



SMALL TOWN, BIG BEACH™

For Immediate Release:

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Hurricane Michael Update #1

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Gulf Shores officials actively monitoring Hurricane Michael

Gulf Shores, Ala – October 8, 2018 - City of Gulf Shores officials are actively monitoring developments with Hurricane Michael. The storm is forecast to become a Category 3 hurricane prior to landfall, which is expected early Wednesday morning along the Florida Panhandle. The National Weather Service has issued a Hurricane Watch for the Western Florida Panhandle and a Tropical Storm Watch for coastal Alabama, including Gulf Shores.

The potential wind threat for Gulf Shores is 58 to 73 mph, making significant wind damage possible beginning Tuesday night as the storm intensifies. At this time, rain can be expected, with the potential for localized heavy rain amounts occurring. Minor coastal flooding is possible due to the persistent easterly winds. These conditions may present a high risk of dangerous rip currents and significant flooding for low-lying areas.

Local impacts are expected to increase if the track of Hurricane Michael shifts further west. Residents who live in flood-prone, low-lying areas and those residing in mobile homes, campgrounds and RV parks should take all necessary precautions in advance of the storm.

At this time, the 47th Annual National Shrimp Festival is planned to go on as scheduled. Officials are monitoring potential impacts and will notify the public of any changes made. Specific Shrimp Festival questions should be addressed to the Alabama Gulf Coast Business Chamber office at 251-968-6904 or by going to www.myshrimpfest.com. The City of Gulf Shores 2018 National Night Out that was originally scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 9 has been rescheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 14.

City of Gulf Shores officials encourage all residents and visitors to take the following precautions:

- **In the event a hurricane warning is issued for Gulf Shores, Hurricane Re-entry Decals will cease to be issued. Residents are encouraged to visit City Hall and obtain a Hurricane Re-entry Decal.** Decals are issued Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proof of residency or property ownership along with a valid driver's license is required.

- In anticipation of Hurricane Michael's arrival, residents are advised to secure all outdoor patio furniture and other items which may become projectiles with high velocity winds.
- Pick up all yard debris and remove it from ditches and culverts, so water will drain freely.
- Be sure to have a safety plan in place for you and your family. This includes planning for essential medications, contact information, food, water and pets.
- You must know your elevation in order to understand if your location will be impacted by storm surge. Find your elevation online at viewer.nationalmap.gov/viewer.
- Keep a list of local emergency contact information. Find contact information at www.gulfshoresal.gov/resourcedirectory.

For additional tips/information and weather-related resources regarding Hurricane Michael, visit www.gulfshoresal.gov/safe.

Gulf Shores Emergency Management staff will continue to monitor storm developments and will provide updates as they become available.

For the latest updates and advisories, continue to follow the City of Gulf Shores on Facebook (www.facebook.com/cityofgulfshoresal) and Twitter (@City_GulfShores) and monitor the City's website at www.gulfshoresal.gov or call the Emergency Information line at 251-968-2425.

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