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## Category 5 Hurricane Irma winds decrease to 165 mph as it takes aim

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## RECOMMENDED

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**United Arab Emirates  
donates \$2.7 million for Irma  
recovery**

# at Florida

**F**ORT MYERS, Fla. Here is everything you need to know about Hurricane Irma as the storm develops:

### 11 p.m.

Irma's maximum sustained winds weakened to 165 mph in the 11 p.m. advisory from the National Hurricane Center. But remained a category 5 hurricane.

It was about 55 miles west-southwest of Grand Turk Island, moving west-northwest at 16 mph.

A hurricane watch has been issued for the north of Jupiter Inlet to Sebastian Inlet and north of Bonita Beach to Anna Maria Island.

A hurricane warning has been issued from Jupiter Inlet to Bonita Beach, the Florida Keys, Lake Okeechobee and Florida Bay.

A storm surge warning has been issued from Jupiter Inlet southward around the Florida peninsula to Bonita Beach and for the Florida Keys.

A storm surge watch has been issued north of Jupiter Inlet to Sebastian Inlet and for the west coast of Florida north of Bonita Beach to Venice.

### 10:15 p.m.

WINK News reporter John-Carlos Estrada has more from the Barrier Islands:

## **Marco Island votes to change construction rules to speed up Irma repairs**

WINK News reporter Olivia Mancino spoke to a Naples man preparing ahead of Hurricane Irma:

**8:30 p.m.**

Gov. Rick Scott directed all public K-12 public schools, state colleges, state universities and state offices to close Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

"I am directing the closure of all public schools, state colleges, state universities and state offices for their normal activities effective Friday through Monday, to ensure we have every space available for sheltering and staging. Floridians are facing a life-threatening storm in Hurricane Irma, and every family must prepare to evacuate," Scott said in a statement.

**8:28 p.m.**

Re-entry passes for Sanibel residents will be available starting at 8 a.m. Friday at the Crowne Plaza Bell Tower in south Fort Myers.

The city is setting up a temporary city hall at the hotel on 13051 Bell Tower Drive.

The passes allow island residents and business owners quicker access to their properties after Hurricane Irma comes through.

A [mandatory evacuation](#) begins for the island Friday morning.

[Click here](#) for more information on how to get a re-entry pass.

### **7:58 p.m.**

Irma's winds held steady at 175 mph in the 8 p.m. intermediate advisory from the National Hurricane Center.

It was about 55 miles west-southwest of Grand Turk Island, moving west-northwest at 16 mph.

A revised cone isn't expected until the 11 p.m. advisory.

### **6:30 p.m.**

Trash pick up was delayed a day in Cape Coral due to Labor Day, the city said. If a residents regularly scheduled trash pickup day is Friday, trash will not be picked up.

Residential services have been suspended starting on Saturday.

WINK News reporter Brooke Shaffer spoke to crews in Cape Coral working to secure trash and debris:

**6:00 p.m.**

Gov. Rick Scott provides updates on Hurricane Irma from Daytona Beach:

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More](#)

**5:36 p.m.**

WINK News reporter Chris Grisby has more from Hendry County:

**5:34 p.m.**

WINK News reporter Kristi Gross has more from Arcadia:



**5:15 p.m.**

Mandatory evacuations will begin at 1 p.m. Friday for areas of Collier County. Click [here](#) for exact locations and shelters.

WINK News reporter Melinda Lee has more from Naples:

WINK News reporter John-Carlos Estrada has more from Immokalee where one man is helping his neighbors prepare ahead of Hurricane Irma:

**5 p.m.**

Irma's latest forecast cone shows a slight shift to the west.

The system was still packing 175 mph winds as of the 5 p.m. advisory from the National Hurricane Center. It was about 40 miles south of Grand Turk Island, moving west-northwest at 16 mph.

The cone is below:

**4:58 p.m.**



Collier County Sheriff's Office  
about 11 months ago



# USE CAUTION STORM ALERT



#COLLIERCOUNTYSHERIFF

In the event of widespread storm destruction returning evacuees will need to show proof of residency to get back into their neighborhoods. A driver's license, utility bill, Matricula Consular, or employee identification will suffice. This process implemented for the safety of residents and the security of their property. Proof of residency is a separate matter than proof of citizenship. Immigration status should not be a concern for returning evacuees or those seeking shelter.

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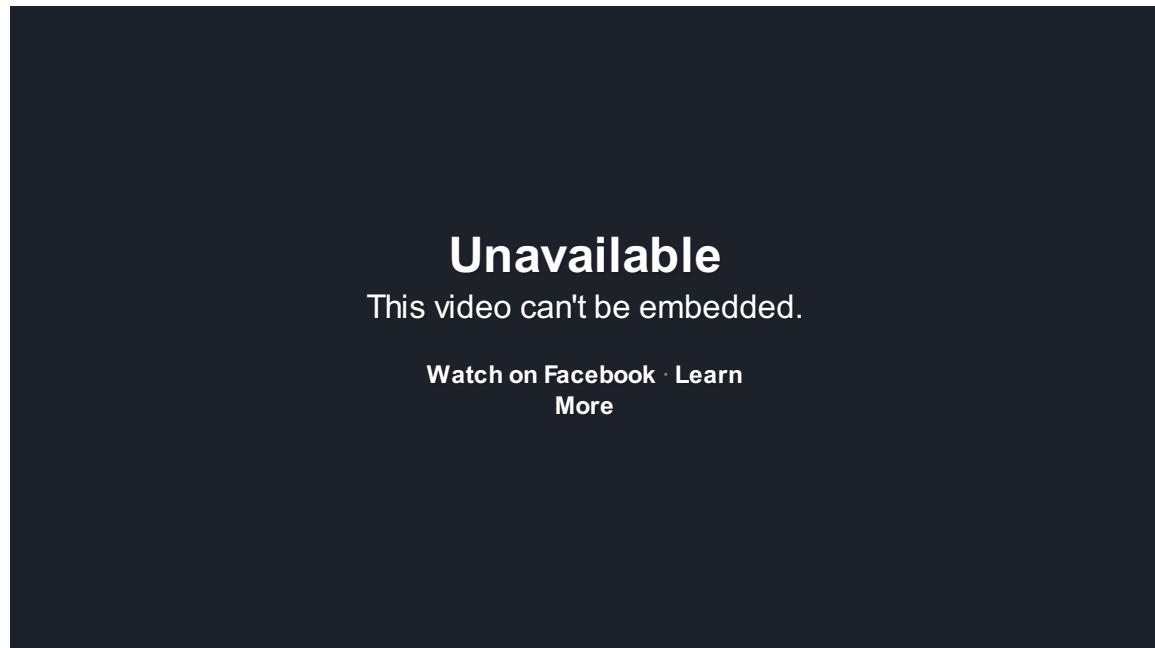
**4:06 p.m.**

Fort Myers homes that normally have trash pickup on Thursdays will have it on Friday this week, the city said. Friday pickup will go on as scheduled.

The city originally planned to push trash pickup one day later because of Labor Day, but the threat of Hurricane Irma has forced that plan to change.

**4:00 p.m.**

Lee County emergency management officials provide updates on Hurricane Irma:



WINK News reporter Oliver Redsten has more:

**3:54 p.m.**

All JetBlue flights on Saturday and Sunday have been canceled, according to [Southwest Florida International Airport's Facebook page](#).

**3:37 p.m.**

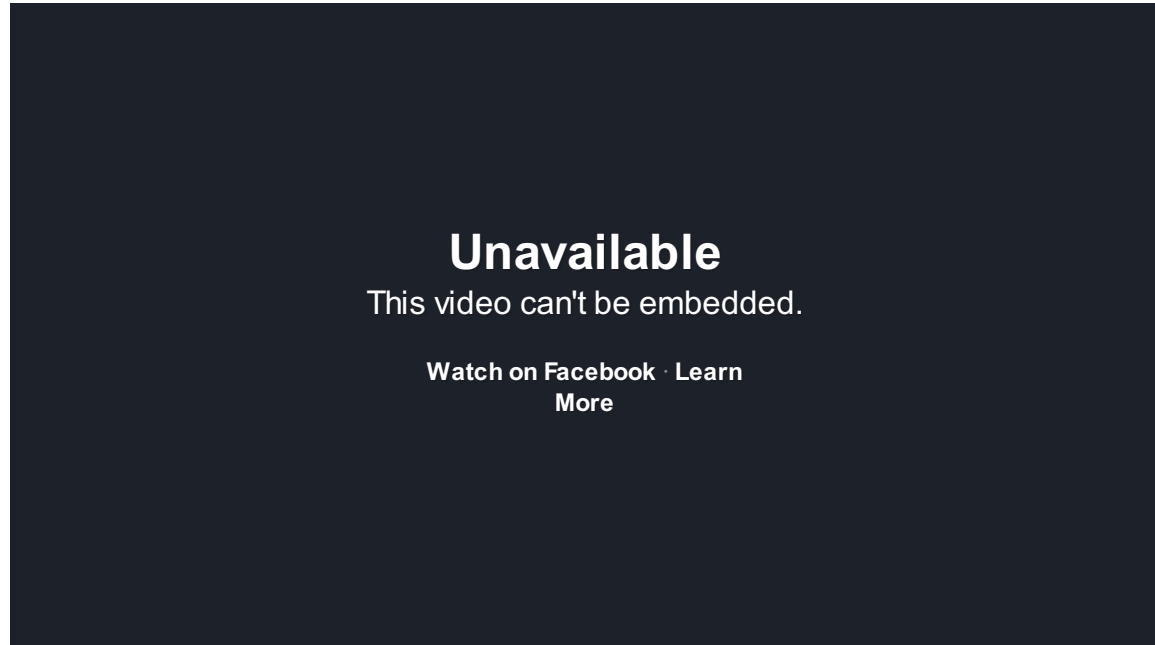
Bell Tower Shops on Daniels Parkway and U.S. 41 in Fort Myers will be closed Friday and will reopen "after the effects of the storm have passed," according to a press release.

**3:15 p.m.**

Florida Gov. Rick Scott has a stark warning for anyone who wants to defy a mandatory evacuation order ahead of Hurricane Irma. He says: "If you live in any evacuation zones and you're still at home, LEAVE!"

Scott said he “cannot stress this enough. Do not ignore evacuation orders. You rebuild your home ... you cannot recreate your family.”

And this: “Do not try to ride out this storm,” he says. The time to leave is now, because he says “we can’t save you once the storm hits.”



**3:08 p.m.**

Mandatory evacuations will begin Friday for Lee County’s barrier islands. Click [here](#) for more information.

All tolls in Lee County are suspended immediately.

**2:40 p.m.**

U.S. 87 in Clewiston is bottle-necked for two miles due to evacuation traffic, the

Hendry County Board of County Commissioners said. All traffic lights in the city were set to flashing to help the flow of traffic.

WINK News reporter Channing Frampton was at Hendry Regional Medical Center in Hendry County:

**2:32 p.m.**

Drivers in Collier County should expect delays at major exits off Interstate 75 including Collier Boulevard, Golden Gate Parkway, Pine Ridge Road and Immokalee Road as residents make their way north due to Hurricane Irma, according to the Collier County Sheriff's Office.

Drivers are advised to use alternate routes.





Collier County Sheriff's Office  
about 11 months ago



# ROAD ALERT

## USE CAUTION



#COLLIERCOUNTYSHERIFF

Collier County motorists should expect traffic delays on major local thoroughfares off Interstate 75 due to heavy traffic from the east coast. Traffic along westbound Alligator Alley is flowing heavier than normal as east coast residents make their north due to Hurricane Irma.

Motorists should expect delays due to congestion on roads where there are exits off I-75 including Collier Boulevard, Golden Gate Parkway, Pine Ridge Road, and Immokalee Road.... [See More](#)

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**2 p.m.**

Chief Meteorologist Jim Farrell is analyzing the 2 p.m. advisory from the National Hurricane Center.

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**1:46 p.m.**

Little change came with the National Hurricane Center's 2 p.m. advisory.

Irma still has 175 mph winds and is moving west-northwest at 16 mph. It was about 65 miles north-northeast of Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic.

The updated cone is below:

**1:43  
p.m.**

Evacuations are recommended for residents on barrier islands in Charlotte County.

Residents on Don Pedro Island, Knight Island (Palm Island), Little Gasparilla Island, Gasparilla Island, Manasota Key, and those living in mobile homes throughout the county are advised to leave, according to the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center.

**1:35 p.m.**

President Donald Trump says “we are with the people of Florida” as Hurricane Irma draws near.

Speaking in the Oval Office on Thursday, Trump says his administration is “very concerned” as the record hurricane approaches the U.S. mainland, but he says “we think we’re as well prepared as you can possibly be.”

The president says he hopes the storm won’t hit Florida directly.

**1:19 p.m.**

Miromar Outlets on 10801 Corkscrew Rd. will close at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, according to a press release.

**1:00 p.m.**

Lee County Sheriff’s Office holds press conference to address Hurricane Irma:

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### **12:59 p.m.**

Irma's winds are down to 175 mph as of 11 a.m., but its peak winds set an all-time record Wednesday.

No other storm in recorded history has maintained top winds of 185 p.m. for 37 hours.

Colorado State University hurricane expert Phil Klotzbach says that breaks the previous record, held by Typhoon Haiyan, which had similar top winds for 24 hours before it hit the Philippines and killed 6,000 people in 2013.

Irma also has been the most intense Atlantic hurricane on record outside the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, measured by its barometric pressure of 914 millibars.

**12:55 p.m.**

Long lines for plywood are creating a traffic hazard on Old Metro Parkway in Fort Myers, police said.

Old Metro is being turned into a one-way street, headed southbound only, between Hanson Street and Metro Parkway near the 84 Lumber Depot.



**12:24 p.m.**

Hendry County is encouraging residents in low-lying areas to voluntarily evacuate.

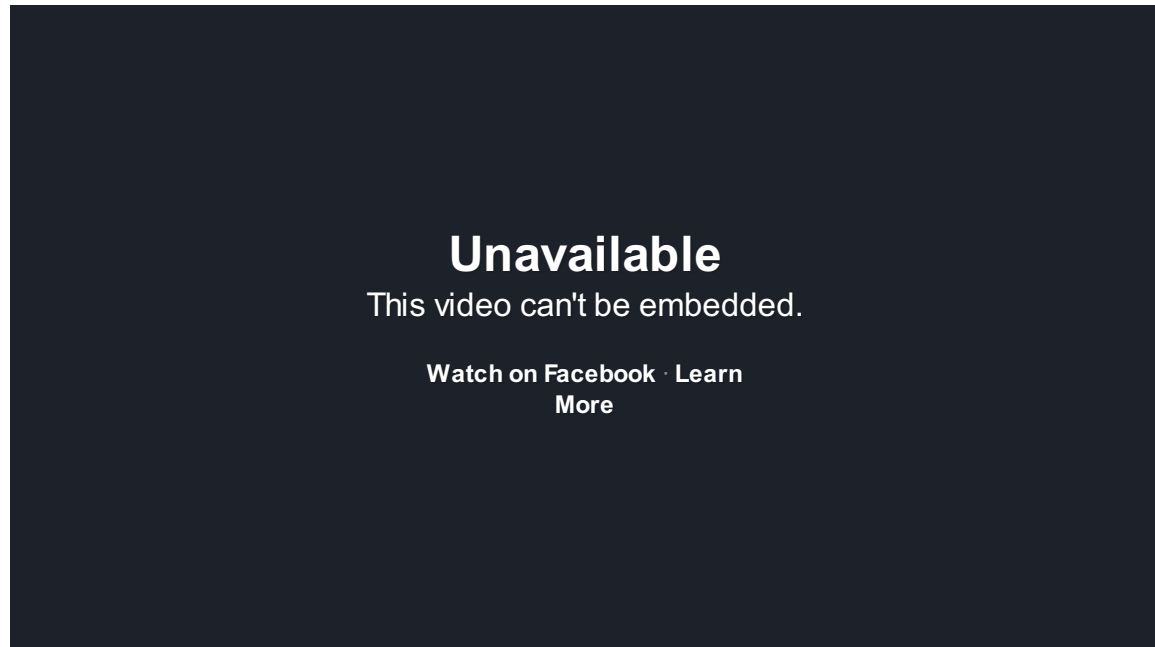
Voluntary evacuations are also encouraged areas. Voluntary evacuations are also encouraged for people in non-slab built homes, mobile homes, trailers and RVs, the County Commission said in a press release.

The decision whether to evacuate should be made today, the commission said.

Those staying in their homes are urged to have enough provisions for three days and secure all outdoor items.

**12 p.m.**

Gov. Scott provides another update on Hurricane Irma at stop in West Palm Beach:



**11:09 a.m.**

Gov. Scott activated an additional 3,000 Florida National Guard troops Thursday morning, according to a statement from the Governor's office.

"We are expecting our state to have major impacts from Hurricane Irma and we are taking aggressive actions to make sure Florida is prepared," Scott said in a statement. "Today we will have more than 4,000 total Florida National Guard members activated, with all remaining members ready to report for duty first thing tomorrow to assist with preparation efforts."

Four-thousand troops have been activated as of Thursday morning, and another 3,000 are expected to be activated Friday, according to a pres release.

**11 a.m.**

A Hurricane watch has been issued for parts of Southwest Florida, the National Weather Service said.

The watch covers the Florida peninsula from Jupiter Inlet southward and around the peninsula to Bonita Beach, including the Florida Keys, Lake Okeechobee, and Florida Bay.

All of Collier, Glades and Hendry counties are included.



Irma weakened slightly to 175 mph winds as of the 11 a.m. advisory. It was about 75 east-northeast of Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic, moving west-northwest at 16 mph.

Additionally, a storm surge watch has been issued for the Florida peninsula from Jupiter Inlet southward and around the peninsula to Bonita Beach, including the Florida Keys.

“ As of 11am AST, a Storm Surge Watch has been issued for portions of South Florida and the Florida Keys <https://t.co/wCVldbWe4H> [pic.twitter.com/19hYm27dDF](https://pic.twitter.com/19hYm27dDF)

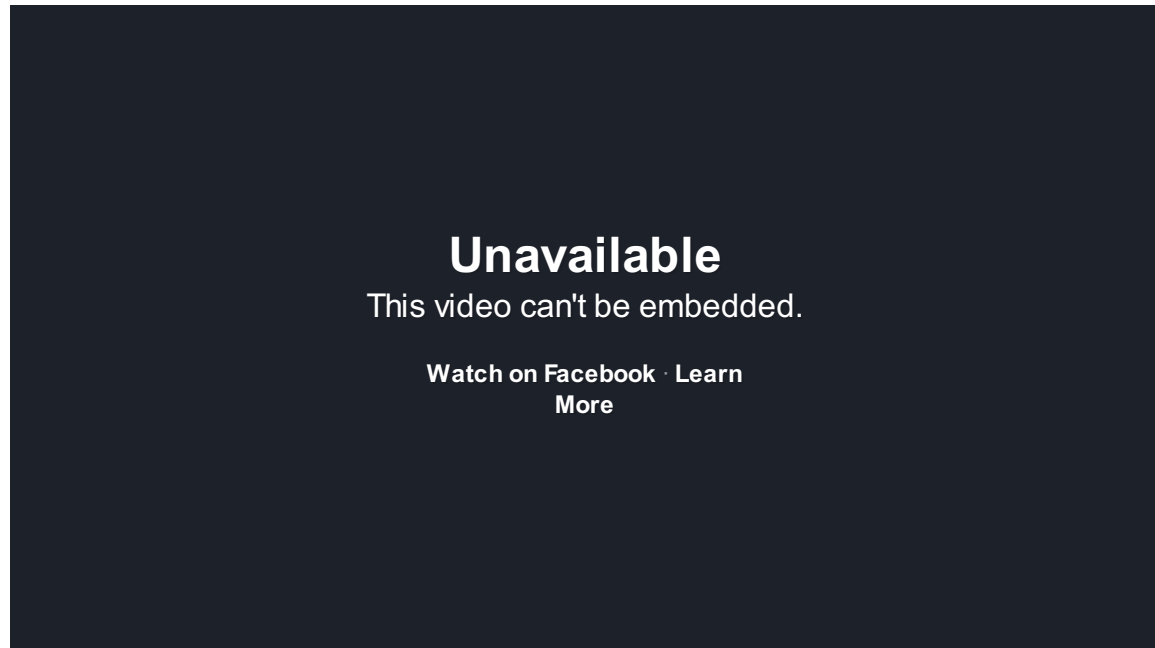
“ — NHC\_Surge (@NHC\_Surge) [September 7, 2017](#)



The 11 a.m. cone is below:

### **10:30 a.m.**

Lee County emergency management officials spoke Thursday morning and provided updates on Hurricane Irma. WINK News streamed the press conference live via Facebook:



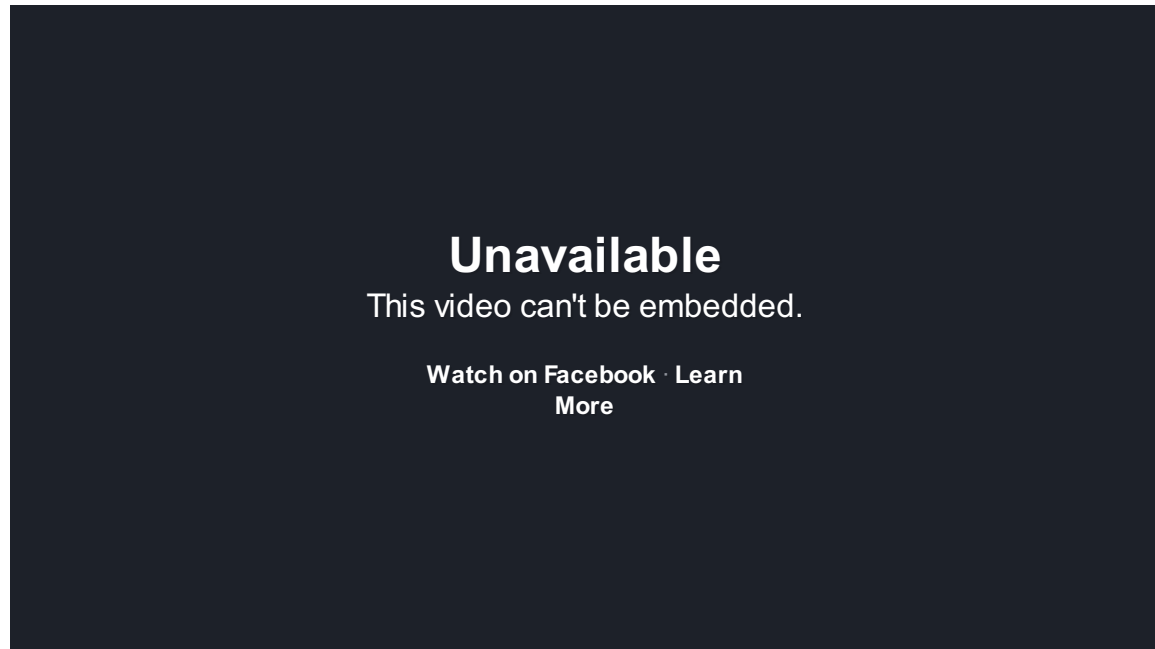
The Lee County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Tony Schall said area residents should stay off the roads as winds reach tropical storm and hurricane force.

"Get everything you need to have done by Saturday night," Schall said.

Government offices are closed Thursday and Friday, said Lee County Manager Roger Desjarlais. Trash services has also been suspended for Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers Beach, and Estero.

**9:36 a.m.**

WINK News streamed Scott's presser live via Facebook:



Gov. Rick Scott urged residents on the both coasts of the state to prepare to evacuate during a press conference Thursday morning at a stop in Hialeah.

"Regardless of which coast you live on, prepare to evacuate," Scott said.

Thirty-one-thousand people have been evacuated from the Florida Keys as of 6 p.m. Wednesday, and Scott urged those ordered to evacuate to do so promptly.

"We can't save you after the storm hits," Scott said.

**7:45 a.m.**

*Map forecast cone for 8a. advisory via National Hurricane Center*

The 8 a.m. advisory has the eye of Hurricane Irma moving off the northern coast of Hispaniola and continuing towards the Turk and Caicos Islands, the National Hurricane Center.

Hurricane Irma is moving west-northwest at 17 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center. The Category 5 is about 110 miles north of Punta Cana, the Dominican Republic, and about 165 miles southeast of Grand Turk Island with maximum winds sustained at 180.

WINK meteorologists Matt Devitt and Zach Maloch go over the 8 a.m. forecast track for Hurricane Irma:

#### **6:21 a.m.**

Hundreds of people lined up at The Home Depot at 3402 Forum Blvd. after new supplies were delivered early Thursday morning:

WINK News reporter John Trierweiler went live via Facebook inside The Home Depot as area residents stock up:

## Video Unavailable

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**6:12 a.m.**

WINK News reporter Jessica Alpern was live in Cape Coral as lines formed Thursday morning at a gas station ahead of Hurricane Irma.

**5:41 a.m.**

At least 10 people have died in the Carribean after reports of one death in Anguilla, officials said.

*Information was used from the Associated Press in this update.*

**5:04 a.m.**

*The forecast cone for Hurricane Irma's 5a. advisory. (Photo via National Hurricane Center)*

The 5 a.m. advisory has Hurricane Irma moving off the northern coast of the Dominican Republic, the National Hurricane Center said.

The Category 5 storm is moving west-northwest at 17 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center. The system is about 95 miles north of Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, and about 210 east-southeast of Grand Turk Island with maximum

sustained winds maintaining at 180 mph.

The Government of the Bahamas issued a Hurricane Warning for the Northwestern Bahamas, the National Hurricane Center said. Warnings for Puerto Rico, Vieques, and Culebra were discontinued.

WINK Meteorologist Matt Devitt showcased Hurricane Irma's forecast track:

### **3:05 a.m.**

Hurricane Irma killed at least eight people and injured 23 others on the French island territories, according to France's interior minister.

Minister Gerard Collomb spoke on French radio French Info and said teams need to complete their inspections on Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthelemy, and the death toll could rise.

"The reconnaissance will really start at daybreak," Collomb said.

*Information was used from the Associated Press in this update.*

## **2 a.m.**

*The forecast cone for Hurricane Irma's 2a. advisory. (Photo via National Hurricane Center)*

The 2 a.m. advisory keeps Hurricane Irma at a Category 5 as the eye is located northeast of the Dominican Republic, the National Hurricane Center said.

Hurricane Irma is moving west-northwest at 16 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center. The system is about 140 miles northwest of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and about 225 miles east-southeast of the Grand Turk Island, with maximum sustained winds at 180 mph.

A Hurricane Warning is in effect for Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra, the Dominican Republic from Cabo Engano to the northern border with Haiti, Haiti from the northern border with the Dominican Republic to Le Mole St. Nicholas, the Southeastern Bahamas, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the Central Bahamas, according to the National Hurricane Center.

A Hurricane Watch is in effect from Cuba, from the Matanzas province — eastward to the Guantanamo province, as well as the Northwestern Bahamas, the National Hurricane Center said.

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for the Dominican Republic, from south of Cabo Engano — westward to the southern border with Haiti, Haiti from south of Le Mole St. Nicholas to Port-Au-Prince, and the Cuba provinces of Guantanamo, Holguin and Las Tunas, according to the National Hurricane Center.

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