

Preparing for the *Worst* Hoping for the *Best*

Hurricane Irma causes destruction, fear across state of Florida

As Hurricane Irma barreled towards the state of Florida at twice the size of Hurricane Andrew which hit in 1992, it caused \$25.3 billion in damage and 44 fatalities. Fear struck the hearts of many Floridians across the state. Many families had their own way of hunkering down, getting ready to face the storm and the aftermath that followed.

"[To prepare], my parents went to go get water bottles, canned food and all the other necessities," Eddie Vega theater (7) said.

As the hurricane swept closer to the state, many meteorologists stayed on the news around the clock to keep people updated about the catastrophic storm that was about to hit. The storm was originally predicted to stay and hit on the north side of the state, but as the storm shifted to the west, many families were taken by surprise.

"I was thinking [the hurricane] was going to be catastrophic but when I saw it take a turn to the west, I was relieved," Matthew Brewer theater (6) said.

As well as the strong hurricane force winds of 84 miles per hour in Palm Beach County and pelting rain that made visibility almost zero to none, many other series of severe weather, such as strong lightning and constant tornados warnings, plagued the area.

"There was a tornado that went through our neighborhood. Many trees fell down," Jordan Anderson dance (7) said.

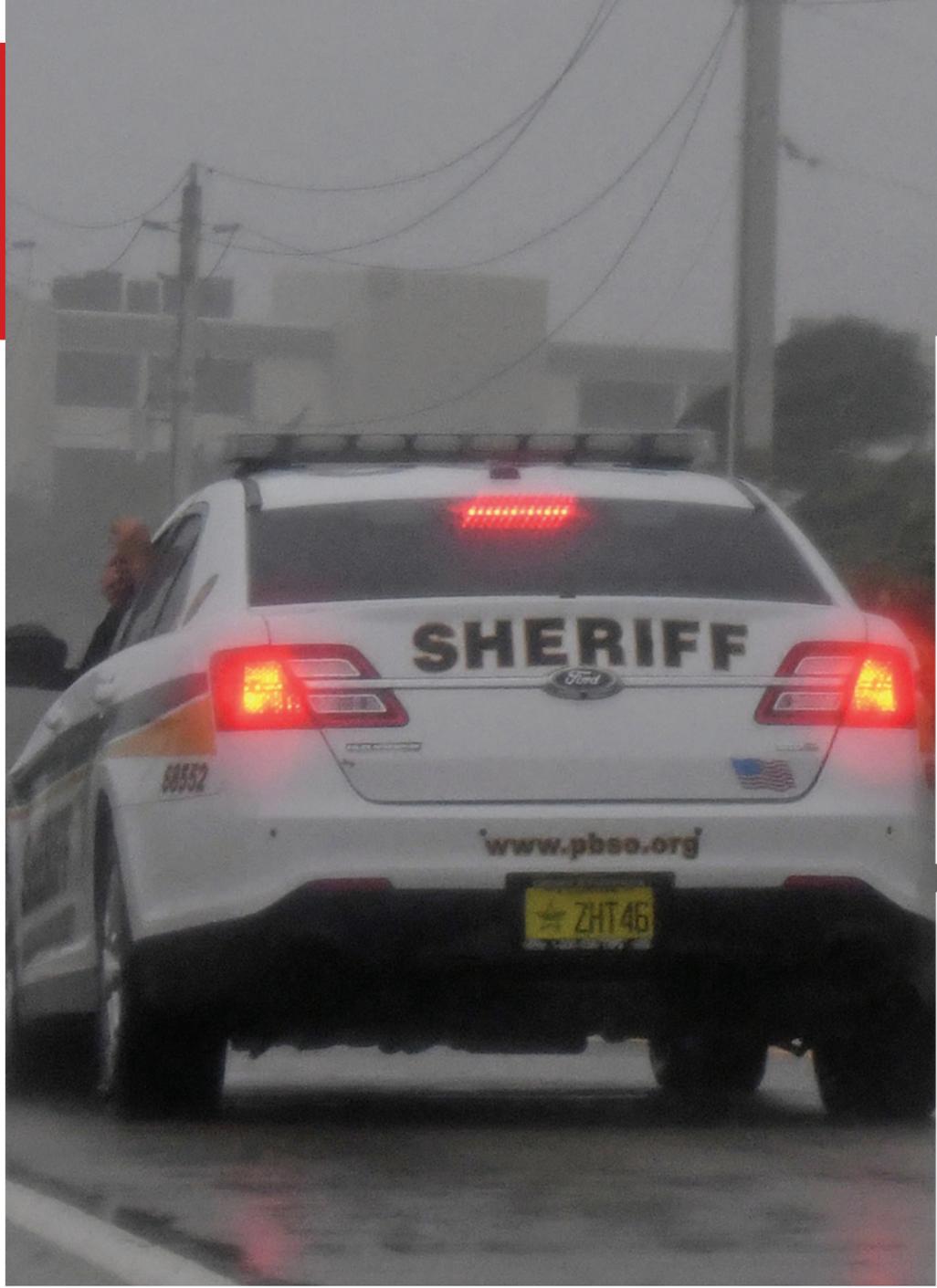
As Irma churned up the coast, more than 16 million people across the state lost power. Many families had to adapt and use flashlights and find creative ways to keep themselves busy, during a time when their lives usually revolved around technology.

"I did not have power for five days. It got to about 90 degrees in my house and we had no hot water or food," Natalie Macadar communications (8) said. "It was hard to adjust to no power. As humans, we rely on technology and not having all that technology we have to think of other ways to have fun."

After Irma weakened and turned into a tropical depression, exiting the state and going through Georgia, Palm Beach County had to cancel school for seven days. Additionally, Bak's campus canceled school for another half a day due to power outages.

"[Losing a week] obviously put us back, so we lost valuable instructional time," Jessica Samons, communications teacher said. "We also had to adjust our deadlines for newspaper and journalism and we had to cancel two teacher work days which made it challenging."

By Annabella Saccaro



CRUISING Palm Beach Sheriff's Office deputy patrols Boynton Beach Inlet Park as Hurricane Irma arrives on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017. (Jim Rassol/Sun Sentinel/TNS) used with permission.

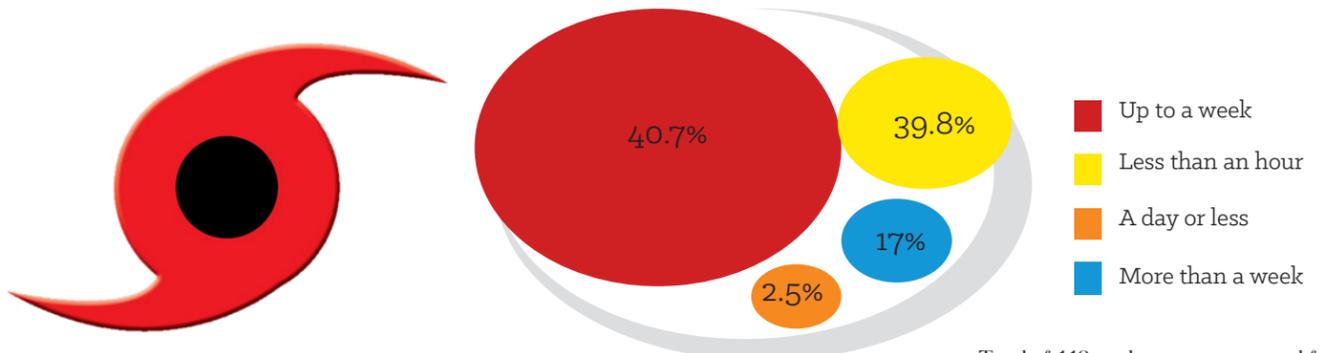


DOWN SOUTH The popular tourist attraction in Key West bears marks of destruction because of Irma. A lot of other Florida attractions were damaged including Jungle Island, Miami Sea Aquarium, and the Miami Zoo. Photo by Michelle Ashley

HEADING NORTH Cars jam the highway to evacuate before the category five hurricane swept across Florida. There were mandatory evacuations for the Florida Keys and many counties across the state. Photo by Annabella Saccaro



HOW LONG WERE YOU WITHOUT POWER?



Total of 118 students were surveyed from all grades.



TIMBER Trees and other large objects cause destruction and damage. According to Reuter's top news, Hurricane Irma destroyed 200,000 to 400,000 cars. Repair costs for Irma was expected to exceed \$50 billion and reach \$100 billion in September of 2017. Photo by Michelle Ashley

HURRICANE HUNGER During Irma, many non-perishable foods and drinks sell out quickly. Due to low supplies, price gouging occurred to take advantage of consumers. Many grocery stores had to limit sales of certain goods. Photo by Annabella Saccaro