

Friday, August 30, 2019 – 12:30 pm

Today's forecast is not drastically different from yesterday, the expectation is still that Dorian will be held to a more westward track for the next few days due to a high pressure ridge building north of Florida. The forecast anticipates a weakness to develop in the high pressure ridge that will allow Dorian to break through the high pressure area and make a northward turn and then a gradual turn to a more north and eastwardly direction (e.g., the typical curve we see storms take off into the Atlantic is likely at some point). The overall uncertainty 4-5 days out has increased since yesterday. It's still very likely that it will be the beginning of next week before there is very much certainty as to whether VA could be in play for potential impacts from Dorian. Looking like the earliest we could see impacts in the area would be 7-10 days.

What impacts, you ask? Too early to say. Due to a slowing in the forecast timing, looks like maybe Monday or Tuesday before Dorian makes the turn to the north and where Dorian is when it makes the turn will be critical in the ultimate impacts we might see. We could see a little bit of rain from Dorian's remnants, a CAT1 hurricane moving through the Outer Banks, or it could be well off shore and we see no impacts at all. SO, my recommendation is that you keep an eye on the forecasts over the weekend and be prepared to take action next week if necessary. We'll keep watching and let you know if anything changes significantly.

The longer version of the update....

The expectation is that Dorian's forward speed will slow dramatically as it begins to make the northward turn. After turning northward, it will gradually begin to make an eastwardly curve back into/towards the Atlantic. The key to any potential impacts for us will be where the storm is when it makes the northward turn and how quickly it begins the curve towards the east. Currently anywhere from the Florida panhandle to well off the east coast is in play. The timing of Dorian's approach to Florida has slowed by nearly 24 hours since yesterday, this allows the possibility of a run just along the east coast or just off the east coast to be a very possible scenario (think Mathew). If Dorian makes it further across Florida before making the turn we could see Florida's panhandle more in play (think Irma).

As of 11am this morning, the eye of Dorian was located more than 500 miles from the northern Bahamas. A slower west-northwestward to westward motion should begin tonight and continue into early next week. On this track, the core of Dorian should move over the Atlantic well north of the southeastern and central Bahamas today and tomorrow, be near or over the northwestern Bahamas on Sunday, and be near the Florida peninsula late Monday. It's a near certainty that at least some part of the Bahamas will see impacts from Dorian.

Dorian currently has maximum sustained winds near 110mph (strong CAT2) with higher gusts. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 25 miles from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 105 miles. Dorian is expected to become a major hurricane (at least a CAT3) later today, and it will likely reach CAT4

strength (130+mph) as it moves near the northwestern Bahamas and approaches the Florida peninsula into early next week.

Here's the current forecast cone and the probabilities of at least tropical storm force winds during the next 5 days. As always it's important not to focus too much on the center of the forecast track – the eye of the storm has an equal chance of being anywhere inside the forecast cone. Also, remember this is a 5 day forecast, since any possible impacts as far north as us are likely 7-10 days out it's not surprising that NC/VA are not showing a chance for tropical force winds at this point.

