

DAY 2 Weather Scenario Messaging Activity - Alabama

Type of weather event/scenario: Tropical (hazards include inland flooding, storm surge, winds, tornadoes)

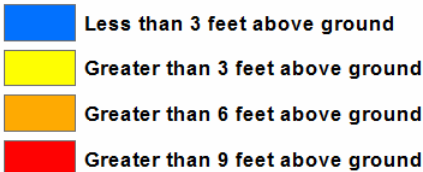
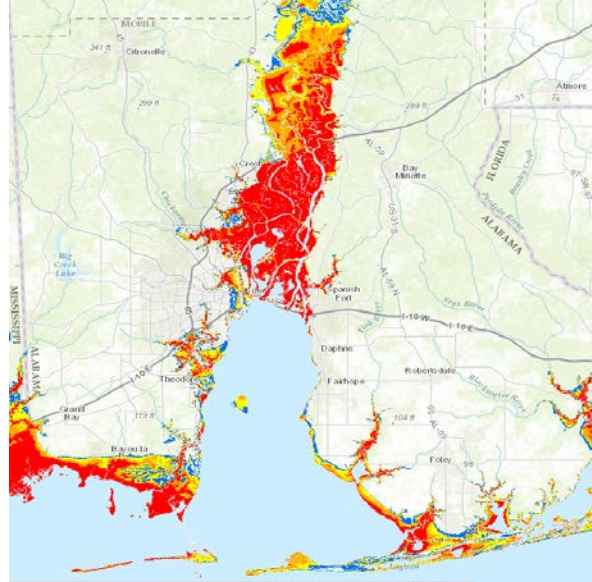
Date/Location of weather event/scenario: Fictional Hurricane Zachary making landfall as a borderline Category 2/3 hurricane near Mobile, Alabama. Mandatory evacuations in effect along the Gulf Coast.

NWS Forecast Information:

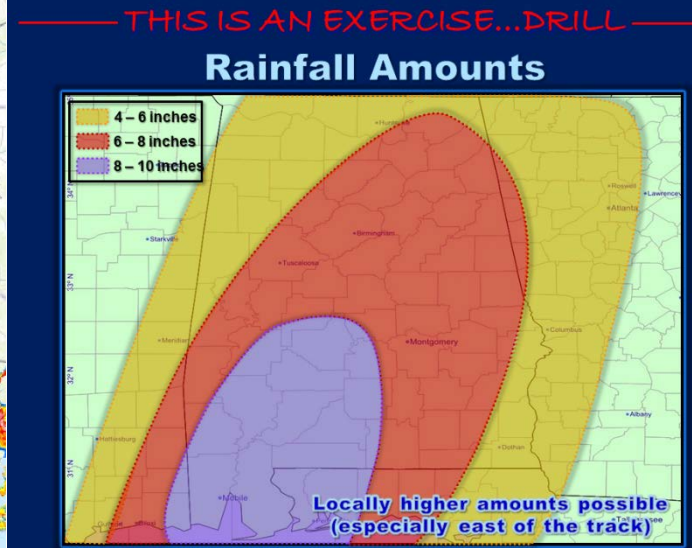
Winds: Up to major hurricane force (110 mph) along the coast and up to 50 miles inland. Hurricane force winds (74+ mph) extend 100 miles inland, where a hurricane warning is in effect. Tropical storm force winds extend well inland across much of Alabama where tropical storm warnings are in effect.

Isolated tornadoes possible on the east side of the storm late Tuesday night into Wednesday.

Storm Surge: Storm surge warning in effect along coast.



Heavy Rainfall/Flooding: Flash Flood Watch in effect for southern half of Alabama.



- How did your WFO present forecast information to the DOT leading up to the event (scale of days)?
 - Included on e-mail briefing list, daily/twice daily webinars.
- What services were provided at ~24 hrs leading to event? ~12 hours?
 - Separate conference call for DOT partners following governor's coordination call with state EMA and cabinet level stakeholders. DOT considering implementing contraflow plan on I-65.
- How was confidence communicated during these times?
 - Exact landfall intensity and landfall point will fluctuate. The storm's increasing size will result in a surge more typical of a stronger storm, so don't focus on the storm category. Impacts can extend well away from the storm center.
- What communication methods were used by NWS or the state DOT?
 - Phone, e-mail, NWSChat, social media and AL DOT travel info site, Algotraffic

Any other relevant information:

Given the scenario presented it is reasonable to expect that ALDOT would implement its contraflow plan which involves some 300 personnel between our department and public safety forcing all traffic between mm 31 and 167 on interstate 65 to move northbound only to facilitate evacuation efforts. This would occur approximately 24 hours before the arrival of tropical storm force winds and would include widespread media releases, messages displayed on dynamic message signs and alerts pushed out through ALDOT traveler information site called Algotraffic.