

# **Unit 2: National Weather Service Products**

## **Unit 2 Objectives**



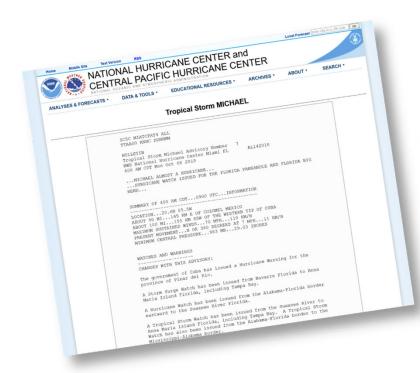
At the end of this unit, you should be able to:

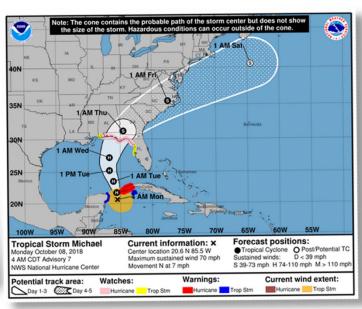
- 1. Identify the National Weather Service (NWS) forecast products.
- 2. Explain when NWS products are available.
- 3. Describe NHC text and graphics products related to wind, such as the Public Advisory, Forecast Discussion, Wind Speed Probabilities, and Arrival Times.
- 4. Describe NWS text and graphics products related to rainfall and flooding, such as Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF), Excessive Rainfall Outlook (ERO), and hydrographs.

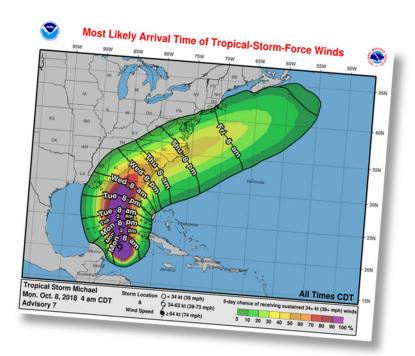
## **Tropical Cyclone Products**



The NWS national centers (National Hurricane Center (NHC), Weather Prediction Center (WPC), National Water Center (NWC), etc.) provide the 'big picture' that complements and guides local NWS forecast office products.

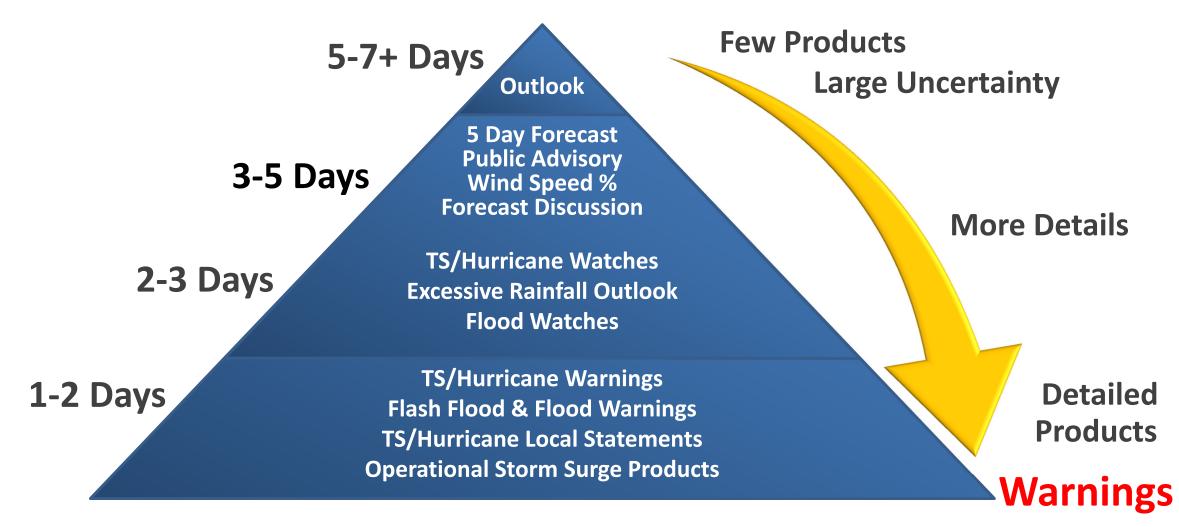






# Tropical Cyclone NWS Products Timeframe





## **NWS TC Product Overview**



#### Wind-related Products

- Tropical Weather Outlook
  - Special Tropical Weather Outlook
- Advisories
  - Public Advisory
  - Intermediate Advisory
  - Tropical Cyclone Update
- Forecast Discussion
- Forecast Error Cone
- Wind Speed Probabilities
- Wind Speed Arrival Timing
- Wind-based Watches/Warnings

#### **Water-related Products**

- SLOSH MEOWs/MOMs
- Rainfall forecasts
  - QPF
  - ERO
- Hydrographs
- Flash Flood Warnings/Emergencies
- Flood Warnings (Mainstem)

## **Tropical Weather Outlook (TWO)**

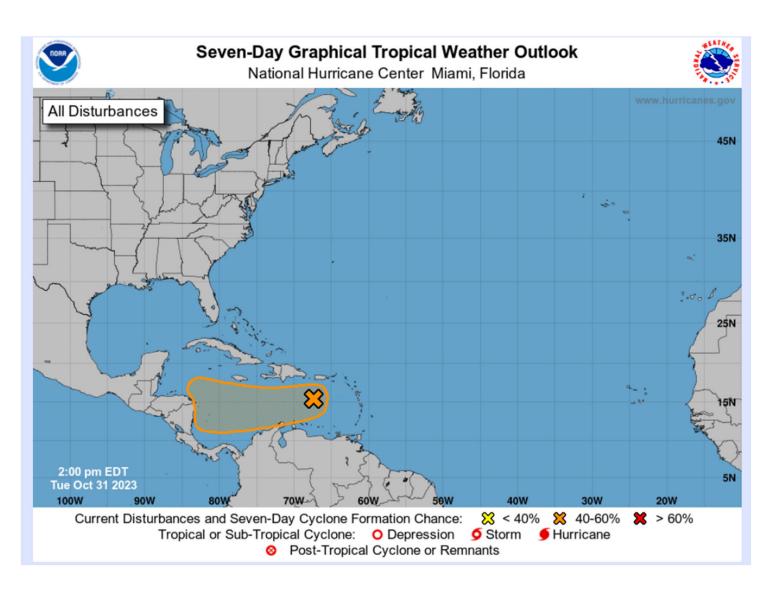


## Tropical Weather Outlook (TWO) addresses:

- What's going on in the tropics?
- Any potential for development?
- Should we be concerned?

## 7-Day TC Formation Potential

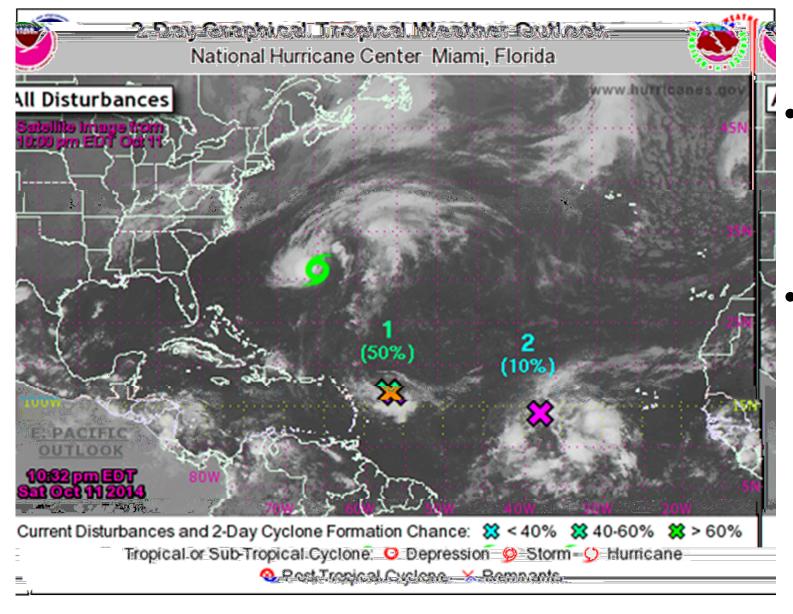




- Shows initial location of two disturbances (X), if existing.
- Shading represents the potential formation area within next 7 days.
- What's the chance these areas form in the next 7 days?

## 2-Day TC Formation Potential





- Identifies the current location of disturbed weather (discussed in the Tropical Weather Outlook)
- Formation chance during the next 48 hours:
  - Categories
     (Low, Medium, or High)
  - Probabilities

## **Assessment of Tropical Activity**





TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK

NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL

800 PM EDT MON OCT 20 2014

For the North Atlantic...Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico:

Showers and thunderstorms associated with an area of low pressure located over the southwestern Bay of Campeche have changed little in organization since this afternoon. This system has the potential to become a tropical cyclone during the next couple of days while it moves slowly eastward across the southern Bay of Campeche. Later in the week, the low is forecast to interact and possibly merge with a frontal system over the southeastern Gulf of Mexico or northwestern Caribbean Sea. An Air Force Reserve reconnaissance aircraft is scheduled to investigate the disturbance tomorrow afternoon, if necessary. Interests in the Yucatan Peninsula should monitor the progress of this system.

- \* Formation chance through 48 hours...medium...50 percent.
- Formation chance through 5 days...medium...60 percent.

Forecaster Brown

Potential for development? Headed where?

### **Potential for Aerial Surveillance**





TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK

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800 PM EDT MON OCT 20 2014

For the North Atlantic...Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico:

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Forecaster Brown

Sending a plane?

## **Special Tropical Weather Outlook**





SPECIAL TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK
NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL
430 PM EDT MON JUN 30 2014

Special outlook issued to update discussion of the area of low pressure east of Florida.

Updated: An Air Force Reserve unit reconnaissance aircraft is investigating the area of low pressure centered about 110 miles east of Melbourne, Florida. While the low is well defined, the associated thunderstorm activity is just below the organizational threshold required to initiate tropical cyclone advisories. Environmental conditions continue to be favorable for development, and only a slight increase in the organization and persistence of the thunderstorm activity would result in the formation of a tropical depression.

Data from the reconnaissance aircraft indicate that peak sustained winds with the low are about 30-35 mph. The low is moving southwestward at around 5 mph, but is expected to turn westward tonight and northward by Wednesday when it will be near the east coast of Florida. If this system becomes a tropical cyclone, a tropical storm watch could be required for portions of the central or northern Atlantic coast of Florida. A turn toward the northeast near the southeastern U.S. coast is expected by Thursday.

- \* Formation chance through 48 hours...high...80 percent.
- \* Formation chance through 5 days...high...80 percent.

Why is it being issued?

## Reports from Hurricane Hunter Flights FEMA





SPECIAL TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL 430 PM EDT MON JUN 30 2014

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- \* Formation chance through 5 days...high...80 percent.

What did the aircraft find?

## Possibility of Watch/Warning





SPECIAL TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK
NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL
430 PM EDT MON JUN 30 2014

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rention changed branches days, high, share recent

13

Watches no

## **Tropical Weather Outlook Schedule**



#### Tropical Weather Outlook schedule:

- 2 am Tropical Weather Outlook
- 8 am Tropical Weather Outlook
- 2 pm Tropical Weather Outlook
- 8 pm Tropical Weather Outlook

A Special Tropical Outlook can be issued at <u>any time</u> for significant or unexpected changes.

## www.hurricanes.gov







#### Hurricane Irma

...IRMA MOVING THROUGH THE SOUTHEASTERN BAHAMAS AS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS CATEGORY 4 HURRICANE...

5:00 AM EDT Fri Sep 8

Location: 21.7°N 73.8°W Moving: WNW at 16 mph Min pressure: 925 mb Max sustained: 155 mph

Public Advisorv #37

Aviso **Publico** #37 500 AM EDT 500 AM EDT 0900 UTC

**Forecast** Advisorv **Forecast** 

**Wind Speed Discussion Probabilities** 500 AM CDT 0900 UTC

Static Images

**Products** 

Experimental Arrival Time of Winds

**NWS Local** US Watch/ Warning 613 AM CDT 452 AM EDT



**Probabilities** 



Warnings and Storm Surge Surface Wind Inundation



Wind History



Storm Surge Watch/Warning



Warnings/Cone Interactive Map



Potential



## **Public Advisory**



## Public Advisory addresses:

- How strong is the storm?
- What are the hazards?
- Are there any warnings?
- When is new information available?
- When is a good time for a conference call?

## Public Advisory – Issued for...



#### Public Advisories issued for:

#### **Tropical Cyclones**

- Tropical Depressions
- Tropical Storms (TS)
- Hurricanes

#### **Post-Tropical Cyclones**

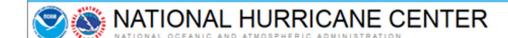
 Remains a threat to land (e.g., Sandy & Hermine)

#### **Potential Tropical Cyclones**

- Systems not yet a tropical cyclone
- Threat of TS-force winds to land within 48 hours (Introduced in 2017)

## **Public Advisory - Example**





Tropical Storm Michael Advisory Number 7

NWS National Hurricane Center Miami FL AL142018
400 AM CDT Mon Oct 08 2018

- ...MICHAEL ALMOST A HURRICANE...
- ...HURRICANE WATCH ISSUED FOR THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE AND BIG BEND...

SUMMARY OF 400 AM CDT...0900 UTC...INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION...20.6N 85.5W

ABOUT 90 MI...145 KM E OF COZUMEL MEXICO

ABOUT 100 MI...155 KM SSW OF THE WESTERN TIP OF CUBA

MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS...70 MPH...110 KM/H

PRESENT MOVEMENT...N OR 360 DEGREES AT 7 MPH...11 KM/H

MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE...983 MB...29.03 INCHES

- Plain-language text
- Originally intended as "rip and read"

#### WATCHES AND WARNINGS

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- A Storm Surge Watch is in effect for...
- \* Navarre Florida to Anna Maria Island Florida, including Tampa Bay
- A Hurricane Watch is in effect for ...
- \* Alabama-Florida border to Suwanee River Florida
- A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for...
- \* Suwanee River to Anna Maria Island Florida, including Tampa Bay
- \* Alabama-Florida border to the Mississippi-Alabama border

## **Public Advisory – Location**



#### NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

Tropical Storm Michael Advisory Number NWS National Hurricane Center Miami FL 400 AM CDT Mon Oct 08 2018

- ...MICHAEL ALMOST A HURRICANE...
- ...HURRICANE WATCH ISSUED FOR THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE AND BIG BEND...

AL142018

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Where is the storm located?

## **Public Advisory – Strength**



#### NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

Tropical Storm Michael Advisory Number 7

NWS National Hurricane Center Miami FL AL142018
400 AM CDT Mon Oct 08 2018

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PRESENT MOVEMENT...N OR 360 DEGREES AT 7 MPH...11 KM/.
MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE...983 MB...29.03 INCHES

#### How strong is the storm?

#### WATCHES AND WARNINGS

-----

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## Public Advisory - Watches/Warnings



# NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER Tropical Storm Michael Advisory Number 7 NWS National Hurricane Center Miami FL AL142018 400 AM CDT Mon Oct 08 2018 ...MICHAEL ALMOST A HURRICANE... ...HURRICANE WATCH ISSUED FOR THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE AND BIG BEND... SUMMARY OF 400 AM CDT...0900 UTC...INFORMATION LOCATION...20.6N 85.5W ABOUT 90 MI...145 KM E OF COZUMEL MEXICO ABOUT 100 MI...155 KM SSW OF THE WESTERN TIP OF CUBA MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS...70 MPH...110 KM/H PRESENT MOVEMENT....NOR 360 DEGREES.AT.7 MPH...11 KM/H

lancui kuomisa kahine mannamuangan say

- A Hurricane Watch is in effect for...
- \* Alabama-Florida border to Suwanee River Florida
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A Storm Surge Watch is in effect for...

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**Watches or Warnings?** 

## **Public Advisory – Track Forecast**





#### DISCUSSION AND OUTLOOK

Wednesday night and Thursday.

At 400 AM CDT (0900 UTC), the center of Tropical Storm Michael was located by an Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft near latitude 20.6 North, longitude 85.5 West. Michael is moving toward the north near 7 mph (11 km/h). A northward motion at a slightly faster forward speed is expected through Tuesday night, followed by a northeastward motion on Wednesday and Thursday. On the forecast track, the center of Michael will move northward across the Yucatan Channel later today, and then across the eastern Gulf of Mexico this evening through Wednesday. Michael is expected to move inland

over the Florida Panhandle or Florida Big Bend area on Wednesday, and then move northeastward across the southeastern United States

Data from the Hurricane Hunter aircraft indicate that maximum sustained winds have increased to near 70 mph (110 km/h) with higher gusts. Additional strengthening is forecast, and Michael is expected to become a hurricane later today. Michael is forecast to be near or at major hurricane strength when it reaches the northeastern Gulf of Mexico Tuesday night and Wednesday.

Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 175 miles (280 km) from the center.

The minimum central pressure based on aircraft data is 983 mb (29.03 inches).

Where is the storm headed?

# **Public Advisory – Wind Intensity Forecast**





#### NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

ATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



#### Covers a 3-day period

#### DISCUSSION AND OUTLOOK

At 400 AM CDT (0900 UTC), the center of Tropical Storm Michael was located by an Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft near latitude 20.6 North, longitude 85.5 West. Michael is moving toward the north near 7 mph (11 km/h). A northward motion at a slightly faster forward speed is expected through Tuesday night, followed by a northeastward motion on Wednesday and Thursday. On the forecast track, the center of Michael will move northward across the Yucatan Channel later today, and then across the eastern Gulf of Mexico this evening through Wednesday. Michael is expected to move inland over the Florida Panhandle or Florida Big Bend area on Wednesday, and then move northeastward across the southeastern United States Wednesday night and Thursday.

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Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 175 miles (280 km) from the center.

The minimum central pressure based on aircraft data is 983 mb (29.03 inches).

Forecast to weaken? Strengthen?

## **Public Advisory – Surge Forecast**





HAZARDS AFFECTING LAND

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STORM SURGE: The combination of a dangerous storm surge and the tide will cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by rising waters moving inland from the shoreline. The water has the potential to reach the following heights above ground if peak surge occurs at the time of high tide...

Indian Pass to Crystal River...7-11 ft
Crystal River to Anclote River...4-6 ft
Okaloosa/Walton County Line to Indian Pass...4-7 ft
Anclote River to Anna Maria Island including Tampa Bay...2-4 ft
Navarre to Okaloosa/Walton County Line...2-4 ft

WIND: Hurricane conditions are expected across the far western part of the Cuban province of Pinar del Rio later today. Tropical storm conditions are expected across the remainder of the warning areas in Cuba and the Yucatan Peninsula later today.

Hurricane conditions are possible within the hurricane watch area along the U.S. Gulf coast by Wednesday, with tropical storm conditions possible by Tuesday night or early Wednesday. Tropical storm conditions are possible within the tropical storm watch area by Tuesday night or early Wednesday.

How much storm surge is forecast?

## Public Advisory – Rain Forecast





(

#### HAZARDS AFFECTING LAND

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Hurricane conditions are possible within the hurricane watch area along the U.S. Gulf coast by Wednesday, with tropical storm conditions possible by Tuesday night or early Wednesday. Tropical storm conditions are possible within the tropical storm watch area by Tuesday night or early Wednesday.

RAINFALL: Michael is expected to produce the following rainfall amounts through Wednesday night...

Florida Panhandle and Big Bend into southern Georgia...4 to 8 inches, with isolated maximum amounts of 12 inches. This rainfall may lead to life threatening flash floods.

Florida Keys...2 to 4 inches.

Yucatan Peninsula...1 to 2 inches.

How much rain is forecast?

## **Intermediate Public Advisory**





Tropical Storm Michael Intermediate Advisory Number 7A NWS National Hurricane Center Miami FL AL142018 700 AM CDT Mon Oct 08 2018

...MICHAEL EXPECTED TO BECOME A HURRICANE VERY SOON...

SUMMARY OF 700 AM CDT...1200 UTC...INFORMATION

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LOCATION...20.9N 85.1W
ABOUT 70 MI...115 KM S OF THE WESTERN TIP OF CUBA
MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS...70 MPH...110 KM/H
PRESENT MOVEMENT...N OR 5 DEGREES AT 7 MPH...11 KM/H
MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE...982 MB...29.00 INCHES

#### WATCHES AND WARNINGS

\_\_\_\_\_

#### SUMMARY OF WATCHES AND WARNINGS IN EFFECT:

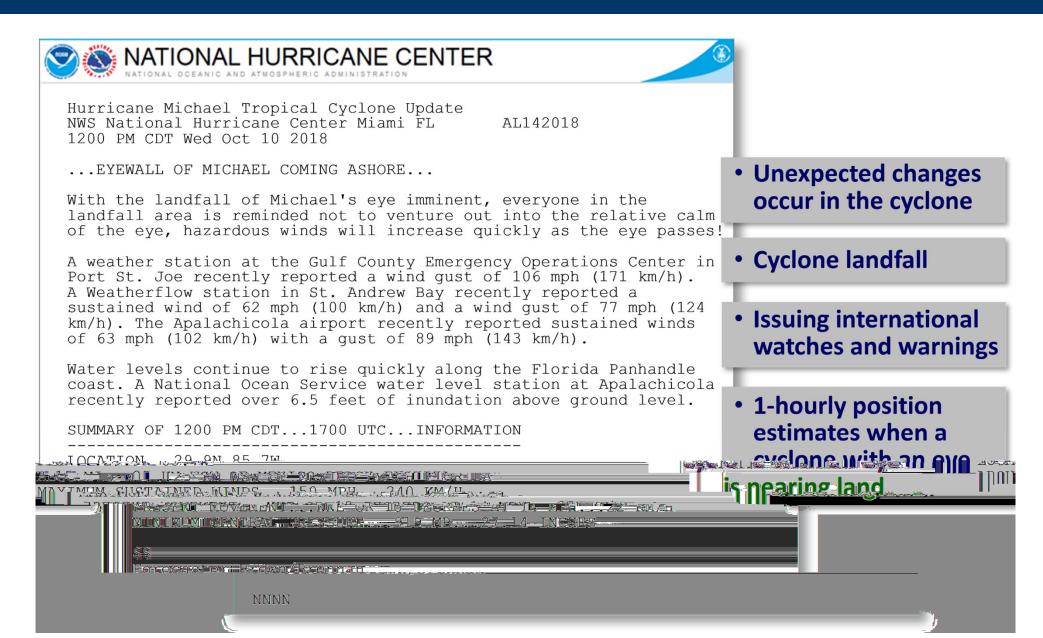
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## Similar content but issued 3 hours after complete advisory package

✓ Watch or Warning in effect

## **Tropical Cyclone Update**





## **Scheduled Updates**



#### No Watches/Warnings

#### **NHC ADVISORY**

- Public Advisory
- · Forecast Discussion
- Wind Speed Probabilities
- Forecast Cone
- Storm Surge Products (possible)

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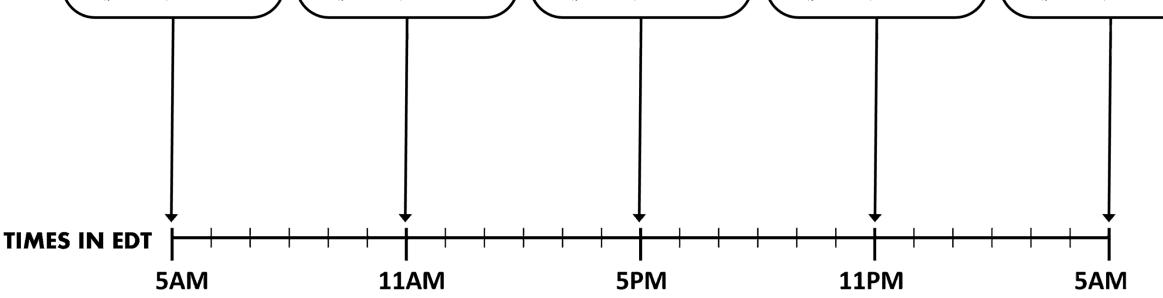
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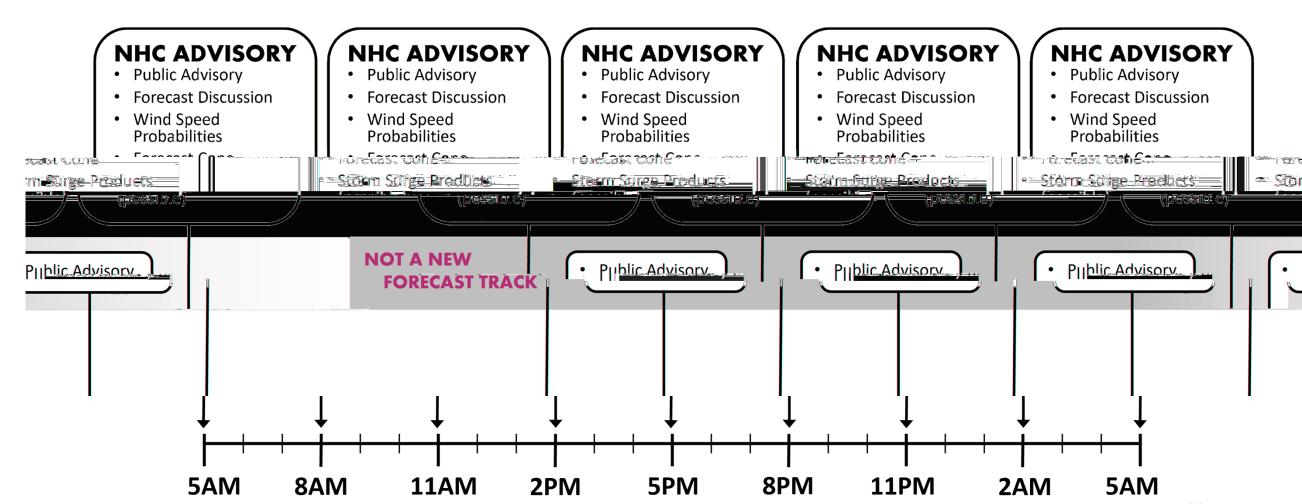
- Public Advisory
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- Wind Speed Probabilities
- Forecast Cone
- Storm Surge Products (possible)



## Scheduled Updates - W/W



#### Watches/Warnings in effect



## Scheduled Updates – Eye Tracked



Watches/Warnings in effect and eye tracked by radar

#### **NHC ADVISORY**

- Public Advisory
- Forecast Discussion
- Wind Speed Probabilities
- Forecast Cone
- Storm Surge Products

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- Public Advisory
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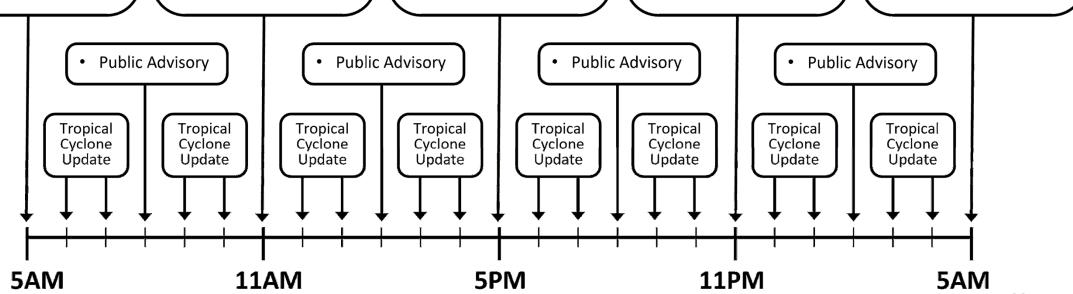
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## **Forecast Discussion**



#### Forecast Discussion addresses:

- How confident are the forecasters?
- Key messages?

## Reasoning? Confidence? Scenarios?





Tropical Storm Michael Discussion Number NWS National Hurricane Center Miami FL 400 AM CDT Mon Oct 08 2018

AL142018

An Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft made several passes through the system and found that the central pressure has fallen to about 983 mb and maximum winds have increased to near 60 kt. This increase in intensity indicates that despite the shear, Michael has by definition rapidly intensified during the past 24 hours. Decreasing vertical shear and very warm sea surface temperatures are expected to support continued strengthening, and due to the favorable conditions, the NHC intensity forecast follows a blend of the IVCN consensus and the HCCA model. This new official forecast brings the intensity to just below major hurricane strength in 48 hours, and since the storm will still be over water for a time between 48 and 72 hours, there is a real possibility that Michael will strengthen to a major hurricane before landfall.

- Forecast reasoning
- RelevantObservations
- Model Guidance
- Forecast Uncertainties

Negretall of the track models have shifted westward after 24 hours which left the previous forecast near the eastern edge of the guidance envelope. Due to this shift, the new NHC track forecast has also been dojusted westward close to the consensus aids. Overall the track guidance is in fairly good agreement up until landfall along the Florida Panhandle or Florida Big Bend, which has yielded a fairly confident track forecast.

## **Key Messages**





#### Key Messages:

- 1. Hurricane conditions are expected over portions of western Cuba, where a hurricane warning is now in effect. Tropical storm conditions are expected over the northeastern Yucatan Peninsula and the Isle of Youth today.
- 2. Michael is expected to produce heavy rainfall and flash flooding over portions of western Cuba and the northeastern Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico during the next couple of days.
- 3. Michael is forecast to be a hurricane, and possibly a major hurricane, when it reaches the northeastern Gulf Coast by midweek, and storm surge and hurricane watches are now in effect for portions of the area. Some areas along the Florida Gulf Coast are especially vulnerable to storm surge, regardless of the storm's exact track or intensity. Residents in the watch areas should monitor the progress of this system and follow any advice given by local officials.

#### **Key Messages**

- Forecast Confidence
- Highlight Threats

## **Forecast Error Cone**

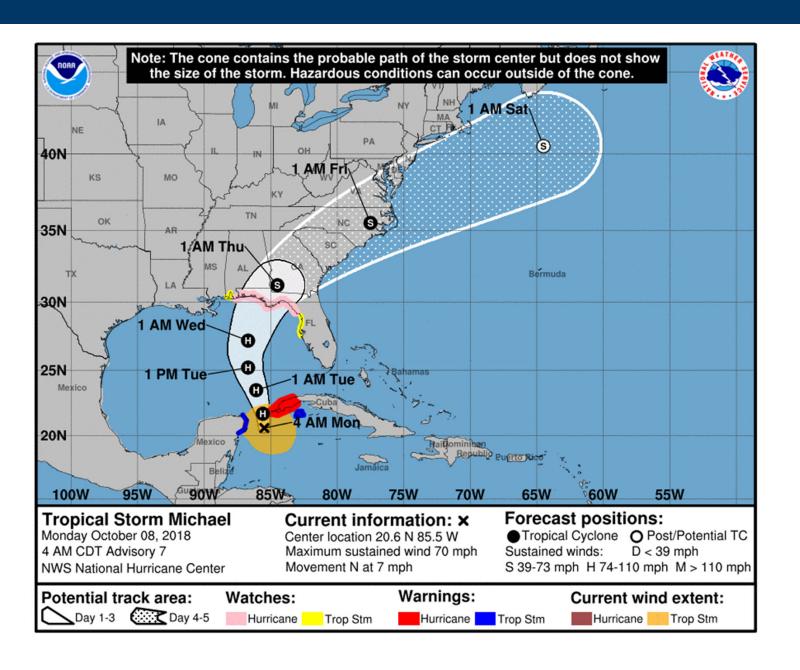


#### Forecast Error Cone addresses:

- What is the official NHC-issued forecast storm track?
- How can I see this in non-text format?

## **Forecast Error Cone**



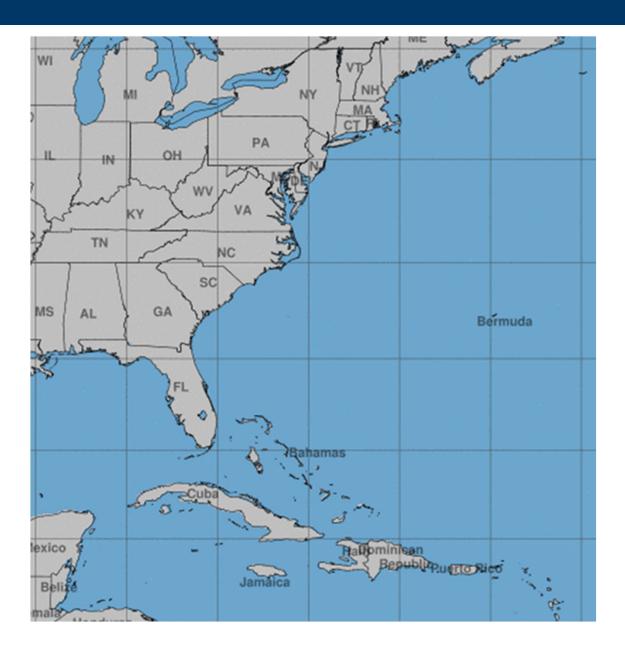


## **Cure For The Skinny Black Line?**



#### **ERROR CONE**

- Probable track of the center of the tropical cyclone.
- Formed by connecting circles centered on each forecast point.
- Each circle uses NHC historical (5-year) track errors.
  - Actual storm position will be within the circle 67% of the time.



### **Not In The Cone: No Worries?**



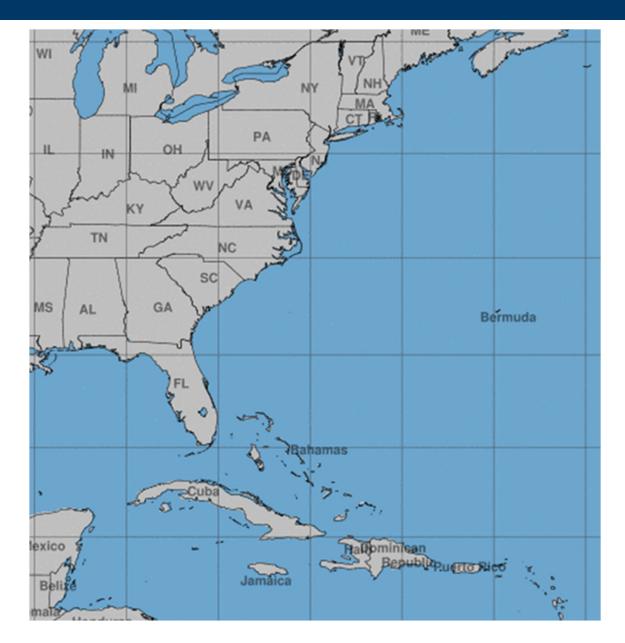
### **ERROR CONE**

Only displays information about track uncertainty

Nothing about specific impacts

Impacts can occur well outside the area enclosed by the cone

 Center is expected to be outside the cone about 1/3 of the time



# Wind Speed Probabilities

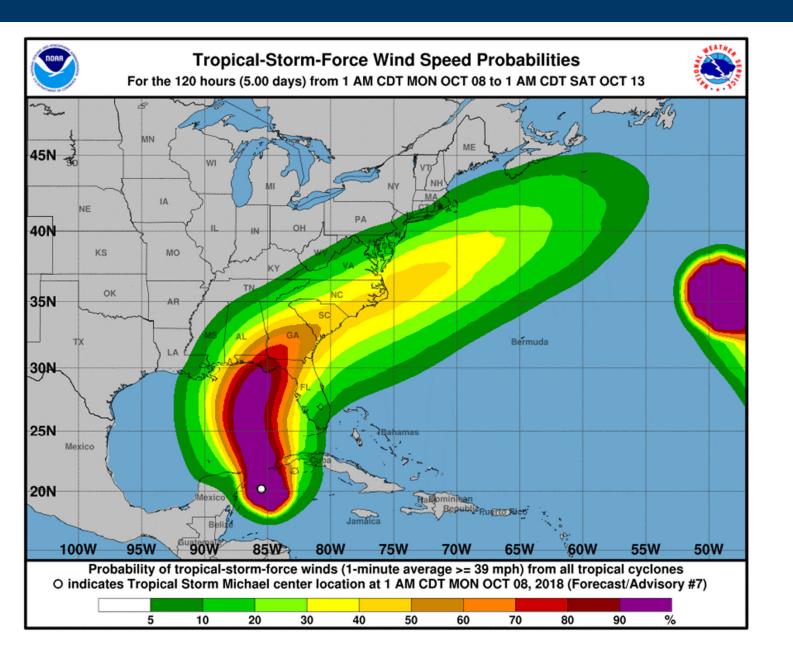


### Wind Speed Probabilities address:

- Chance for some effects?
- How can I better see forecast wind impacts?
- Are staging areas at risk?

# 5-Day Cumulative Graphic: TS-Force



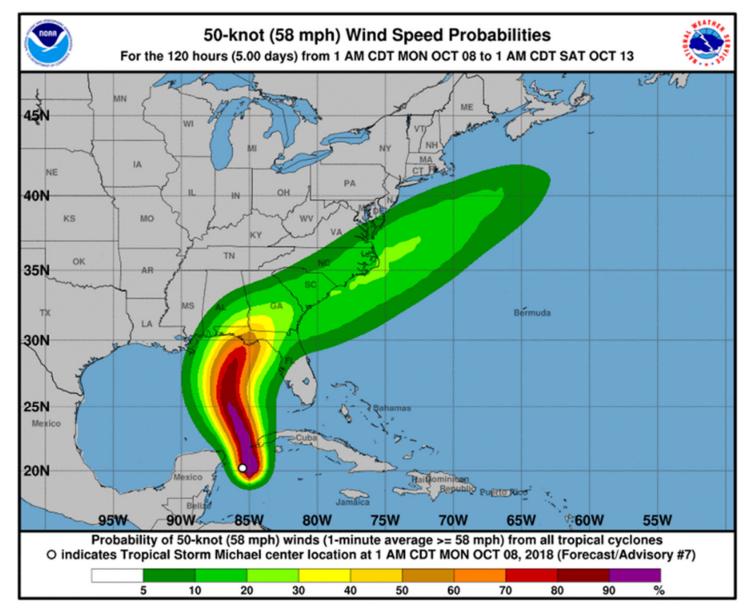


# Location-specific Probabilities

- Tropical Storm-Force
- 58 mph ("Strong" Tropical Storm)
- Hurricane-Force

# 5-Day Cumulative Graphic: 'Strong' TS-Force





# Location-specific Probabilities

- Tropical Storm-Force
- 58 mph ("Strong" Tropical Storm)
- Hurricane-Force

# 5-Day Cumulative Graphic: Hurricane-Force





# Location-specific Probabilities

- Tropical Storm-Force
- 58 mph ("Strong" Tropical Storm)
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## **Arrival Times**

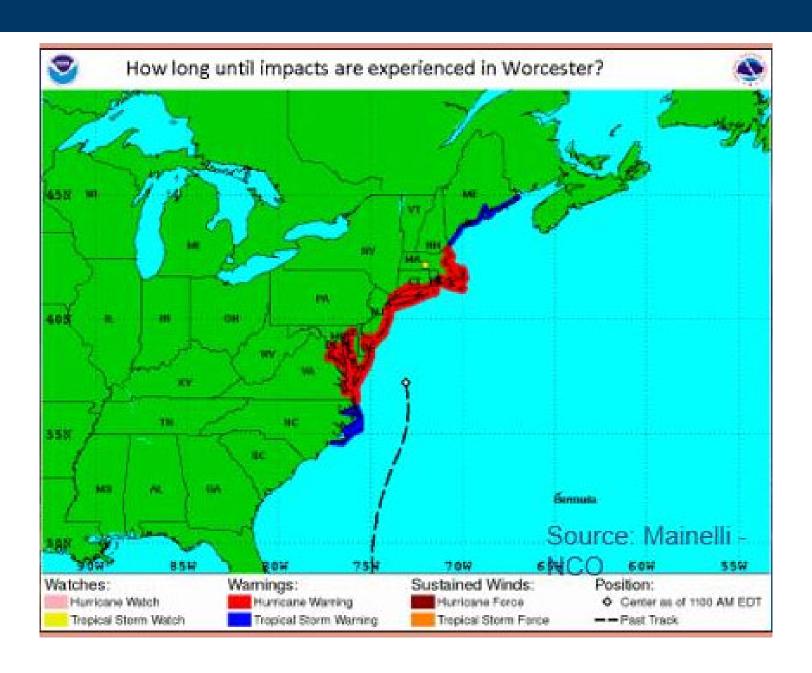


### **Arrival Times address:**

When is the earliest TS winds could begin?

## 1938 Hurricane Demonstration



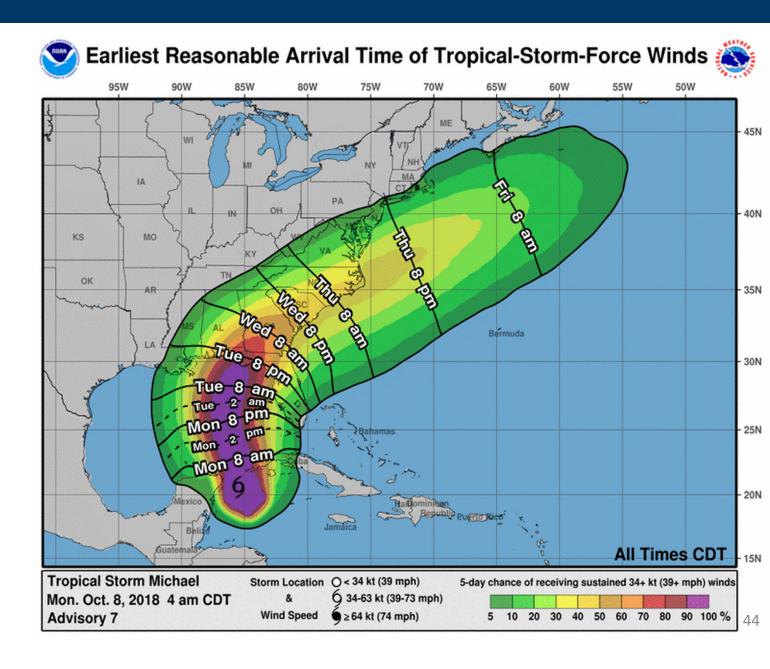


# **Earliest Reasonable Onset of TS Winds**



### **Earliest Reasonable**

- 10% chance of onset (Most conservative timing)
- Black Contours: Arrival time of TS winds
- Color fill: 5-day cumulative
   TS probabilities

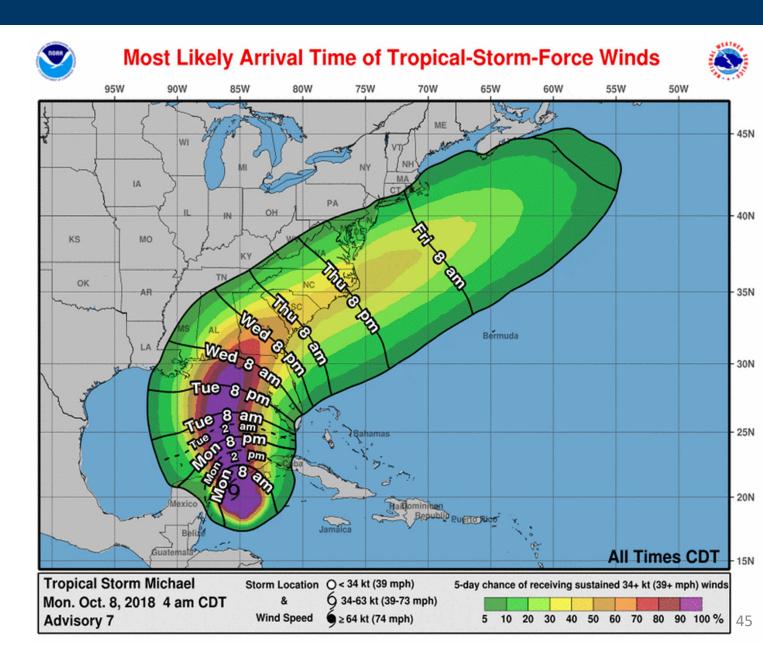


## **Most Likely Onset of TS Winds**



### **Most Likely**

- 50% chance of onset (Equally likely to occur before as after)
- Black Contours: Arrival time of TS winds
- Color fill: 5-day cumulative
   TS probabilities



# **Timing Uncertainty**



#### Earliest Reasonable

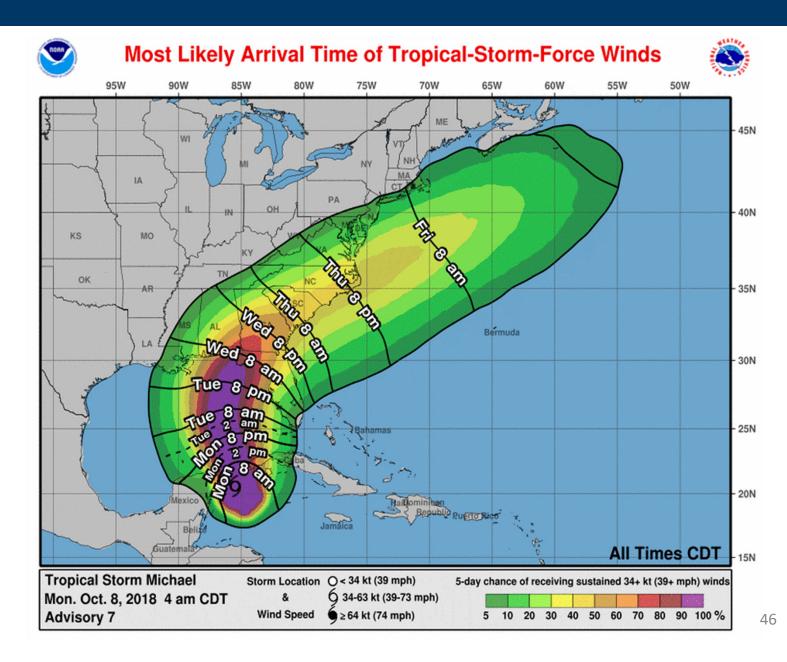
- 10% chance of onset
- Most conservative timing
- Tuesday 8 p.m.

### Most Likely

- 50% chance of onset
- Equally likely before as after
- Wednesday 8 a.m.

### Range of wind arrival: 12 h

Tuesday 8 p.m.–Wed 8 a.m.



# Wind Watches and Warnings



### Wind Watches and Warnings address:

- Where is the greatest concern?
- When will hurricane hazards begin?

# **Hurricane Watches/Warnings**



The lead time for Tropical Storm and Hurricane Watches and Warnings are tied to the anticipated arrival time of tropical stormforce winds.

#### **Hurricane Watch**

 Hurricane conditions are possible within the Watch area, generally within 48 hours.

### **Hurricane Warning**

 Hurricane conditions are expected within the Warning area, generally within 36 hours.



# Tropical Storm vs. High Wind Watches/Warnings

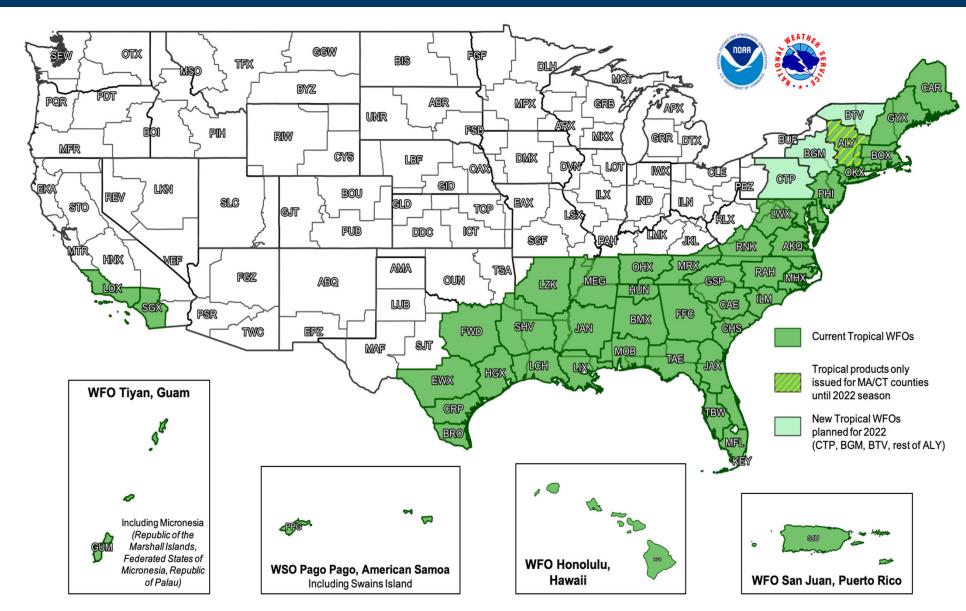


- Tropical Storm Watches/Warnings
  - Issued for tropical storm-strength wind speeds (sustained winds of 39 to 74 mph).
  - Watches issued when tropical storm winds are possible within 36 to 48 hours.
  - Warnings issued when tropical storm winds are expected within 36 hours.
  - Will be issued for inland counties covered by WFOs designated to issue Tropical Cyclone Products (based on historical return periods for tropical storm winds).

- High Wind Watches/Warnings
  - Issued for wind speeds that meet or exceed locally defined Warning criteria (typically sustained wind speeds of 40 mph or greater lasting for 1 hour or longer, or winds of 58 mph or greater for any duration)
  - Watches issued when high winds are possible within 12 to 48 hours.
  - Warnings issued when high winds are expected within 12 hours.
  - Will be issued for inland counties covered by WFOs that are <u>not</u> designated as "tropical."

# Which NWS Offices Will Issue Tropical Storm vs High Wind Watches/Warnings?





Green/Teal = you will receive Tropical Storm or Hurricane Watches/Warnings for inland wind hazards.

White = you will receive High Wind Watches/Warnings for inland wind hazards.

# **Tornado Watches & Warnings**



#### Tornado WATCH

• Conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. It does not mean tornadoes will occur, but they are possible.

#### **Tornado WARNING**

 A tornado has been spotted or indicated by weather radar, meaning a tornado is occurring or expected soon.

#### Tornado EMERGENCY

• A special type of Tornado Warning issued for exceedingly rare situations when a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage due to a confirmed violent tornado is imminent or occurring.

# **Storm Surge Products**



### Storm Surge Products address:

- Where might storm surge occur?
- What are the possible impacts of storm surge?

### **SLOSH MOMs and MEOWs - MOMs**



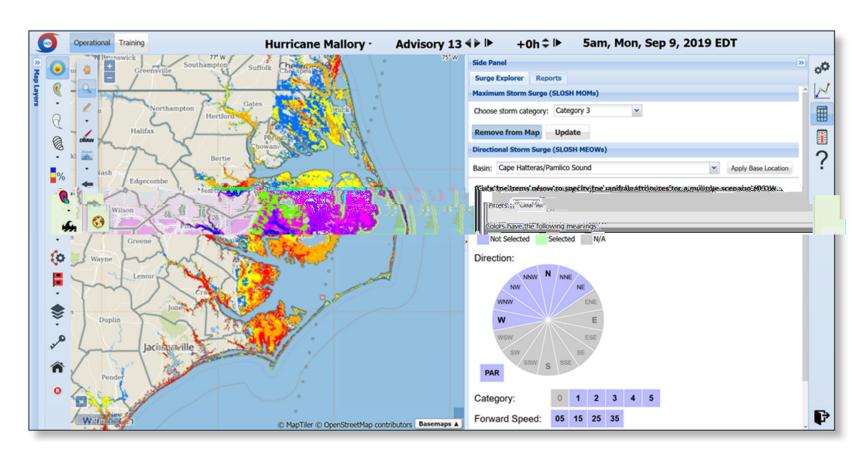
# MOMs - Maximum of Maximums

Worst-case for a particular category storm

# Combination of many scenarios

- Forward speed
- Angle of approach
- Size (Radius of maximum wind)
- Initial tide level

No single hurricane will produce the regional flooding depicted in a MOMs.



### **SLOSH MOMs and MEOWs - MEOWs**

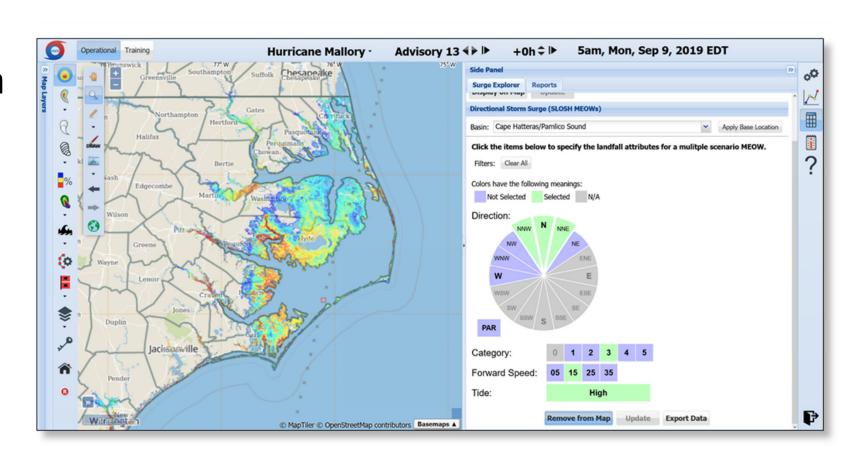


# MEOWs – Maximum Envelope of Water

Composite of the maximum storm surge for a given set of parameters (by basin)

# Used as guidance of planning and operations

- Category (Cat 3)
- Landfall direction (NW,N, NE)
- Forward speed (15 mph)
- Initial tide (High)



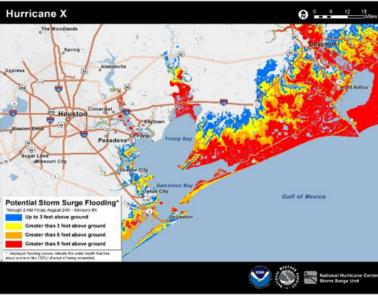
# **Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map**



### **Inundation Map**

- Height above ground that the water could reach
  - Reasonable worst-case scenario for any individual location
  - Values have a 10% chance of being exceeded
- Issued with Hurricane Watch
  - Sometimes with Tropical Storm Watch
- Available 60+ minutes after the advisory release





# Storm Surge Watches/Warnings



### **Storm Surge Watch**

 There is the possibility of lifethreatening inundation, generally within 48 hours.

### Storm Surge Warning

 There is a danger of lifethreatening inundation, generally within 36 hours.



# Rainfall & Inland Flooding Products

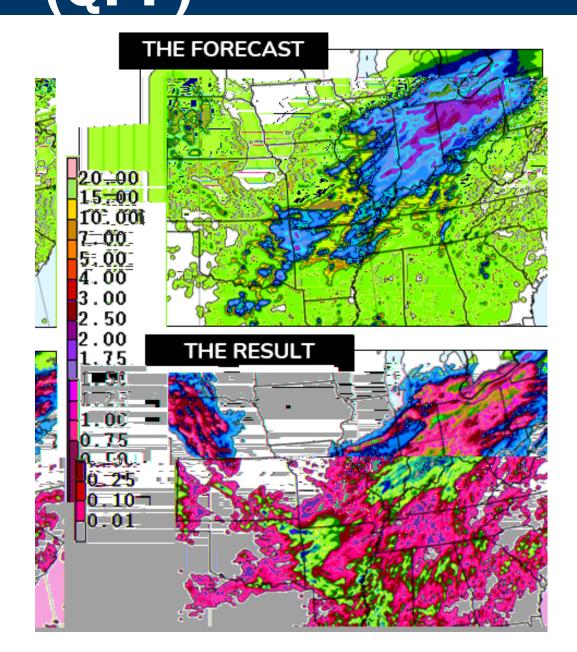


### Rainfall & Inland Flooding Products address:

- How much rain is forecast?
- What areas will flood?
- How do wireless emergency alerts work?

# **Quantitative Precipitative Forecast** (QPF)



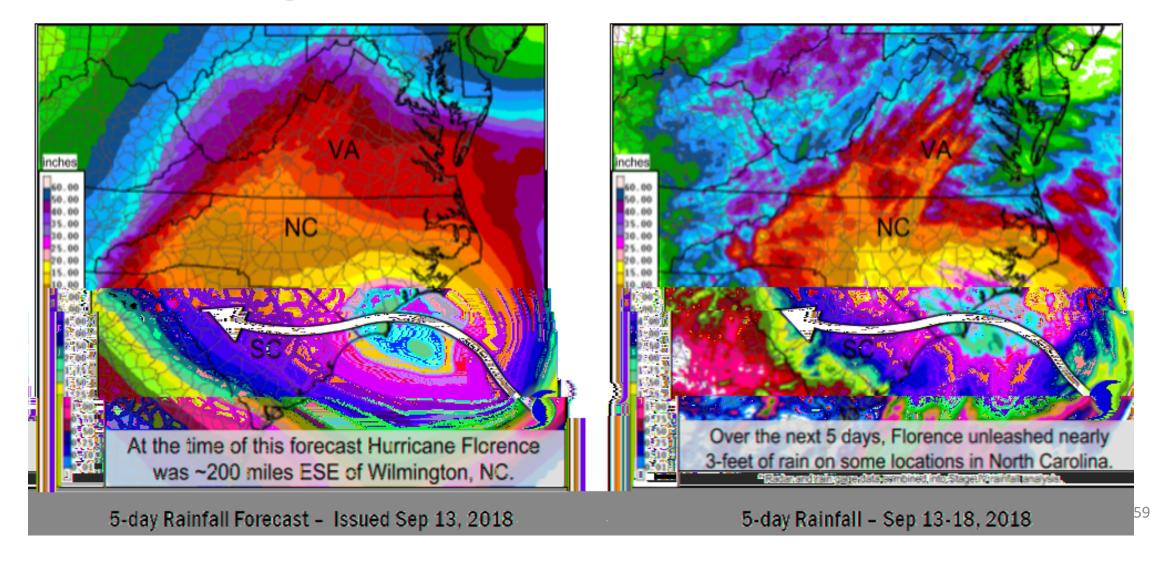


- Forecast precipitation over a given period of time for tropical cyclones.
- The forecast depicts average amounts over a large area; does not capture localized minimum or maximum.
- More accurate in situations with large, organized weather systems.

# Hurricane Florence (2018)



# 5-Day Forecast vs. Observed Rainfall



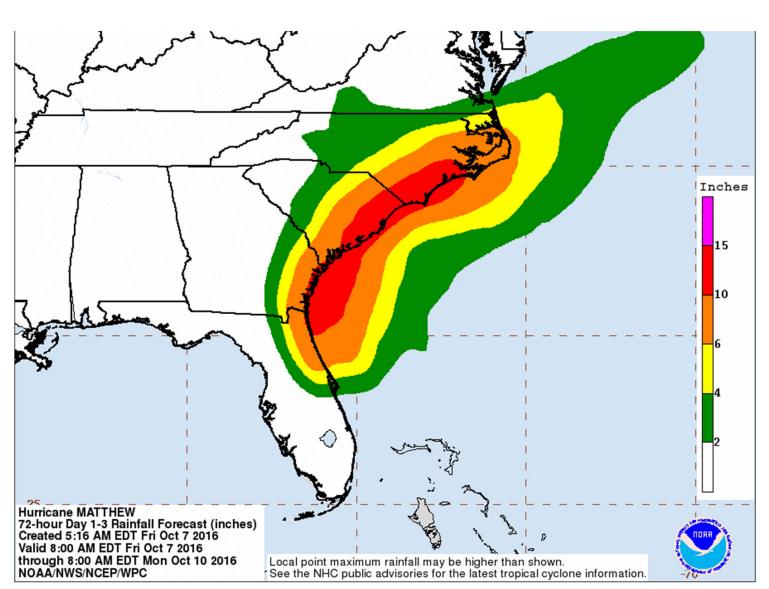
### **Rainfall Forecast**



WPC issues storm-specific rainfall forecast graphic.

Simplified scale

This is the version included with the NHC Public Advisory forecast package.



## **Rainfall Forecasts**



#### **Context Matters:**

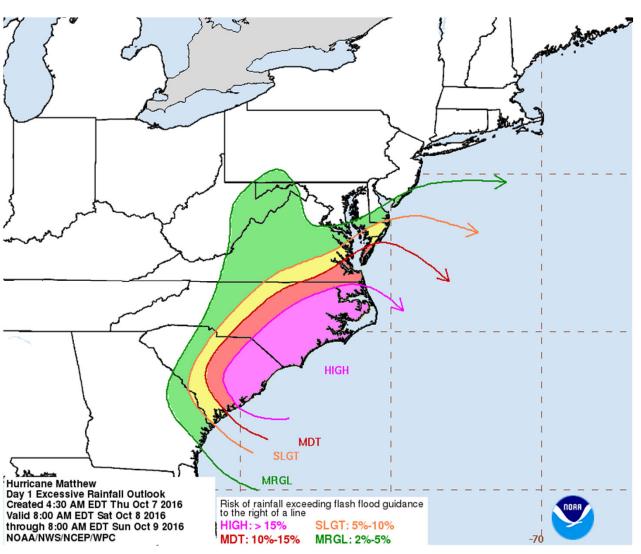
A forecast of 1 inch has different impacts if the rain falls over 24 hours vs. 10 minutes.





# **Excessive Rainfall Outlook (ERO)**



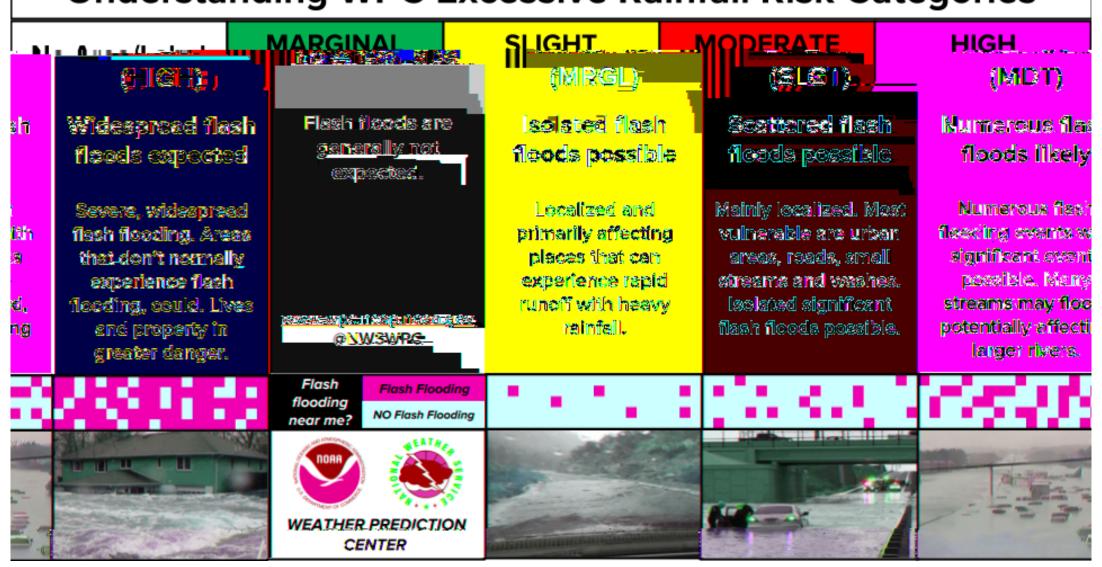


- Chance that rainfall can cause flash flooding
- 5-day outlook
- A situational awareness and planning tool
- Accounts for some uncertainty
- Summaries large-scale risk factors
- Does NOT
  - Account for longer-term flooding on mainstem rivers
  - Forecast flash flooding at specific locations

# **Excessive Rainfall Categories**



### Understanding WPC Excessive Rainfall Risk Categories





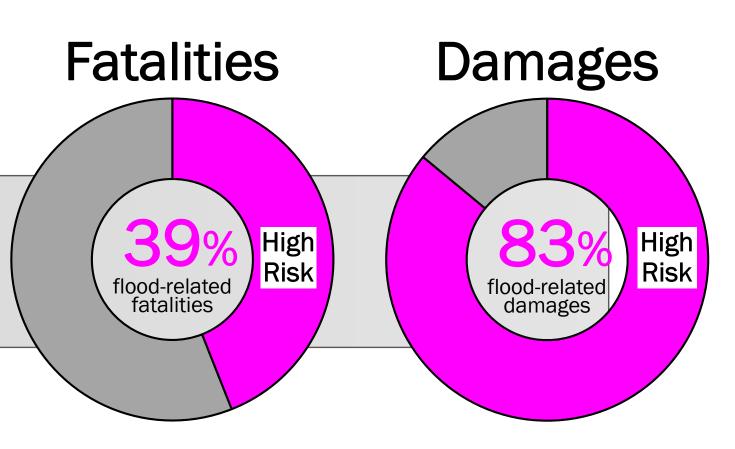
# High Risk Days

About 4% of days
 (Includes tropical and non-tropical events)

# High Risk Accounts for:

- 39% of Flood Fatalities
- 83% of Flood Damages

Stats from 2010 to 2018





# High Risk Days

About 4% of days
 (Includes tropical and non-tropical events)

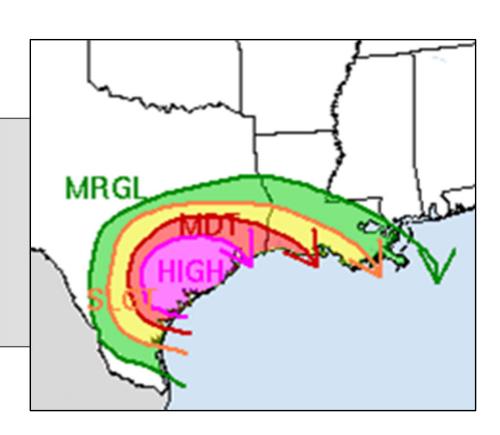
### What happens during High Risk days?

- 46% have at least 1 fatality or injury

  Compared to 23% for Moderate Risk Days
- 62% have at least \$1 million in damages

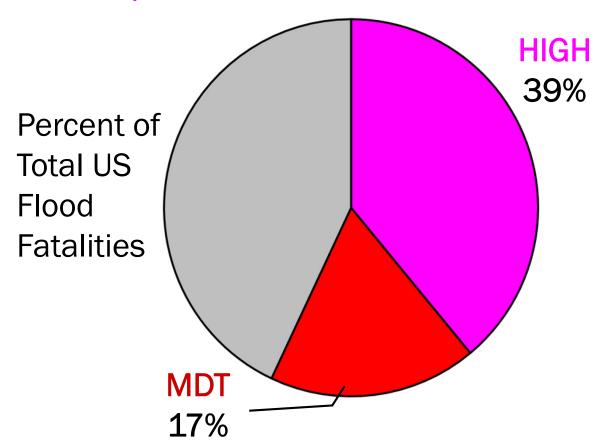
Compared to 33% for Moderate Risk Days

Stats from 2010 to 2020

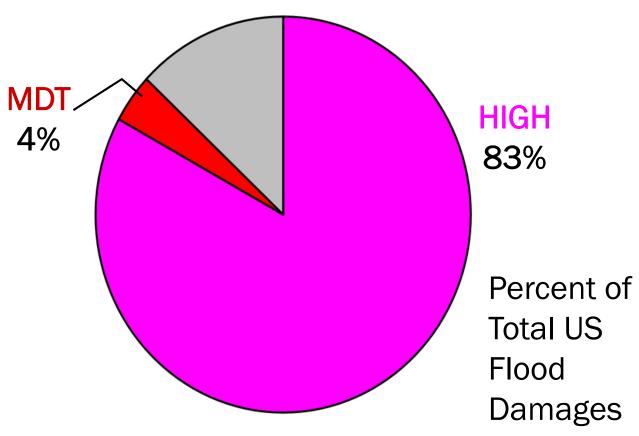








### 4/5 of ALL Flood-related Damages



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> From 2010 to 2020. Includes flood, flash flood, heavy rain, and debris flow Storm Data. Excludes Oso, WA landslide which occurred well after rainfall and on a sunny day. Damage estimate used for Montecito debris flow.





Based on records over the past 11 years, we can say:

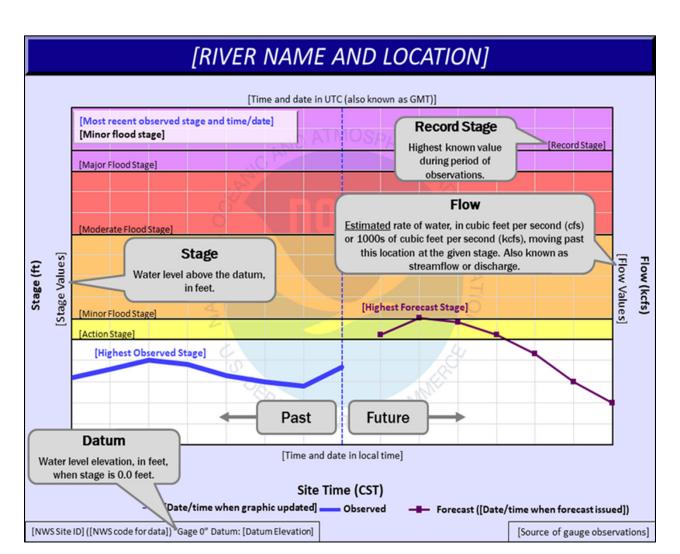
WPC High Risks are a strong indicator of a potentially deadly and damaging flash flood day!

Hurricane Matthew SAR; FEMA Photo

# Hydrographs



- Display water-level information over time.
- Hydrograph Plot
  - May display stage, streamflow, and sometimes both.
- Hydrographs visualize water-level observations and forecasts on a single graphic.
- Forecast hydrographs are great for assessing potential mainstem river flooding ahead of impact, but not great for assessing flash flood potential.



# **River Gauges**



Monitor the volume of water flowing through streams.

Typical measurements include stage and discharge (flow):

- Stage: The water level above a reference elevation, called a datum.
  - Not the same as depth!
- Discharge (flow): The rate of water moving past a location.



### **AHPS Demonstration**



Instructor-Led Demonstration of AHPS (Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service) Website

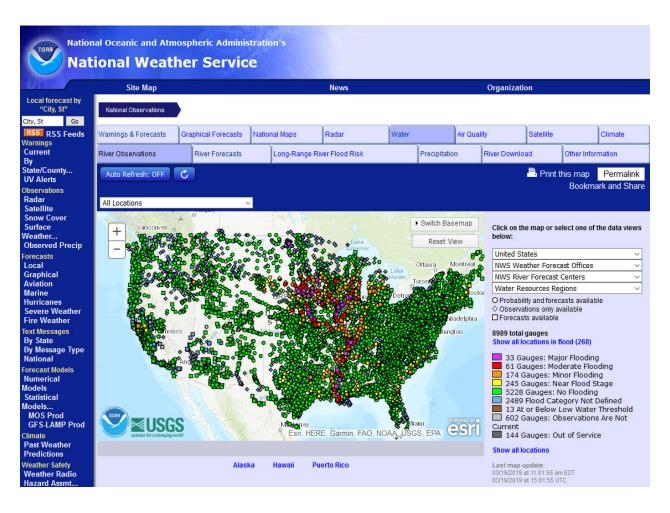
Time: 5 minutes

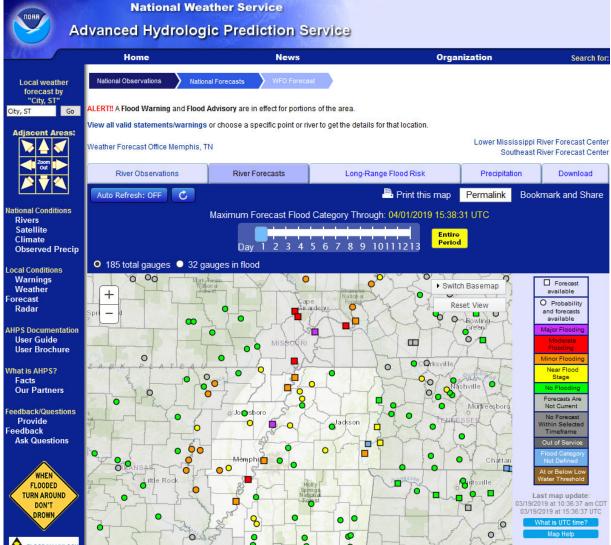
Goal: Explore the **AHPS** website

- 1. Layout of the interface
- 2. Locations of key information
- 3. How to view:
  - Hydrographs, Impact tables, Crest records, Hydro watches/warnings in effect, Links to FIM and probabilistic models, Other Data about the gage

# **Monitoring Rivers Demo 1**

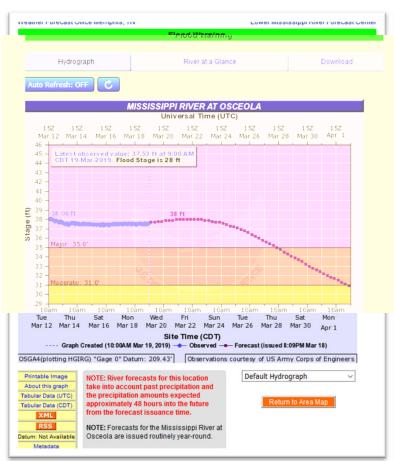






# **Monitoring Rivers Demo 2**







Flood Impacts & Photos Collapse f you notice any errors in the below information, please contact our Webmaster 50 All land east of the Arkansas Levee to the Tennessee Bluffs is under 10 to 25 feet of water. 19 Highway 87 is flooded just east of Fulton, Tennessee. 47 Farm headquarters near the intersection of Coon Valley and Herring Hill Roads, Tennessee is being flooded. 46. Water is very high on the Arkansas Levee, All homesteads along Crawford Road West in Tennessee are flooded. 45 Farmstead on Island 37 Tennessee is totally flooded 44 In Tennessee, camp on Sunrise Towhead is almost all covered. All fields in the Barfield Point area are awash. 43 In Tennessee, all houses along Route 19 are awash. Camp on west side of Island 34 is completely flooded. Water has crept into buildings on the west side of Ballard Slough Road. Many sections of Herring Hill Road are now in deep water 12. In Tennessee, the house at the south end of Outbounds Road is awash. Fields are flooding north of the Hatchie River east. past Ft. Pillow State Prison. Herring Hill Road is flooding just north of the Shelby County Line. 41 In Tennessee, still house north of Fullen Landing is being flooded. Houses at the south end of Outbounds Road are flooding. as is the homestead at the northeast end of Outbounds Road right on Open Lake. Most of Highway 19 is awash. Most all homesteads north of Fort Pillow are under water Island 35 is essentially all covered. Bottomland south of Richardson's Landing is under water In Arkansas, Sans Souci Road is flooding inside the levee. Terminal elevator at Osceola is flooding n. In. Tannesse, Hjinbuyev 19. is Janika bili Hillalidi. Blata is ovadinivija a bava a na Siniki. Akad Hillass sa st. of Outbounds Road and west of Conner Road are flooding. Houses all along Highway 19 are being covered. Centennial Island is completely flooded. In Arkansas, elevator at Osceola is flooding.

39 In Tennessee, Highway 19 is flooded at Conner Road cutting off evacuations west of that intersection. Crawford Road East is

flooding. Moore Farmstead is being covered. Houses on Cash Road are flooding. Hunting camp on Sunrise Towhead is

beginning to flood. Farmstead on Sniper Island west of Herring Hill road is going under water. In Arkansas, farmstead at

38 In Tennessee, homesteads between Johnston Road and Sunk Lake Road on Highway 19 west are flooding. House at south

Settlement between Coker Slough and Highway 19 is flooded. Water is overflowing the farm headquarters just north of the

end of Oscar Griggs Road is flooding. Ashport is flooding. Flooding is occurring near the north end of Sunk Lake Road.

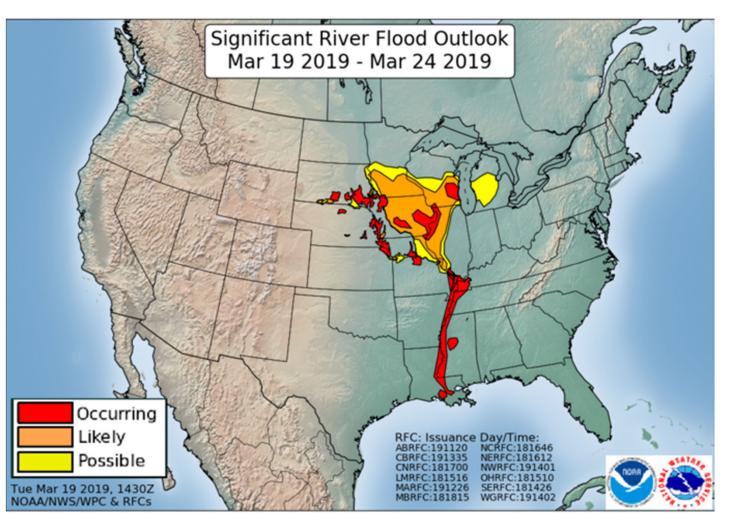
under water at places. Trailer settlement south of Coker Slough is covered. House on east end of Outbounds Road is

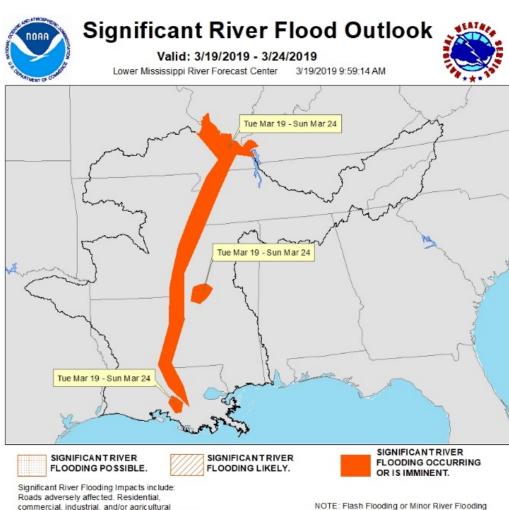
Tomato is under water.

Sunk Lake Road and Long Hole Road Junction.

### **Significant River Flood Outlooks**







areas affected. May require evacuation of people

will NOT be included in this outlook.

# Flood-Related Watches & Warnings



### Flood Watch

• Conditions are favorable for flash flooding or mainstem river flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

### Flood Warning

Mainstem river flooding is imminent or occurring.

### Flash Flood Warning

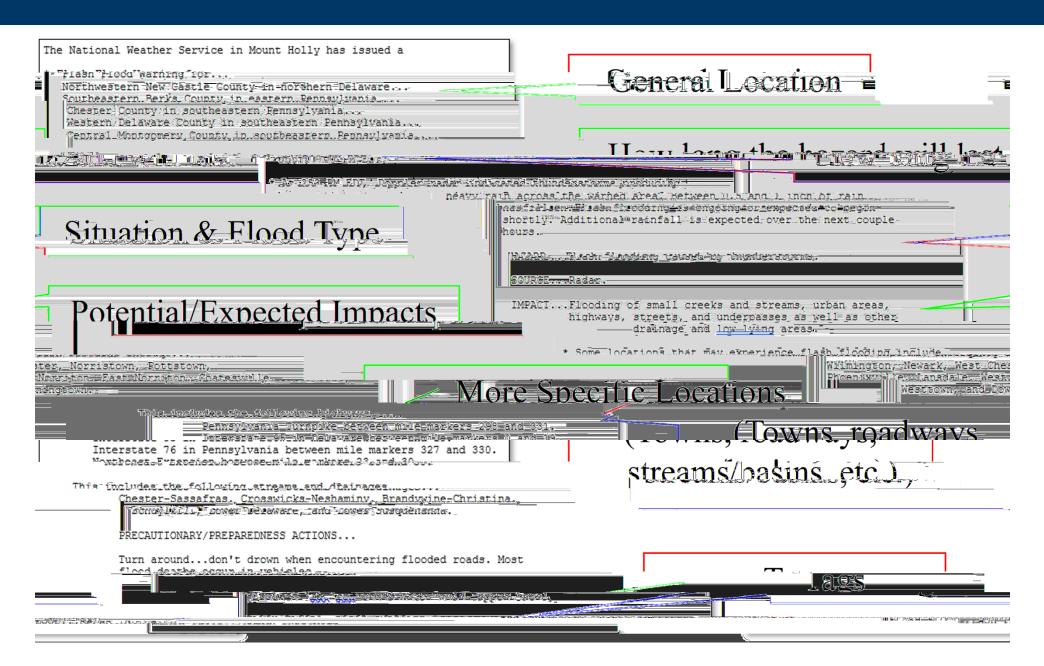
 Flash flooding is imminent or occurring. Some roads will be flooded. Homes and businesses may flood.

### Flash Flood Emergency

 A special type of Flash Flood Warning issued for exceedingly rare situations when a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage from a flash flood is imminent or occurring. At risk individuals should evacuate to higher ground immediately. Travel is discouraged unless the individual is under an evacuation order.

# Flash Flood Warnings





# Flash Flood Emergencies



```
...FLASH FLOOD EMERGENCY FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY...
```

...FLASH FLOOD WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 845 PM EDT THIS EVENING FOR NORTHEASTERN CHESTER, NORTHWESTERN DELAWARE, AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES...

At 621 PM EDT, Thunderstorms are producing heavy rain in Northern Chester County and Southern Montgomery County. Between 3 and 4.5 inches of rain have fallen. Additional rainfall amounts of 1.5 to 3 inches are possible in the warned area. Flash flooding is already occurring. Over 30 water rescues are ongoing in portions of Montgomery County.

This is a FLASH FLOOD EMERGENCY for Montgomery County. This is a PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION. SEEK HIGHER GROUND NOW!

HAZARD...Life threatening flash flooding caused by thunderstorms.

SOURCE... Emergency management reported.

IMPACT...This is a PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION. SEEK HIGHER

GROUND NOW! Life threatening flash flooding of low water crossings, small creeks and streams, urban areas, highways, streets, and underpasses.

Some locations that may experience flash flooding include... West Chester, Norristown, Pottstown, Phoenixville, Lansdale, West Norriton, East Norriton, Westtown, Downingtown, Souderton, Ambler, and Collegeville.

This includes the following highways...

Pennsylvania Turnpike between mile markers 307 and 333. Interstate 76 in Pennsylvania between mile markers 327 and 330. Interstate 476 in Pennsylvania between mile markers 17 and 19. Northeast Extension between mile markers 21 and 38.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

Move to higher ground now! This is an extremely dangerous and life-threatening situation. Do not attempt to travel unless you are fleeing an area subject to flooding or under an evacuation order.

Turn around...don't drown when encountering flooded roads. Most flood deaths occur in vehicles.

Motorists should not attempt to drive around barricades or drive cars through flooded areas.

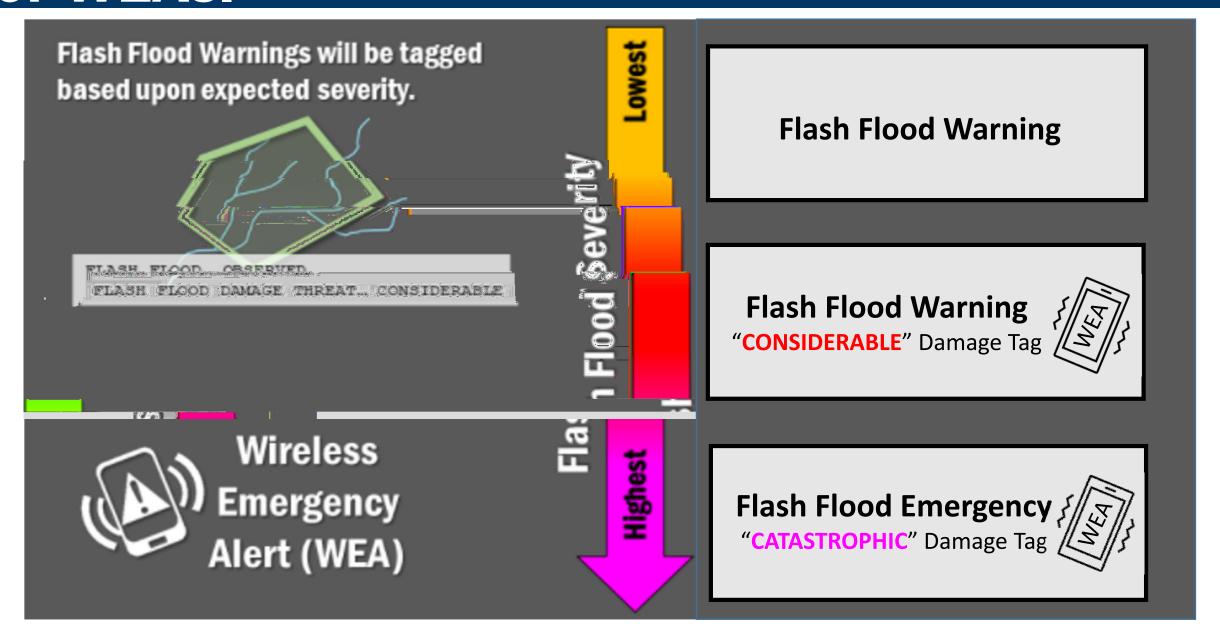
[Block of lat lon coordinates would appear here]

FLASH FLOOD...OBSERVED
FLASH FLOOD DAMAGE THREAT...CATASTROPHIC

Red lettering, bolding and underlining added for emphasis.

# "Tagging" Flash Flood Warnings for WEAs.





# Flood Warnings for Mainstem Rivers



Current flood stage and/or forecast flood stage

How long the flooding will last

ARC067-147-271600-

/O.EXT.KLZK.FL.W.0003.000000T0000Z-220128T1200Z/ /PTTA4.2.ER.220103T0945Z.220109T1530Z.220127T0600Z.NO/ 952 AM CST Wed Jan 26 2022

...FLOOD WARNING NOW IN EFFECT FROM THIS MORNING THROUGH LATE THURSDAY NIGHT...

- \* WHAT...Minor flooding is occurring and minor flooding is forecast.
- \* WHERE...Cache River Near Patterson.
- \* WHEN...Until Friday morning.
- \* IMPACTS...At 9.0 feet, Low swampy timberland along the river begins to flood. Flood gates should be closed and equipment moved out of the low grounds along the river and tributaries.
- \* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...
  - At 9:15 AM CST Wednesday the stage was 9.2 feet.
  - Forecast...The river is expected to fall below flood stage just after midnight tonight and continue falling to 6.3 feet Monday morning.
- Flood stage is 9.0 feet.
- http://www.weather.gov/safety/flood

&&

Fld Observed Forecast 12 PM Crest
Location Stg Stg Day/Time Thu Fri Sat Crest Time Date
Cache River

Patterson 9.0 9.2 Wed 9 AM 8.8 8.5 7.8 Falling

Impacted river and communities

**Impacts** 

Additional Details

## **Local NWS Weather Forecast Office**



### Local NWS Weather Forecast Office addresses:

More detailed localized forecast information?

### **Hurricane Local Statements**





HURRICANE WILMA LOCAL STATEMENT ADVISORY NUMBER 32 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MIAMI FL AL242005 530 AM EDT SUN OCT 23 2005

THIS PRODUCT COVERS MAINLAND SOUTH FLORIDA

\*\*EXTENSIVE TO DEVASTATING DAMAGE AND LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS EXPECTED AS HURRICANE WILMA MOVES NORTHEAST ACROSS SOUTH FLORIDA\*\*

#### NEW INFORMATION

\* CHANGES TO WATCHES AND WARNINGS:

- A HURRICANE WATCH HAS BEEN UPGRADED TO A HURRICANE WARNING FOR MIAMI-DADE...BROWARD...PALM BEACH...COLLIER...GLADES AND MONROE COUNTIES
- \* CURRENT WATCHES AND WARNINGS:
- A HURRICANE WARNING IS IN EFFECT FOR MIAMI -DADE...BROWARD...PALM BEACH...COLLIER...HENDRY...GLADES AND MAINLAND MONROE COUNTIES
- \* STORM INFORMATION:
- ABOUT 405 MI SW OF NAPLES FL
- 22.1N 86.6W
- STORM INTENSITY 100 MPH WITH HIGHER GUSTS
- MOVING NORTHEAST AT 3 MPH

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

\_\_\_\_\_

EXTREMELY DANGEROUS HURRICANE WILMA IS EXPECTED TO IMPACT SOUTH FLORIDA BEGINNING THIS EVENING. THE MAIN CONCERN IS FOR LIFE-THREATENING INUNDATION IN SURGE-PRONE AREAS OF COLLIER/MAINLAND

### Issued by local NWS office

Hurricane (Tropical Storm)
 Watch/Warning in effect

#### Situation overview

- Watch/warning information
- Potential impact information
- Preparedness actions

# Hurricane Local Statements: Where is affected?





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EXTREMELY DANGEROUS HURRICANE WILMA IS EXPECTED TO IMPACT SOUTH FLORIDA BEGINNING THIS EVENING. THE MAIN CONCERN IS FOR LIFE-THREATENING INUNDATION IN SURGE-PRONE AREAS OF COLLIER/MAINLAND

What is the affected area?

# **Hurricane Local Statements:** Any changes?





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THIS PRODUCT COVERS MAINLAND SOUTH FLORIDA

\*\*EXTENSIVE TO DEVASTATING DAMAGE AND LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS EXPECTED AS HURRICANE WILMA MOVES NORTHEAST ACROSS SOUTH FLORIDA\*\*

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MOVING NORTHEAST AT 3 MPH

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

TREMELY\_PANGEDERS\_UPBRIGHTEN WML-IS\_BYREFEED\_DO\_UMDRGA\_SOUGU\_n FLORIDA BEGLINNING THE SEVENING THE MAIN CONCERNIOS FOR LIFE-THREATENING INUNDATION IN SURGE-PRONE AREAS OF COLLIER/MAINLAND Are there any changes since the last update?

# **NWS Email Briefings & Webinars**



Most NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) and River Forecast Centers (RFCs) issue routine briefings for hazardous weather.

These briefings provide information on:

- Timing and Location of Hazards
- Range of Outcomes
- Expected Impacts
- Relevant Forecast Graphics
- Watches/Warnings/Advisories
- Forecast Challenges / Uncertainty / Confidence Levels
- Additional Information

Offices send briefing information to core partners

• EMs, other public safety officials, school officials, etc.

Contact your WFO and RFC to ask about being added to their email/webinar briefing list!

### Heavy Rain Possible Next Week O Central Pennsylvania WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

#### **OVERVIEW:**

- Hurricane Isaias (ees-ah-EE-ahs) is expected to move north along the east coast and bring the potential for heavy rain in east-central PA early next week.
- The storm is still several days away. Please continue to monitor the forecast as a westward shift in the track could mean more significant impacts in Central PA.

TIMING & LOCATION	• The current forecast track brings the storm along the east coast, with impacts being felt in Pennsylvania as early as Monday night and as late as Wednesday morning.					
HAZARDS & IMPACTS	<ul> <li>Heavy rainfall appears to be the most significant threat at this time, with the westward extent of impacts still uncertain.</li> <li>Gusty winds are also possible, especially in eastern PA.</li> </ul>					
FORECAST CHALLENGES	<ul> <li>Small tweaks to the storm track and intensity are likely over the next few days. Continue to monitor the forecast.</li> <li>The interaction between Isaias and a cold front approaching from the west will determine the extent and intensity of heavy rainfall.</li> </ul>					
COI PROMAL (FE PRIMATION C	te that the forecast ne represents the obable track of the obable					

■ By 6PM Saturday 8/1

UED: 7/31/2020 3:31 PM

## **Post-Storm Reports**



### Post-storm reports address:

- What information is available after the storm?
- Where can I find summary information?

# **Tropical Cyclone Reports**





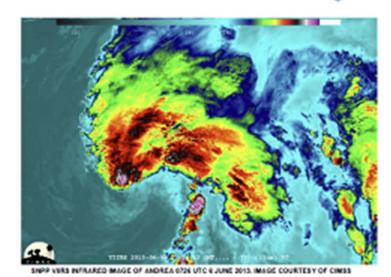


#### NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER TROPICAL CYCLONE REPORT

TROPICAL STORM ANDREA (AL012013)

5 – 7 June 2013

John L. Beven II National Hurricane Center 22 August 2013



Andrea was a tropical storm that made landfall on the northwest coast of the Florida Peninsula. It became a gale-force extratropical low over the southeastern United States.

### **Summary Report**

Available on the NHC website weeks to months after storm

Provides a complete summary report for every Atlantic and East Pacific storm

- Final track, intensity, and size information
- Damage and casualty figures
- Forecast critique

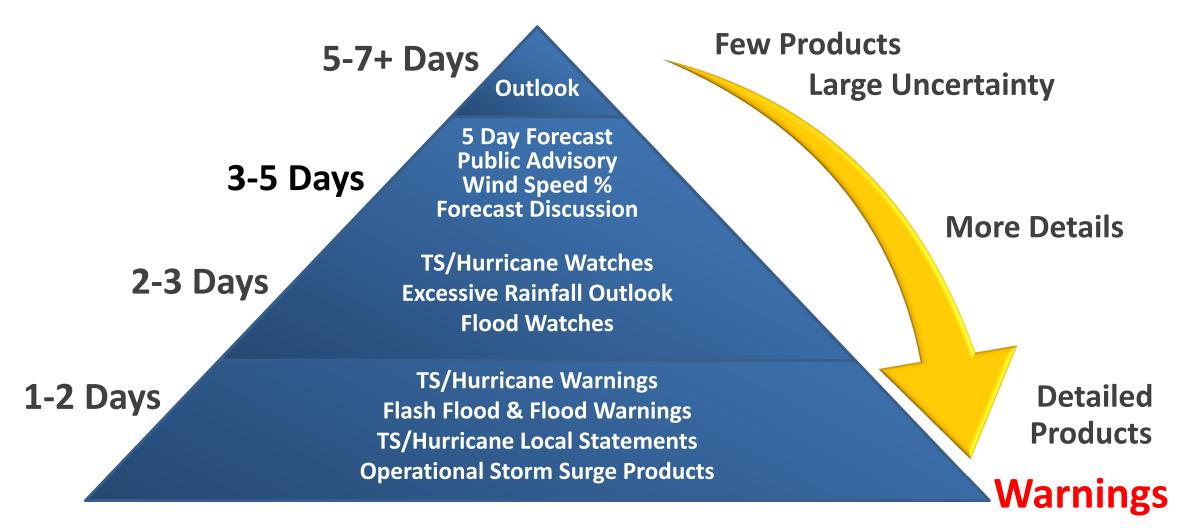
# **NWS Products – When is Key Info Available?**



Year Round	Hurricane Season	120hr - 72hr	72hr - 48hr	48hr - 36hr	36hr - Onset of TS Winds	Post Landfall		
Hurricane Evacuation Study (HES) products (Surge MOMs, Surge Maps, Evacuation Zones, Clearance times, other planning data)								
Flood Inundation Mapping (FIM) – for select river stretches								
Flood Insurance Studies and FEMA Hazard Risk Areas								
	Tropical Weather Outlook							
		Public Advisor Forecast Discu Wind Speed P Track and Con						
		Probabilistic w	vind timing via Hurre					
		QPF Rainfall forecasts						
		Wind timing via Hurrevac				Extreme Wind Warnings		
		Surge MEOWs				Tide Gauges/ USGS		
		Excessive Rainfall Outlooks				Flash Flood Warnings		
			River Forecasts			River Flood Warnings		
				TS/Hurricane Watches	s TS/Hurricane Warnings			
		Hurricane Local Statements						
			Storm Surge Probabilities & Inundation Map					
				Storm Surge Watch	Storm Surge Warning			
						Tornado Watches & Warnings		

# Tropical Cyclone NWS Products Timeframe





# **Questions/Comments?**



