

Tuesday, September, 11, 2018 – 10:00 am

As of the 5am National Hurricane Center (NHC) forecast update a hurricane watch has been from the VA/NC boarder to Endesto Beach SC. A hurricane watch means hurricane conditions are possible in the next 48 hours. Additional watches and warnings are likely later today.

The National Weather Service has begun to provide more local specific forecast impacts this morning. Uncertainties in the forecast still exist, changes in the forecast track will greatly change the impacts felt across the local area. Based on information from the NHC and National Weather Service (NWS):

Strength/size - Florence is currently a CAT4 (140mph). Continued strengthening over the next 24-36 hours is likely through Weds. Florence is expected to reach or be very near CAT5 (150+mph) status by Weds. afternoon. After 48 hours, a slight increase in southwesterly shear could result in some weakening, but Florence is expected to remain an extremely dangerous hurricane when it approaches the U.S. coastline. Florence is forecast to still be a strong CAT4 storm when she makes landfall. Florence's wind fields have continued to grow –tropical force winds now extend hurricane force winds up to 150 miles and hurricane force winds extend 40 miles from her center.

Forecast Track - The overall forecast track has shifted slightly north. The NHC is currently looking at highest hurricane possibility between Moorehead City NC and Bald Head Island NC. We will likely continue to see fluctuations in Florence's forecast track. Don't focus too much on where the center line of the Florence – the actual storm track could occur anywhere within the NCH forecast error cone. A high-pressure ridge is forecast to cause a significant reduction in Florence's forward speed and the hurricane is predicted to meander over the eastern portions of North or South Carolina Thursday and Friday. The stall/slowdown will significantly increase impacts (especially wind and rain) from Florence in those areas nearest the storms track when she stalls.

Rainfall – NWS is currently forecasting 10"-15" of rain for IOW. Overall, Florence is expected to produce total rainfall accumulations of 15"-20" inches with isolated maximums of 30" near Florence's track over portions of North Carolina, Virginia, and northern South Carolina through Saturday. This rainfall may produce life-threatening flash flooding.

Winds – NHC forecast has increased winds chances for Hampton Roads. Currently forecasting:

- 66% chance of tropical force winds (39+mph)
- 24% chance of strong tropical force winds (58+mph)
- 10% chance of hurricane force winds (74+mph)

Based on NWS hourly forecast information, IOW will likely see winds start to increase late-morning Thursday. While timing for winds is most likely Thurs. morning, it is possible that winds could begin as early as Weds. night. Sustained will likely be at least in the high 20s to low 30s by midnight on Thursday. Friday through Saturday night sustained winds are forecast to be

at least in the low 30s with gust nearing 50mph. Winds in the NWS is currently forecasting winds to begin to taper off Saturday night. Actual wind timing and extent will be highly dependent on the actual track of Florence.

Inland Flooding – NWS has IOW in the moderate risk level for inland flooding. Forecast levels for the Blackwater are still not available - with the forecast rains, it is highly likely we'll see flooding along the Blackwater. Of particular concern is not only what rainfall we will see in IOW, but rainfall received by those areas that drain into the Blackwater. It is likely we will also see a significant amount of flooding in of the county's smaller creeks and swamps. Ditch overflow will also be an issue – especially on the back roads.

Storm Surge/Evacuation - The NWS is currently forecasting greater than 3 feet (range 3'-6') of storm surge along the IOW coast line. A storm surge watch has been issued for the same area currently under a hurricane watch (VA/NC boarder to Endesto Beach, NC). As of 6:30am today, 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.

Governor issued an evacuation notice of Storm Surge Evacuation Zone A last night effective at 8am this morning. In IOW county, a general description of Zone A would be property that sits on or near all of the county's coast line (e.g. along the James River, Pagan River, and Chuckatuck Creek). You can determine if a property is in a Storm Surge Evacuation Zone by entering an address at the KnowYourZone website (www.knowyourzoneva.org). Additional information about KnowYourZone is available on the county's homepage (<http://www.co.isle-of-wight.va.us>). Individuals with property in Zone A should monitor local TV/Radio for updates on storm surge watches and warnings closely.

State of Emergency - The County declared a State of Emergency as of 6pm last night.

