



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Wildwood Officials Urge Residents to Prepare for Idalia**

Wildwood officials are urging residents to take safety precautions and prepare adequately for Idalia, currently predicted to make landfall in western Florida Wednesday morning as a major hurricane.

The city commission approved a local declaration of emergency at its meeting this evening, following one approved this afternoon by the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners and an executive order issued by Gov. Ron DeSantis yesterday, updated today, declaring a state of emergency in 46 Florida counties, including Sumter.

“Our teams have been taking all necessary steps to get equipment and supplies ready,” said Jason McHugh, Wildwood’s city manager. “We take every potential natural disaster seriously, and prepare for the worst-case scenario. Despite the best technology and forecasting models, storms can be unpredictable, and our duty is to protect our residents in every way we can.”

Wildwood City Hall and department offices are tentatively scheduled to close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, remaining closed through Wednesday and reopening Thursday morning, weather permitting.

City-contracted trash collection is expected to occur as scheduled on Tuesday, but Friday service will be delayed until Saturday this week.

Sumter County serves as the lead for local emergency management programs and services, per executed interlocal agency agreements. It operates the Sumter County Emergency Operations Center and the county’s emergency shelters.

County officials will reopen a self-service sandbag facility at the Lake Panasoffkee Recreation Center at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow, and anticipate opening the county fairgrounds as a pet-friendly shelter at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday afternoon along with a special needs shelter at Wildwood Community center. Additional shelters may be opened as need dictates.

“We will continue to coordinate closely with Sumter County officials as we monitor the evolving conditions and storm track,” McHugh added. “Our public safety and public works teams, including our roads and utilities crews, will be working around the clock to respond as needed.”

For more information about shelters, sandbags, and other county emergency management services, visit [www.sumtercountyfl.gov/718/Emergency-Management](http://www.sumtercountyfl.gov/718/Emergency-Management) or call 352-689-4400.

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