

Sept. 5, 2008

County EOC monitors Hurricane Ike

Sarasota County Emergency Management will continue to monitor Hurricane Ike as it moves in a westerly direction toward Florida and the Florida Straits over the weekend.

The current forecast advisory has the system making landfall in south Florida or bringing severe weather to Southwest Florida early next week. Beachgoers and boaters should exercise caution and anticipate rough seas and possible rip currents as Hurricane Ike nears Florida.

Based on current information, the National Hurricane Center indicates that most of Florida has the potential to face impacts from Hurricane Ike, which is a strong Category 4 hurricane. Sarasota County Emergency Management Chief Ed McCrane advises residents to take precautions for hazardous weather and make sure disaster supply kits are complete this weekend.

Sarasota County Emergency Management is participating in conference calls with the State Emergency Operations Center and the National Hurricane Center. County and city public safety officials met today to discuss plans for taking action if the forecast track shifts and poses a threat to the west coast of Florida.

No closures or advisories have been issued for Sarasota County.

Residents and visitors can monitor local media for storm updates or visit www.scgov.net and click on All Hazards for more information.