



MOST EXCELLENT  
DR. ELTON L. LEWIS, K.Y.C.H.  
GRAND HIGH PRIEST

September 24, 2022

**TO:** All Royal Arch Chapters throughout the Jurisdiction

**FROM:** Most Ex. Dr. Elton L. Lewis, Grand High Priest 

**RE:** Hurricane Preparedness; Tropical System Ian

Excellent Companions,

Living in what many around the country see as a vacation destiny does come with the unexpected threat of tropical systems, including hurricanes. Meteorologists and weather experts have begun to advise all Floridians of the threat of the tropical system named Ian. Tropical Storm Ian, the ninth named storm of the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season is forecast to reach up to Category 4 hurricane strength before hitting Florida next week. If it does, it will be the first major hurricane to impact our state since 2018. The forecast shows Ian “as a major hurricane over the eastern Gulf when it is approaching the west coast of Florida,” after briefly passing over Cuba at or near major hurricane strength. The entire Florida panhandle and nearly the entire western coast of the state could be at risk, according to the most recent forecast cone from the hurricane center.

Gov. Ron DeSantis expanded an emergency order from 24 counties to include the whole state today, citing “foregoing conditions, which are projected to constitute a major disaster.” The Florida Division of Emergency Management, working together with the National Hurricane Center to evaluate weather predictions, has determined there is a continuing risk of dangerous storm surge, heavy rainfall, flash flooding, strong winds, hazardous seas, and isolated tornadic activity for Florida’s Peninsula and portions of the Florida Big Bend, North Florida, and Northeast Florida.

For the safety of yourselves and your families, prepare now. Determine your best protection from high winds and flooding. Have a plan to evacuate and a plan to shelter safely. Take time now to gather the supplies and knowledge you will need when the storm arrives. Check your local news and get the most up-to-date information on mandatory evacuations orders, hurricane shelters, and emergency ordinances from your local municipalities.

The safety and well-being of you and your families are paramount for this Grand Chapter. Therefore, regardless which part of the state is impacted by the impending storm, we stand ready to aid and assist all Companions and their families with the full force of everything Capitular Masonry has to give.

MOST EXCELLENT UNION GRAND CHAPTER  
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Finally, Companions stay safe and stay strong. Lean on each other when needed. Help each other early and often. We will get through whatever comes our way and stand strong as only Florida can and always will.



UNDER THE LIVING ARCH I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter to be affixed.

Most Ex. Dr. Elton L. Lewis, K.Y.C.H.  
*Grand High Priest of all Capitular Masonry*

ATTEST,

*Canary Williams*

Rt. Ex. Canary Williams  
*Grand Secretary*