

WIND SPEEDS OF UP TO 135KPH CAUSE PANIC ACROSS IRELAND

BRENDAN HOWLIN'



Gimme shelter . . . man's broly folds

By ANN MOONEY

SAVAGE Storm Brendan battered Ireland with driving rain and hurricane-force winds, leaving over 48,000 homes and businesses without power — and trampolines on motorways.

Extensive flooding and downed trees caused chaos amid gusts of up to 135kph.

Wind gusts picked up through the morning — with 135kph recorded at Roche's Point in Cork. Meanwhile, wind speeds of over 100kph blasted Kerry and Mayo.

Counties most impacted by the power outages include Galway, Limerick, Kerry, Cork and Donegal.

On the travel front, six Aer Lingus flights to and from Shannon were cancelled yesterday morning while two Ryanair flights were diverted to Cork.

The Cross River ferry in Cork was axed as were ferries to islands off the Donegal coast.

And on the roads, flying trampolines caused disruption for motorists in different regions — with one reaching the M7 before the exit for the University of Limerick.

And there was a similar incident on the M9 southbound between Junction 8 and 9.

Country roads also had their share of trampoline mayhem with one on the road on the Tipperary side of Oola village and another on the road between Buttevant and Churchtown by the Crossroads pub.

Meanwhile, the capital didn't escape the brunt of Storm Brendan, with a large block of scaffolding falling down in Gandon Walk in Lucan, Co Dublin.

Amid the chaos, weather forecaster Evelyn Cusack hit out at those spreading "fake" weather reports and charts online. Met Eireann's Head of Forecasting went on RTE radio to plead with people to "stop tweeting fake weather warnings and fake weather charts". She said: "There's really crazy stuff out there and it's just irresponsible."

"There's a whole lot of fake weather charts with red warnings and everything on them."

"The Met Eireann warnings are out. We've spent the last two days considering this very carefully."

"We've a full team of people here with the best high-resolution model and it's very irresponsible, so I just want to say that."

"We want everyone to take care and take the advice of the local authorities, the Gardai and the Coast Guard."

Cusack branded Brendan "a very active storm", with embedded thunder storms adding to strong winds to cause power outages.

AA Roadwatch warned road users to watch out for debris on roads and give extra space to vulnerable road users like pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

One rider had a lucky escape in Kinnegad, Co Westmeath, when he was blown off his bike by a strong gust of wind.

Fishing trawlers sought safety in harbours all along the coast, while ferry companies cancelled many



CARAV-ANNIHILATION

Trailer blown over at Garretstown, Co Cork



EMERGENCY CALL

Phone post teeters in Cloughane, Co Kerry



SUB-MERGING TRAFFIC

Roads badly flooded in Skerries, Co Dublin



HIGHWAY TO SWELL

Soaked punter parks near Dublin's Poolbeg Lighthouse



BRACING FOR BREN

Satellite image of massive storm approaching west coast of Ireland



Struggling . . . swimmer

Punter has a lucky dip

By GARY MENEELY

A FOOLISH swimmer struggles to get out of the sea as Storm Brendan battered Ireland.

The man, said to be in his 60s, went for a dip in Salthill, Co Galway, despite hurricane force winds hitting the country.

Tommy Roddy — a local election candidate for the Galway City West Ward for 2024 — captured the incident on video. Mr Roddy told the Irish Sun: "This man would be in his 60s. He was struggling to get out, the winds were so strong. Thankfully, he managed to get out."

The video sparked a storm online with Twitter users branding the swimmer a "Grade A idiot" and an "absolute bel-lend".



TREE OF STRIFE

Tree blocks road in Westport, Co Mayo



COASTAL CHAOS

Flooding at sea wall in Clontarf, Co Dublin

● Floods, power outages & trampoline chaos

● Ferocious storm blasts country with gusts

sailings. Irish Ferries cancelled its 8.45am and 8.45pm sailings between Rosslare and Pembroke, while the 2.45pm Pembroke to Rosslare ferry was also axed.

Stena Line also stopped a number of services between Rosslare and Fishguard.

The new Stena flagship ferry The Estrid was delayed on its maiden voyage to Dublin for two hours.

The ship, described as one of the most modern in the world, finally docked yesterday afternoon on its first sailing from Holyhead. Simon

Palmer, of Stena Line, told how the chairs were moving around the ship's restaurant "like something from the movie Poltergeist" — and the huge vessel was rolling from side to side on the huge waves.

Back on land, the main street in Ballincollig, Co Cork, was closed yesterday morning after part of the roof of the Tradehouse Central Bar came off and some cladding fell into the street.

Fortunately, there were no injuries reported. As the storm worsened, the flat roof of the pub —

located at the western end of the busy town in the Castlewest Shopping Centre — began to peel back like a tin can and the area was soon deemed unsafe for pedestrians and motorists.

In Dublin in advance of the high tide yesterday, car parks were closed and flood defences were erected at Clontarf, Sandymount, and along the tidal reaches of the River Dodder.

There are further high tides predicted, with the highest one expected at 2pm today. As a result,

the flood defences will remain in place until tomorrow.

Dublin City Council said it will continue to monitor the situation and take necessary action over the coming days.

Cork City Council is also warning of a period of high astronomical spring tides today, presenting a risk of flooding along low-lying city quays and advise that traffic and parking restrictions may be imposed.

Meanwhile the ESB was working throughout the day to try to restore

electricity to businesses, homes and farms around the country. Wexford was particularly badly-hit with over 12,000 premises without power, while Passage West in Cork was also blacked out.

The new Aldi supermarket and businesses in the shopping complex were forced to close for the day because of the power cut.

In Clare, a man was injured after he became trapped beneath a gate that had blown open on top of him during the violent storm. One of the man's legs became trapped

beneath the gate after it knocked him to the ground.

The incident happened at the GAA's Cusack Park grounds in Ennis at around 11.00am.

Fire crews from nearby Ennis station were called to the scene to assist National Ambulance Service paramedics.

Fire service personnel had use specialist equipment to help lift the gate off the man's leg.

The man was not seriously hurt and while he was treated at the scene by paramedics, it wasn't

known whether the man was hospitalised. The GAA in Clare has been requested to comment.

Meanwhile, as the country's second most popular tourist attraction remained closed yesterday, dozens of people ignored the warnings and braved the high winds to view the spectacular Cliffs of Moher.

The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre was closed to the public due to the storm — but the cliffs continued to attract curious onlookers.

Several thousand homes and

businesses were left without power in Clare yesterday. The worst affected area was in Tuillabrack, Cooraclare where at one point, almost 3,000 customers lost their electricity.

ESB crews were working to restore power last evening however the ESB Powercheck app was last night unable to provide a restoration time.

Outages in the Clonlara, Tulla and Kilmaley areas were repaired within a few hours.

@IrishSunOnline



IT'S BUMPER TO JUMPER

Trampoline blown on to M7 near Limerick