



**THE STATE OF FLORIDA
STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

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MAJOR HURRICANE IKE POSES A POSSIBLE THREAT TO FLORIDA

~Floridians urged to prepare this weekend as Ike moves towards Florida~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Hurricane Ike continued today on a general course towards Florida. Though Ike's exact path remains uncertain, Floridians must prepare for a potentially damaging storm to impact our state early next week.

"This storm poses a significant threat to Florida," said Florida Emergency Management Director Craig Fugate. "Floridians may be getting tired of hearing about hurricanes, but hurricane season is not over yet and we have to remain vigilant."

Hurricane Ike is currently located approximately 1,150 miles to the east of Miami and approaching at a rate of 16 miles per hour. Ike is currently a Category 3 hurricane with sustained winds near 120 miles per hour. Though Ike's long term forecast remains uncertain, much of the Florida Peninsula is located in the 5-day error cone for the official forecast.

Residents should be prepared to evacuate if ordered to do so by local officials. Evacuation decisions will be made and communicated at the local level. Because timing is important to a swift evacuation, it is vital that residents evacuate at the time they are ordered to by local officials.

Floridians should use the next few days to finalize their family and business preparedness plans, familiarize themselves with local evacuation routes and restock their emergency supply kit.

Ike will bring an increased threat of rip currents for Florida and residents and visitors should stay out of the water on Florida's east coast. Three drownings in the Fort Lauderdale area during the Labor Day weekend underscore the importance of heeding local warnings.

For additional information on Hurricane Ike and the State Emergency Response Team, please visit the Florida Division of Emergency Management online at: www.FloridaDisaster.org

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