

Thursday, October 11, 2018 – 9:15 am

The 5am National Hurricane Center (NHC) update has shifted Michael's track to the north as he makes way offshore. The forecast error cone for our area currently spans from Prince George to Currituck and the NHC's most likely track brings what was the center of Michael very near the IOW/Suffolk border as it exits offshore between Hampton and Norfolk.

Michael's forward speed has increased significantly since yesterday. The 5am NHC update, has Michael between Charlotte and Raleigh around 2pm this afternoon and well offshore north of the Eastern Shore VA/MD border by 2am Friday. As we noted yesterday, our strongest winds will likely be caused by the interaction of the remnants of Michael interacting with a strong cold front that will be moving into our area from the west. This interaction is reflected in this morning's National Weather Service (NWS) forecast – we'll likely see a period of increased winds this afternoon into early evening (3pm – 7pm). Winds will then decrease for a period before increasing rapidly before midnight (10pm-midnight). We'll see the wind direction begin to shift from the SE to the NW during the lull. Peak winds in our area will likely occur from midnight to around 2am Friday. The stronger winds are currently forecast to begin to taper off by around 3am and most of the high winds will be out of the area by around 7am.

There is a slight risk for severe thunderstorms today, mainly during the afternoon and evening hours. The main threats will be damaging winds and isolated tornados. Monitor local TV/Radio for updates and alerts throughout the day.

Current watches/warnings - Isle of Wight is under a Flash Flood Watch is in effect from 2pm today through 8am Friday. Heavy rain is expected to spread into our area today. Storm total rainfall of 2" - 6" is expected in the watch area.

Isle of Wight is also under a Wind Advisory from 6pm Thursday to noon Friday. We'll see wind from the E SE at 20-30mph late this afternoon and this evening, becoming N to NE at 25 to 35+mph later tonight into early Friday morning. Wind gusts of 50+mph are possible.

Based on the most current NHC and National Weather Service (NWS) forecast:

Winds – The strongest winds in our area will actually be a result of Michael interacting with a strong cold front as he moves offshore. As Michael begins to interact with the cold front, we'll see the winds shift from the southeast Thursday evening to the northwest by early Friday morning. The combination of the departing tropical system and the cooler, drier air associated with the cold front will result in a strong north to northwest wind overnight Thursday into early Friday morning. The NWS is not forecasting sustained tropical force strength (39+mph) winds for our area, we will likely see gusts to near 50mph across the county for a brief period sometime after midnight.

While the actual timing and speeds may continue to fluctuate slightly, here's a general timeline for winds based on the NWS 7am hourly forecast:

- 3pm – winds start to increase – sustained winds 13+mph across county, gusts into the 20s
- 7pm – 10pm - winds have picked up since 3pm – sustained winds 20-25mph across county, gusts 30-40mph (peak winds between 8-9pm)
- 10pm – 11pm – winds taper off slightly, winds begin to shift to the NE
- 11pm – midnight - winds begin to pick up rapidly
- Midnight – 4am – see highest winds associated with the storm – sustained winds 30-35+mph across county, gusts 40-52+mph (peak winds between 1-2am). All areas of the county will likely see gusts near 50mph at their peak. The Carrollton area will likely see the highest gusts nearing 55+mph.
- 7am – winds have been tapering off gradually since around 2am - sustained winds 14-23mph, gusts 20-33mph
- Noon - winds have continued to taper off - sustained winds 10-15mph across county, some areas could still be seeing gusts in the low 20s
- 7pm – winds are back to normal

Tornados - There is a slight chance that we could see tornados associated with Michael. The most likely area for tornados to occur is generally to the right of the forecast track. With the northward shift of the forecast track, most of Hampton Roads now has a slight risk for tornado forecast (about a 5% chance). The interaction of Michael with the cold front could also cause some potential severe weather. Most likely timing for tornados would be late this afternoon through this evening. Keep an eye out for tornado watches and warnings for our area and monitor local TV/radio for updates. Be prepared to take safety precautions if necessary.

Rain – NWS is currently forecasting 1"-6" of rain for the region. The NWS is currently forecasting 2"-4" for Isle of Wight. Rain may be torrential at times. Rain associated with Michael will likely begin by Thursday morning. Heaviest rains are forecast from around 2pm Thursday through around 2am Friday morning.

Coastal Flooding – Due to the storm direction and the speed at which it is currently forecast to be moving off the coast, coastal flooding is not anticipated to be a significant issue from Michael.

Blackwater River Flooding - Significant flooding issues for the Blackwater are not anticipated at this time.

Power outages/down trees – Strong winds combined with heavy rains may cause downed trees and isolated power outages.

Friday morning commute – It is likely that we will still be seeing at least some impacts from Michael during Friday morning's commute.

Emergency Shelters - At this time Isle of Wight does not anticipate opening any emergency shelters for Michael. Monitor local TV/Radio and the county's Facebook page (Isle of Wight County Virginia) for updates.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) – we will have a skeleton staff in the EOC overnight.

We'll continue to monitor Michael and will provide updates as warranted. Monitor local TV/Radio and the county's Facebook page (Isle of Wight County Virginia) for more frequent updates.

