

# Orlando Sentinel

## Hurricane Dorian: How crews will stop 400-foot-tall The Wheel from rolling away



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How do you stop a 400-foot-tall tower from breaking off of its foundations, rolling down International Drive and terrorizing tourists from across the world during a strong hurricane? Steel cables, of course.

One of International Drive's most-recognizable structures will get tied down in advance of this weekend's strong approaching storm.

Hurricane protocol for The Wheel at ICON Park, the observation wheel that towers over the city's tourism district, calls for four large cables to anchor the structure to the ground.

That will kick in if wind forecasts predict sustained winds of more than 28 mph. At that rate, a storm is considered a tropical depression. Tropical storm conditions start at wind speeds of 39 miles per hour or more.

The attraction is already tethered to a strong foundation with eight thick columns that are part of The Wheel, which was built to withstand strong winds.

The rest of the park, which includes 40 restaurants and bars, will remain open until roads around the area are closed, ICON Park CEO Chris Jaskiewicz said.

The large cables are like "an emergency brake for The Wheel," Jaskiewicz said Thursday.