



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Gov. Scott: As Hurricane Matthew Strengthens to Cat 4, Residents Must Be Prepared**

**MIAMI, Fla.** – The National Hurricane Center today (NHC) upgraded Hurricane Matthew to a major category four hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 140 miles per hour. Although the NHC official forecast continues to show a track east of Florida, Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Division of Emergency Management continue to actively monitor Hurricane Matthew and urge everyone in Florida to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautions as it moves through the Caribbean over the weekend. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) remains activated to Level 3.

Governor Scott said, "With Hurricane Matthew now being upgraded to a major category four hurricane, we all must remain vigilant and be prepared for any impacts this storm may have on our state. While the National Hurricane Center's current forecast predicts Matthew traveling east of Florida, we all know that the track of these storms can quickly change which is why it is imperative that all Floridians and visitors continue to monitor Hurricane Matthew and make sure to have a plan in place in the event of severe weather. If you don't have a plan, please visit [FLGetAPlan.com](http://FLGetAPlan.com) so that you and your family can get prepared.

"I will continue to get briefed on this storm throughout the weekend. We are working closely with the NHC and will make sure to keep Floridians informed as we learn more about the track of this storm and its potential impacts on Florida."

Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Bryan Koon said, "With Hurricane Matthew now a major category four storm, it is critically important for residents and visitors to prepare and have a plan. Although Hurricane Matthew is not currently projected to directly impact our state, we stand ready to respond to any potential impacts this storm may have on Florida communities and continue to encourage residents to visit [FLGetAPlan.com](http://FLGetAPlan.com) to create an emergency plan."

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The Florida Division of Emergency Management is the state agency charged with preparing for all types of disasters in Florida. The Division is the state's disaster liaison

with federal and local agencies, and is the lead consequence management agency for the State Emergency Response Team (SERT). The Division maintains the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Tallahassee and the State Watch Office, the 24-hour communications and command center for response coordination. Follow the Division on social media at [facebook.com/FloridaSERT](https://facebook.com/FloridaSERT) or on Twitter @FLSERT.