

## News Article ①

# Was Shark Swimming in Street During Hurricane Melissa? What Video Shows

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A viral video depicting a large shark swimming in a flooded Jamaican street made the rounds on social media on Monday ahead of Hurricane Melissa's landfall.

"Look, look, that is a shark," a person off-screen can be heard saying in the video. "That is a shark right there in the street."

## Why It Matters

Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Jamaica on Tuesday as an extremely dangerous Category 5 hurricane with maximum sustained wind speeds of 185 mph. The storm is the strongest hurricane to hit Jamaica in the island's history. At least seven people in the Caribbean have been killed.

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) issued numerous urgent messages ahead of the storm's landfall.

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## What to Know

It's common for hoax photos and videos of sharks swimming in flooded streets to surface during hurricanes, and they're often quickly debunked.

Although one such video taken of a shark swimming in someone's backyard in Fort Myers, Florida, during Hurricane Ian in 2022 was believed to be true, the recent video shared on TikTok by account @yulian\_studios is fake. The creator labeled the video as AI-generated.



A stock image of a shark swimming in South Africa. (Elis Cora/Getty Images)

The fake video shows a large shark swimming through streets flooded with storm surge.

"Oh my god, the ocean just came up onto the road," a person can be heard saying in the video. "Everything is underwater."

"[It's] swimming past the cars," the person added once the shark disappeared off screen.

TikTok account @yulian\_studios creates videos with AI effects, according to the user's TikTok profile. Many of the videos have hundreds of thousands of views.

The recent shark video was particularly popular, surpassing 2 million views as of Tuesday afternoon just before 1:30 p.m. Eastern time, not even 24 hours after it was posted.

Shark hoaxes have emerged in many hurricanes since a fake image of a shark swimming through a flooded highway was first posted in 2012. However, hurricanes and other strong storms can make animals act strangely, including sharks, which can sense the drop in barometric pressure, prompting them to flee to safer waters.

### What People Are Saying

**TikTok user @qweenmanifesting3 in response to @yulian\_studios AI shark video:** "can please stop with the AI when we are seeking real [information] about our families and [country's] safety?"

**TikTok user @lentz86 in response to the video:** "AI is getting out of hand"



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the storm. Let's look out for each other and for Jamaica's wildlife."

## What Happens Next

People in Jamaica should stay in their shelter until the storm passes. Hurricane Melissa will make landfall in eastern Cuba overnight before taking aim at the Bahamas.

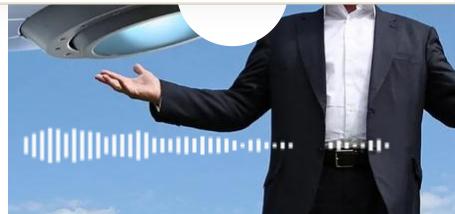
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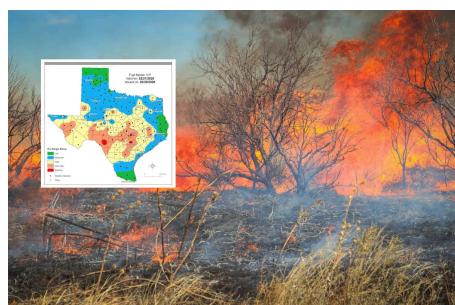
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