

Safety Measures for Your Vehicle

Here are some steps to ensure your vehicle remains as protected as possible during the storm:

1. **Safe Parking:** If possible, park your vehicle in a garage or under a sturdy shelter. If you don't have access to these, consider finding a public parking garage or a covered area to shield your car from potential debris.
2. **Avoid Flood Zones:** Ensure your vehicle is parked in an area that's less prone to flooding. Elevated areas are ideal.
3. **Full Tank:** Keep your gas tank full. This will be beneficial if you need to evacuate quickly or if gas stations are out of service post-storm.
4. **Emergency Kit:** Just as you would for your home, keep an emergency kit in your car. This should include water, non-perishable snacks, a flashlight, batteries, a first-aid kit, and essential documents related to your vehicle.
5. **Document Your Vehicle's Condition:** Take photos of your vehicle from various angles before the storm. This can be invaluable for insurance purposes if any damage occurs.
6. **Stay Informed:** Keep an eye on local news and weather updates. If authorities advise against driving, please heed their warnings.

Post-Storm Tips:

1. **Inspect for Damage:** Before driving, inspect your vehicle for any damage, especially the brakes and tires.
2. **Avoid Flooded Roads:** Even if the water seems shallow, it's best to avoid driving through flooded areas. It's challenging to gauge the depth, and even a small amount of water can cause significant damage to your vehicle.
3. **TROPICAL STORM IDALIA**

OpticalTel - closely following Tropical Storm Idalia's forecasted trajectory as it enters the Gulf of Mexico. Based on the latest forecast, we are preparing for various scenarios as we are still not certain of the storm's severity and areas which will be impacted.

As always, safety will be our top priority throughout this time, and we have proactively enacted our Hurricane Preparedness Plan. Our Team will continue to work diligently during this time to ensure minimal service impacts and swift response if necessary.

Updates will be provided as necessary to keep customers up to date. Should you have questions or concerns regarding how your home or business service could be impacted, please contact our Customer Service Center at [1-855-303-4237](tel:1-855-303-4237) or via e-mail at support@opticaltel.com. Always

check with your local authorities and the National Hurricane Center for the latest on Tropical Storm Idalia (www.nhc.noaa.gov).

ORANGE COUNTY (COPY AND PASTE IN YOUR BROWSER)

<https://www.orangecountyfl.net/EmergencySafety/EmergencyInformation.aspx>

WHO TO CALL

<https://www.orangecountyfl.net/EmergencySafety/WhoToCall.aspx>

IMMEDIATE DANGER

[Dial 911](#) for life-threatening emergency assistance from the Orange County Sheriff's Office or Fire Rescue.

ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT SERVICES

[Dial 311](#) for assistance with non-emergency flooding, debris, downed trees, traffic matters, road conditions and animal or neighborhood concerns.

NON-EMERGENCY SUPPORT

[Dial 211](#) for assistance with food, housing, financial assistance, health programs and crisis support.

DUKE

Preparing for the arrival of Tropical Storm Idalia

Based on the current projected track and forecast for Idalia, our line techs and tree crews are diligently preparing for impacts to our service area and will be ready to respond. The storm is expected to intensify and is likely to develop into a hurricane as it passes through the warm waters of the gulf.

A tropical storm's path is often difficult to predict and conditions to the east of the track may be at risk for tornadic activity; so regardless of where you are in the state, we encourage you to prepare now.

- If you experience a power outage, please report it on our [website](#) or through our mobile app, or text OUT to 57801, or call 800.228.8485.
- Stay informed – make sure you are signed up to receive [Outage Alerts](#) and bookmark our [Outage Map](#) to stay updated on estimated restoration times.
- Visit our [Storm Center](#) now for tips on ways to stay safe before, during, and after severe weather hits.

Visit FloridaDisaster.org to learn about your county's emergency plans, warning signals, evacuation routes and locations of emergency shelters. Consider making plans for extended outages for the elderly and those with special medical needs.

We'll continue to keep you informed with additional updates as Idalia makes its way toward Florida.