

Tuesday, October 9, 2018 – 5:15 pm

Overall, not much change since this morning's update, but our chances for tropical force winds have gone up significantly today. Tropical storm watches have been issued for all of the NC coastline. Our wind impacts will likely be higher once Michael exits into the Atlantic and likely begins to strengthen.

As of the 5pm National Hurricane Center (NHC) update Michael was located about 335 miles S of Panama City FL. Michael was a major CAT 3 (120 mph) storm and is expected to be a major CAT 3 or 4 storm at the time of landfall on Weds. morning. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 35 miles from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 185 miles.

While the National Weather Service (NWS) has begun to provide some locality specific forecast information, the actual conditions we will see from Michael are ultimately dependent on his actual track. Based on information from the NHC and the National Weather Service (NWS) this morning looks like we could see:

Tropical Force Winds – Hampton Roads has a 30-60% chance of tropical force winds – which reflects a slight shift to the north of the most likely forecast, and the potential for strengthening as Michael exits into the Atlantic. The NWS forecast for Isle of Wight currently doesn't include sustained winds at the tropical force strength but does forecast wind gusts well into the 30+mph range overnight Thursday into mid-day Friday. NWS is current thinking is that we will likely see the highest winds from Michael on the backside of the storm as it exits off the US coast into the Atlantic Friday.

The following are wind chances for the eastern portion of Hampton Roads – IOW's chances are most likely slightly lower.

- 63% chance of tropical force winds (39+mph) (up from 19%)
- 34% chance of strong tropical force winds (58+mph) (up from 3%)
- 15% chance of hurricane force winds (74+mph) (up from 0%)

Rain – NWS is currently forecasting 4-6" of rain for our area.

Timing – most likely timing for impacts will be mid-day Thursday through early-evening Friday.

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 form Michael.

Forecast trend – Most of SE Virginia remains in the forecast error cone. The forecast trended today has been slightly northward, which would move the center of Michael closer to Hampton

Roads. The current most likely forecast track has Michael exiting off the coast into the Atlantic near the VA/NC border. While it looks like the NHC has pretty well locked into a general forecast track represented by the consistency in the location of the forecast error cone over the last several days, it is likely we'll continue to see fluctuations of their most likely track within the error cone. A small shift in the storms track as it makes landfall in FL, could have big impacts in its actual track by the time Michael makes his way as far north as our area.

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

