

Saturday, August 1, 2020 – 11:45 am

Still too early for a clear picture of impacts from Isaias in our area. As expected when the storm is still so far away from us, we've seen the forecast cone shift west and east over the last several NHC updates - which can have significant changes in what the actual conditions in our area will be. It will likely be Sunday before the forecast for our area really begins to lock in place. Continue to monitor the local forecast closely.

As of the 11am National Hurricane Center forecast update, Isaias located about 40 miles WSW of Nassau as a CAT1 hurricane with sustained winds of 80mph. A slow weakening is expected to begin Monday. Hurricane force winds currently extend outward 25 miles from the center and Tropical Storm force winds currently extend 115 miles from the center. The wind field continues to be heavily weighted to the right side of the storm.

The NHC 11am forecast cone shows the possible track for Isaias could be anywhere from west of Richmond to off the VA coast. Land interaction is currently expected to have reduced Hurricane Isaias to Tropical Storm status by the time it reaches VA. With the 11am NHC update, Norfolk has a 31% chance and Richmond has a 21% chance of seeing low Tropical Storm Force Winds (note, the NHC assigned % seems to be higher than expected from reading the forecast advisory and the NWS update, it may be a further sign of the uncertainty in the forecast intensity).

The current National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast for Isle of Wight has sustained winds in the 30-35mph range with gusts of mid- to high 40mph range. Currently, the most likely window for impacts would be Tuesday sunrise through mid-afternoon. HOWEVER, there is still a moderate amount of uncertainty in the forecast related to speed (arrival timing), intensity and forecast track by the time Isaias makes it to our area. Changes in any of these factors could impacts in our area significantly - for the good or bad. We are still hoping that impacts in our area will be limited, but you should continue to plan for the possibility of at least tropical storm impacts in our area by late Monday night.

Impact Timing- still uncertain- most likely Tuesday sunrise - mid-afternoon.

Wind - sustained winds in the 30s, gust into high 40s (reminder, still enough uncertainty that this could change to the good or bad)

Rainfall - 2-4" with potential for 6" in some areas.

Coastal flooding - no significant issues currently forecast.

River flooding - no significant issues currently forecast.

The Governor declared a State of Emergency for VA at 6pm yesterday. Isle of Wight has not declared an emergency at this time.

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

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

