

Monday, August 3, 2020 – 6:10 pm

Most important thing we want to convey with this afternoon's update is *DON'T TAKE ISAIAS for granted because it will be "just" a tropical storm* by the time it reaches our area. Isaias is forecast to still be a strong tropical storm by the time it reaches us. Know what the difference is between a tropical storm and a hurricane? 1 mile per hour. The NHC is forecasting Isaias to still have maximum sustained winds of 70mph as it crosses the VA/NC border (a minimal hurricane is 74 mph).

High winds, minor tidal flooding, heavy rains, and widespread power outages are likely. There is also a potential for a few pop-up tornados overnight and tomorrow – especially nearer the VA coastline. Monitor the local TV/Radio stations for the most current forecast information. You need to be prepared for potential impacts by tonight (www.ready.gov can help provide preparedness information).

At 5pm, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) has Isaias located about 60 miles SSE of Charleston SC as a strong tropical storm with maximum sustained winds of 70mph with higher gusts. On the current forecast track, Isaias will likely brush the coast around Charleston and the eye of the storm will make landfall around North Myrtle Beach tonight. While they are not expecting Isaias to regain hurricane strength before landfall, it will be a strong tropical storm and they anticipate that due to its rapid forward speed that it will remain a 70mph tropical storm until it crosses the VA/NC border.

Not much change in anticipated impacts since this morning. As of the 5pm NHC update and the 3:30pm NWS forecast update Isaias update, we could see the following impacts (note: the actual storm track and forward speed may influence the actual impacts we see in our area – monitor local TV/Radio for current forecast updates):

Impact timing – after midnight through early afternoon – (we'll likely see winds really begin to pick up around 2am Tuesday and it will be at least mid-morning before the storm makes it north of our area.)

Wind – at least 6-8 hours of increased winds due to Isaias. Heaviest winds most likely beginning before sunrise with peak winds just before sunrise through early morning. Sustained winds in the high 30s to high 40s and gust in the high- 40s to high 50s (maybe a few 60s especially along the James River border).

Rainfall – 2"- 6" with higher accumulations in some areas. The highest rain totals are currently forecast to our west.

Tornados – potential for a few tornados after midnight tonight anywhere across Hampton Roads, but especially near the coast. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is currently giving the area a 2-5% chance for tornados.

Power Outages – widespread power outages are possible

Down trees – the combination of heavy leaf load, heavy rains and high winds increase the chance for downed trees

Coastal flooding – no significant issues currently forecast

Storm surge – no significant issues currently forecast

River flooding – no significant issues currently forecast

Isle of Wight, Smithfield and Windsor government offices will be closed until at least noon Tuesday. Isle of Wight Refuse and Recycling Centers will be closed until at least noon Tuesday. We will reassess openings tomorrow based actual impacts.

Isle of Wight will declare an emergency effective at 8:30am today (8/3/20). The Governor declared an emergency at 6pm Friday.

Isle of Wight is not currently expecting to open shelters, but we have our shelter partners on standby.

We'll continue to monitor Isaias and will provide updates as warranted.