



AccuWeather's Radio Meteorologists Keep Clients Informed During Historical Hurricane Irma

Just days after Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, the dedicated staff of meteorologists at AccuWeather were vigilant and primed for Hurricane Irma, displaying Superior Accuracy™.

On course for a direct hit in the Florida Keys as a Category 4 Hurricane, Saturday, September 9, 2017, Hurricane Irma was about to change the course of Florida's history.

After churning through the Atlantic, Irma became a hurricane August 30th and broke records along its path; a path which included the entire state of Florida. Irma is recorded as the longest-lasting powerful hurricane or typhoon ever worldwide. Holding hurricane status for nearly 13 days, Irma reached its peak on September 6th with recorded sustained winds of 185 mph for 37 hours spanning a massive 70,000 square miles. Irma maintained a Category 5 storm for 3 days.

"Irma was a beast of a hurricane, one of the strongest on record ever to impact the Atlantic Basin. Irma caused almost unimaginable damage in the northeast Caribbean, including over the Virgin Islands and maintained its extreme power for a duration never seen before. After tracking through the Bahamas and also battering Cuba, Irma brought its damaging winds and destructive storm surge to the Florida Keys and then the remainder of the Florida peninsula."

—John Feerick, Senior Meteorologist at AccuWeather

Originally, Miami was expected to bear the brunt of the storm once it hit Florida — but by Saturday morning, the storm's trajectory had shifted westward, with Tampa, the Gulf Coast, and other parts of South Florida in line for the worst effects.

Roughly seven hours after landfall in the Keys, Irma touched down again as a Category 3 over Marco Island, just south of Tampa Bay.

It whipped southwestern Florida with 115 mph sustained winds and gusts as high as 142 mph that were recorded in Naples. By the time Hurricane Irma got to Tampa, it had slightly weakened and forecasters worried what would happen once the storm had passed. The winds from the northeast would shift to out of the southwest, potentially sending all that water, and then some, back into the bay.

AccuWeather meteorologists and forecasters worked day and night to keep clients across Florida informed of current conditions and any potential changes in the path of Hurricane Irma throughout the entire storm.

"Thanks for all the live shots during our Hurricane coverage. We appreciate all the AccuWeather meteorologists who contributed in forecasting Irma." He continued, "Thanks to those meteorologists on your staff who took the time to talk to me about staff planning and traveling to our Maitland, FL facility safely; it was very helpful."

—Jim Poling, Director of Operations at Florida News Network and Program Director at News radio 102.5/AM540 WFLA

Irma broke records on its path across the state of Florida including: **highest sustained winds, lowest barometric pressure, and the most energy**, as recorded through the Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) metric. Hurricane Irma is one for the history books.



To learn more about the AccuWeather Radio Broadcast Service, call United Stations Radio Network at 212-536-3673 or e-mail donna@unitedstations.com