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Subject: Gov. Scott: With Updated Storm Track, Florida's West Coast Must be Prepared to Shelter



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Gov. Scott: With Updated Storm Track, Florida's West Coast Must be Prepared to Shelter

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott issued the following statement to urge Floridians in evacuation zones along coastal counties on the state's West Coast (from Manatee to Collier) to be prepared to locate to the closest available shelter within their counties if they do not evacuate by noon tomorrow. This includes evacuation zones in Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, and Collier. While the exact track of Hurricane Irma is still not known, recent reports have moved the potential track farther west and evacuation orders are being issued up the west coast of Florida.

Governor Scott said, "As we know, the direction of storms like Hurricane Irma can change in an instant, and the latest forecast track has put the storm heading directly up Florida's west coast. This storm is life-threatening and an imminent threat to our state. Not following evacuation orders could cost you your life. Evacuations are in place along the coast from Manatee County to Collier County and everyone must listen to their local officials and get out now. If you do not leave by noon tomorrow, you need to be prepared to get to the closest available shelter. Do not stay on the road- find the closest available shelter to your home and go there immediately. After noon tomorrow, it will not be safe for anyone in these coastal counties along the west coast to travel and it will not be safe for the law enforcement officers who will need to rescue you.

"Also, as I said earlier today, if you live in an evacuation zone in Palm Beach, Broward, or Miami-Dade, you need to leave before midnight tonight. If you are in the Florida Keys, get out right now. The Division of Emergency Management is working with counties nonstop to open more shelters, and shelters are available in every county except Monroe. I cannot be more clear- this storm is unlike anything our state has seen and Floridians must take action to stay safe. Do not risk your life or the life of your loved ones."

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