



# The GP Responder

September 2023

<https://gp-cert.org>

Vol. 4, Issue 3

## Message from GP-CERT Leader, Gordon Holtby



If Hurricane Idalia didn't get your attention – the rapid intensification of Hurricane Lee from a Category 1 to Category 5 in 24 hours from Thursday morning winds of 80 mph to a staggering 165 mph by Friday morning certainly should. Fortunately, Lee does not appear to be a threat to Florida at this time. These storms highlight the need to be vigilant and prepared. Nigel, Ophelia, Philippe, Rina, Sean, Tammy, Vince, and Whitney are the next names on this year's list to be aware of.

It is always important to learn from experience, and the first article in today's newsletter by Dave Elwart provides some data on Hurricane Idalia. The second article is on Hurricane Nomenclature - specifically what exactly is an "invest", and the third article by Brian Sheftel is on Heat Related Emergencies. The final article by Sal Baglio is on CERT Preparations for Hurricane Idalia.

I wanted to reiterate that all residents are welcome to join the all-volunteer GP-CERT team. GP-CERT is about empowering our community – both educating our volunteers about disaster response, and communicating safety messages and information to our residents. If interested in learning more about GP-CERT, please reach out to any of the volunteers listed at the end of this newsletter for more information. We have bi-monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month in the craft room, so please feel free to join us at that time. In the interim, I hope you enjoy this 13th edition of The GP Responder.

Stay safe!

Sincerely,

*Gordon Holtby*

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## Volunteers Needed!

GP-CERT is a volunteer organization that deploys in the aftermath of disasters in the community. There is a continued need for volunteers to assist in areas such as damage assessment, access control, communications, and triage (basic first aid). Volunteers will be assigned to tasks based upon their desires, skills and experience. Background/training in these areas is encouraged but not required. The GP-CERT training and preparation will allow community members to respond and assist each other in those hours or days between the incident and the return of our property management staff.



For more information or to volunteer, please go to the GP-CERT website at <https://gp-cert.org> or contact Gordon Holtby at [gordon.holtby@gmail.com](mailto:gordon.holtby@gmail.com)

# Local Weather Statistics from Hurricane Idalia

Submitted by Dave Elwart

We thought that the Gran Paradiso community might be interested in local weather statistics from the recent weather event, Hurricane Idalia. I live on Basilica Drive, am a weather geek, and have a Tempest Weather Station located in my backyard. Hurricane Idalia passed off-shore of Venice, Florida in the afternoon/evening on August 29, 2023 and into the early morning hours of August 30th.

Below is a summary of the statistics captured by my station. As you can see, this was a rain event with 2.03 inches of rain on the 29th and 1.99 inches on the 30th. The highest wind gust that my station recorded was 23.7 mph on the 30th at 12:33 am. My station is available for viewing 24/7 on the Weather Underground website at [https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KFLVENIC125?cm\\_ven=localwx\\_pwsdash](https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KFLVENIC125?cm_ven=localwx_pwsdash)

## Summary August 29, 2023

	High	Low	Average
Temperature	83.8 °F	78.8 °F	81.1 °F
Dew Point	81.5 °F	77.0 °F	79.3 °F
Humidity	99 %	83 %	95 %
Precipitation	2.03 in	---	---



	High	Low	Average
Wind Speed	13.2 mph	0.0 mph	5.2 mph
Wind Gust	22.1 mph	---	7.7 mph
Wind Direction	---	---	SE
Pressure	26.65 in	25.65 in	---

## Summary August 30, 2023

	High	Low	Average
Temperature	86.0 °F	80.1 °F	82.5 °F
Dew Point	83.8 °F	79.7 °F	80.9 °F
Humidity	99 %	86 %	95 %
Precipitation	1.99 in	---	---
	High	Low	Average
Wind Speed	13.6 mph	0.4 mph	4.8 mph
Wind Gust	23.7 mph	---	8.9 mph
Wind Direction	---	---	SW
Pressure	27.57	25.60	---



# Hurricane Nomenclature

Submitted by Gordon Holtby

What exactly is this term “invest” that I hear during hurricane season? An invest – short for “investigation” – is a naming convention used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) to identify features they are monitoring for potential future development into a tropical depression or storm within the next seven days. These invests will usually be festering clusters of showers and thunderstorms that do not yet have a persistent low-level circulation.

The term “invest” is used every hurricane season in the Atlantic and the Eastern and Central Pacific basins, accompanied by a number from 90 to 99 and either the suffix “L,” “E” or “C,” respectively. In the Atlantic, these systems and models are tagged as Invest 90L, Invest 91L, all the way up to Invest 99L, and then it starts back at 90L and repeats. You might be wondering why the designation of invests only utilizes the numbers from 90 to 99 - the numbers from 1 to 49 are used for tropical and subtropical depressions, 50 to 79 are reserved for other tropical cyclone forecast centers around the world, and 80 to 89 are applied only for testing or training purposes.

According to the NHC, by designating a tropical weather system as an invest, the collection of specialized data sets and computer models on the area of interest can begin. These computer models, including the well-known “spaghetti model tracks,” simulate the system’s projected track possibilities and predict its future intensity. It also includes the scheduling of Hurricane Hunter aircraft missions. However, just because a system has been called an invest doesn’t guarantee development into a tropical depression or storm.

For those interested in a deep dive into hurricanes or tropical cyclones The National Hurricane Center publishes the updated May 2023 “Mariner’s Tropical Cyclone Guide” on the following link:

[nhc.noaa.gov/marinersguide.pdf](https://nhc.noaa.gov/marinersguide.pdf)

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# Heat Related Emergencies

Submitted by Brian Sheftel

With the temperatures exceeding 90 degrees every day here in Florida our residents are susceptible to heat emergencies. What are they? How can they be treated and prevented?

Below are the 3 most common types of heat related emergencies to be concerned about:

**Heat Cramps:** Painful muscle cramps in the abdomen, arms and legs, usually during strenuous activity. Heavy sweating is present.

How do you treat Heat Cramps? Stop and move to a cool location. Drink sports drink or water. Gently stretch or massage the muscles affected.

**Heat Exhaustion:** Sweating, thirst, pale cool skin, weakness, headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps. Condition can worsen quickly.

How do you treat Heat Exhaustion? Stop working and try to lie down in a cool location. Remove clothing. Cool the person (water, spray, fan). Drink sports drink or water.

**Heat Stroke:** The body can no longer control its temperature and the body temperature rises rapidly. This is a life-threatening emergency. High body temperature, dry or moist, flushed skin, confusion, dizziness, slurred speech, seizures, severe headache, fast breathing and pulse. Unresponsiveness.

How do you treat Heat Stroke? Call 911. Quickly cool the victim by immersing in water up to neck; spraying, sponging or showering with cool water; placing ice packs against the groin, armpits and sides of the neck.

**How to prevent heat related emergencies.** Drink plenty of fluids, eat a proper meal and be well rested.



# CERT Preparations for Hurricane Idalia

Submitted by Sal Baglio

..... *What a difference a year makes, lessons learned*

It goes without saying that we were very fortunate that Hurricane Idalia had very little impact to us here at Gran Paradiso. From the lessons learned from Hurricane Ian last year, we knew that changes needed to be made to our CERT Operational Plan to better prepare us and the community in the event of any potential disasters, such as a hurricane. A new Operational Plan was put into place earlier this year which focused on better communications with our CERT members and coordination with the KW management staff and community.

The following is a timeline of CERT and KW communications in preparation for Hurricane Idalia:

## FRIDAY 8/25

- KW sends out the first communication to the community regarding storm updates.



## SATURDAY 8/26

- Governor DeSantis signed an executive order declaring a State of Emergency in 33 Florida counties which included Sarasota County.
- The first CERT notification was sent out to all members informing them that we were monitoring the storm closely and preparations were being made if CERT was to be activated post storm.

## MONDAY 8/28

- CERT Command team met with Michelle LeCroy to discuss preparation coordination with the KW staff and the CERT Command team. It was agreed that should we need to mobilize CERT post storm the IC (Incident Commander) Command post would be located under the overhang at the front entrance to the clubhouse. We agreed that Michelle would get out an email to the community regarding storm preparations.
- Community email was sent out by KW informing all residents that we were in storm preparation mode and residents should begin to prepare as necessary including installation of shutters if deemed necessary. Residents were also given the location of local evacuation centers and informed of the location of the CERT command post at the club house entrance should CERT be activated post storm.

## TUESDAY 8/29

- A second CERT notification went out to all members providing them with additional details regarding the possibility of mobilizing CERT post storm. All CERT Zone Leaders were asked to reach out to their respective zone members at this time to determine who would be available to assist with damage assessment and arrange for a central meeting location within their zones. All members were informed that an Incident Command Post would be set up at the front entrance of the club house should communications be lost, and they should meet there for further instructions.
- Communications Officer activated the CERT repeater to insure better communication for our two-way radios.
- Michelle sent out a community email informing residents that KW staff would be leaving early, and all gates had been removed to prevent damage.

## WEDNESDAY 8/30

- A final notification was sent out to all CERT members informing them that CERT would not activate post storm damage assessment and thanked everyone for their readiness and cooperation. Even though CERT was not officially activated several ZONE leaders did drive through the community and reported back by text or email to the IC informing no reported damage or flooding was observed. This information was passed onto KW.



The Gran Paradiso – Community Emergency Response Team (GP-CERT) has been formed to assist neighbors in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The team is comprised of your neighbors who have undertaken the appropriate training to assist where needed.

Please submit articles and/or corrections to the newsletter publisher, Carole Myles, at [cmyles252@gmail.com](mailto:cmyles252@gmail.com).



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The GP Responder is a publication of the Gran Paradiso—Community Emergency Response Team. Our plan is to publish it every third month throughout the year. The GP Responder is forwarded to all residents by KW, our management company, and it is also available for viewing on the GP-CERT website at <https://gp-cert.org>

