

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 – 6:45 am

Overall, not much change in the forecast track for Michael since yesterday. This morning's forecast does represent a decrease in the amount of strengthening expected as Michael moves offshore into the Atlantic overnight Thursday - early morning Friday. This has decreased the overall forecast wind impacts for our area. However, tropical force winds are still a possibility for at least a brief period, especially early Friday morning. While the most likely forecast track has Mathew moving offshore near the VA/NC border, southeastern VA remains well within the forecast error cone. There is a chance we the region could see tornados as the storm moves offshore - especially for those areas to the south and east of the actual forecast track. We will likely see periods of heavy rain - especially Thursday night into early Friday morning, that may cause some flash flooding issues as ditches overflow.

As of the 4am National Hurricane Center (NHC) update, Hurricane Michael was a major CAT4 (140mp) storm located about 140 miles SSW of Panama City FL. A motion toward the northeast at a faster forward speed is forecast on Thursday and Friday. On the forecast track, the eye of Michael is expected to move ashore over the Florida Panhandle later today, move northeastward across the southeastern United States tonight and Thursday, and then move off the coast near the VA/NC border on Friday. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 45 miles from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 185 miles.

**Current watches/warnings** - Isle of Wight is under a Flash Flood Watch effective at 8am Thursday through 8am Friday. Rain will spread into the region starting Thursday morning, continuing during Thursday and Thursday night, then ending Friday morning. Storm total rainfall of 3" - 6" expected in the watch area.

A Tropical Storm Warning is now in effect from South Santee River, SC to Surf City, NC. A Tropical Storm Warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area, in this case during the next 12 hours. A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for Surf City North Carolina to Duck North Carolina, and the Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds. Tropical Storm Watch means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area. There are currently no tropical watches or warnings for VA. Based on the most current NHC and National Weather Service (NWS) forecast:

**Tropical Force Winds** – The overall chances for tropical force winds is down for Hampton Roads in this morning's forecast – which reflects a decrease in the potential for strengthening as Michael exits into the Atlantic. The following are wind chances for the eastern portion of Hampton Roads – IOW's chances are most likely slightly lower.

- 20% chance of tropical force winds (39+mph) (down from 63%)
- 0% chance of strong tropical force winds (58+mph) (down from 34%)
- 0% chance of hurricane force winds (74+mph) (down from 15%)

The NWS forecast for Isle of Wight currently doesn't include sustained winds at the tropical force strength, but does forecast wind gusts in the high-20s to low-40s Thursday night through Friday morning. Sustained winds are forecast to be in the mid-20s to low-30s Thursday night through Friday morning. Winds will start to increase by around 8pm Thursday and are forecast to gradually begin to taper off before sunrise Friday. Looks like peak winds are most likely after midnight Thursday - 7am Friday morning. Winds are currently forecast to be near normal levels by mid-day Friday. The highest winds will likely be seen in the Carrollton area.

**Tornados** - There is a slight chance that we could see tornados associated with Michael. 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. Overall, tornados are unlikely; but, the most likely area to see tornados form will be the areas to the south and east of Michael's actual track. If Michael's actual track stays to our south, tornados would be more likely in NC than in our area. However, if the actual track shifts more northward into VA, our chances could increase. Generally, tornados associated with tropical systems are weaker and have shorter duration (distance impacted).

**Rain** – NWS is currently forecasting 3"-6" of rain for our area. Rain may be torrential at times. Rain associated with Michael will likely begin by Thursday morning. Heaviest rains are forecast from around 5pm 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** - pockets of power outages and some down trees are possible from Michael.

**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.

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.

