

Thursday, September 13, 2018 8: 30 pm

Florence is currently a CAT2 (100mph) located about 160 miles east south-east of Wilmington NC moving towards the east south-east at 5mph. Florence is currently located 100 miles from Wilmington NC.

Our chance of seeing tropical storm force winds has decreased significantly since this morning's forecast. The possibility of tropical storm gusts still exists, especially in the southern end of the county. While we will could see tropical storm force (39+mph) gusts, our chances of sustained tropical winds is low. The potential for storm surge remains a possibility. The likelihood of tidal flooding in the high-moderate to major stage has increased.

**Watches/Warnings** - A coastal flood warning is in effect for IOW until 6am Saturday. A coastal flood warning means that flooding is occurring or imminent. No storm surge watches or warnings are currently issued for VA. A tropical storm warning is in effect for north of Duck NC to Cape Charles Light VA. A tropical storm warning means sustained tropical storm winds (39+mph) could occur during the next 36 hours. A storm surge watch is in effect for North of Duck NC to the NC/VA border. Storm surge watch means there is a possibility of life-threatening inundation, from rising water moving inland from the coastline, in the indicated locations during the next 48 hours. (Additional watches and warnings are to our south, but I have not included them in this update – additional information is available on the NWS website.)

**Strength/size** – Florence is currently a CAT2(100mph). Little change in strength is expected before the center reaches the coast, with weakening expected after the center moves inland. Florence's high wind fields have remained the same –tropical force winds extend up to 195 miles and hurricane force winds now extend 80 miles from her center.

**Rainfall** – NWS is currently forecasting 2"-3"" for IOW with locally higher amounts. The widening of Florence's outer bands or a could lead to increased rain accumulation in some areas. Depending on the duration of Florence's stall we could also see higher rain totals. Dangerous flash flooding and flooding may occur Friday through the weekend.

**Winds** – NHC forecast has not changed the wind chances for Hampton Roads significantly from the last update.

- 30% chance of tropical force winds (39+mph) (down from 41%)
- 0% chance of strong tropical force winds (58+mph) (down from 3%)
- 0% chance of hurricane force winds (74+mph) (same)

Based on NWS forecast information, we are not forecast to see sustained tropical force winds across IOW. Overall, wind speeds are down slightly from this morning's forecast, but tropical force gust are still possible especially in the southern end of the county. We are forecast to see near tropical force gust from midnight tonight morning through early midnight Friday. Forecast gust are from the mid-20s to low-40s. The highest gusts will likely occur from

midnight tonight through sunrise Friday. Sustained winds are forecast to be in low- to mid-20s through early morning Saturday. Actual wind timing and extent will be highly dependent on the actual track of Florence. The NWS is currently forecasting winds begin to taper off Saturday morning.

**Tidal Flooding** – Moderate to major tidal flooding is forecast for IOW. Based on the current tide forecast, looks like the Friday afternoon high tide cycle may see the highest tidal levels for IOW. Tide levels will increase up the James River due to the amount of water that is being pushed inland by Florence. Sewell's Point is forecast to reach moderate flood levels. Forecast are for just over major tidal flooding at Jamestown Friday afternoon. Depending on the length of Florence's stall, the number of higher than normal high tide cycles may be extended.

High tides for:

- Pagan River will occur 2:29am Friday, 2:57pm Friday, 3:17am Saturday, 3:47pm Saturday
- James River Bridge will occur at 1:32am Friday, 2:02pm, Friday, 2:21 am Saturday, 2:54pm Saturday

**Inland Flooding** – NWS still has IOW in the moderate risk level for inland flooding. Flooding in low lying areas and ditch overflow will also likely be an issue – especially on the back roads. Flooding due to rainfall could persist through the weekend.

**Blackwater River** – Potential for flooding major flooding along the Blackwater has decreased since morning. The forecast models are now projecting a worst case maximum river level into the just into the moderate flood stage (16') on Monday (9/17). However, THE MOST LIKELY forecast level is still around 8' which is well below the minor flooding level through next Thursday (9/20). The forecast information available only projects through next Thursday.

**Storm Surge/Evacuation** - Factoring in Florence's increasing total size and the forecast stall, NWS has increased the storm surge impacts slightly from this morning. NWS is currently forecasting less than 1' storm surge along the IOW coast. As of 7:30pm this evening, no storm surge watches or warnings have been issued for Virginia. Storm surge related flooding depends on the relative timing of the surge and the tidal cycle, and can vary greatly over short distances. The longer Florence stalls along the NC/SC coast, the higher the actual storm surge may be especially along the James River.

IOW Storm Surge Zone A remains under the Governor's evacuation order. It is important that individuals be aware of their storm surge risk and make preparations to act accordingly.

**Power Outages** – Community Electric is currently reporting 29 customers without power. Dominion Power is reporting 42 customers without power.

**Shelter** – With an overabundance of caution, IOW plans to open an emergency shelter at Windsor High School Thursday at 6pm. Note: the shelter will not be serving dinner to evacuees

on Thursday, feeding operations will begin Friday morning. As of 7:30pm, there are no evacuees in the shelter.

**EOC** – Emergency Operations Center will be activated in conjunction with the shelter opening. The EOC will be activated at 5pm Thursday.

**Additional Information** - Follow the county's Facebook page (Isle of Wight County Virginia) of for more frequent updates. We've also setup a public inquiry phone line at 757-365-6205.