possible to stand outside without tumbling over.

The rain that had fallen in horizontal sheets since the pre-dawn hours had ceased. Some vehicles were seen traversing streets littered with branches, pieces of road signs and other detritus from the storm. Branches and other debris still flew in the air.

A few people ventured outside, some with dogs seemingly relieved to be in the fresh air after being cooped inside for so long. The sky was clearing and lights were on in many of the downtown towers, an indication perhaps that progress was being made in restoring power to the many left in the dark as Irma plowed through the state.

With most street lights and intersection signals out, drivers ignored red lights, sometimes using common sense, sometimes not.

A block from the Biscayne Boulevard waterfront, the wealthier of downtown residents were walking their well-groomed dogs and taking pictures of debris.



Miami residents gather under an overpass to shield from the continuing wind. (Les Neuhaus/Los Angeles Times)

A dozen blocks east of there, groups of homeless people were huddled under bridges and highways. Some parked cars had windows blown out.

The wind still howled, but nothing like the thunderous roar that had shaken the city since the pre-dawn hours.

UPDATE 6:33 p.m.: The post was updated with additional scenes from Miami.
Miami

SEPT. 10, 2017, 5:39 P.M.
MIAMI

Video: Miami's crowded Brickell neighborhood spent part of the day as a river
Marcus Yam



Flooding in Brickell in Miami. Irma 4:32 PM - Sep 10, 2017 · Miami, FL

Fort Myers

SEPT. 10, 2017, 5:28 P.M. ESTERO, FLA.

When a hurricane takes out the power, light becomes too precious not to share

Carolyn Cole



Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times

Electricity has gone out in #Estero, #Florida as the second half of the eye of #Irma Hurricane is passing. 8:00 PM - Sep 10, 2017