

Hurricane Ian Threatens the Coasts of Florida

By Alex Taft

This year's hurricane season has been relatively calm, but a new system developing just south of the Caribbean Sea is poising itself to disrupt the peace of this year's season. "Tropical depression nine", meandering off the coasts of Venezuela, is currently nothing more than a simple tropical depression. However, this common September storm is likely to develop into a powerful hurricane, which would be called "Hurricane Ian".

The National Hurricane Center predicts that tropical depression nine could develop into a hurricane in the northwest Caribbean late this week or early next week, with sights on the Gulf coast of Florida. Additionally, the Weather Channel, a national and local weather forecaster for the United States, adds that "Unlike what we've seen with hurricanes Earl and Fiona, this system's forecast steering winds make it a significant threat to the mainland U.S. next week." Hurricane Ian poses an especially looming threat to Florida due to its extremely high winds, with winds of over 100mph being possible near the hurricane's eye (Weather Radar). This wind could cause severe damage to infrastructure, as well as harm human lives as a result of extremely fast-flying debris.



Although high winds are the main cause for concern with hurricane Ian, flooding will also threaten Florida families, with water from not only torrential downpours, but high waves with the potential to overcome sea walls. Flooding is also a major threat to the local economies of coastal communities in Florida, as evident by hurricanes such as the 2017 hurricane Irma, which caused an estimated fifty billion dollars in damage according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

If the worst comes, and you wish to help those affected by hurricane Ian, disaster relief organizations such as the American Red Cross are excellent organizations to donate money and/or resources to. Though we Ohioans are far from any threat posed by a hurricane, it's important that we all hope for the best, and pray that hurricane Ian causes as little harm to those in its path as possible.