

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 – 6:00 pm

Main update since this morning is a little more information on the timing of winds and rain. Based on the most current forecast, looks like the heaviest rain may be from around 2pm Thursday – 2am Friday – rain may be very heavy at times and we may see some flash flooding issues as ditches overflow. We'll see wind impacts from Michael by around 4pm Thursday through early afternoon Friday. The strongest winds will likely be Friday morning from around 1am to 7am Friday morning (peak winds 2am-4am) when the remnants of Michael interact with a cold front as he moves offshore. The Carrollton area will likely see the highest winds with peak gusts near 50mph. (See below for additional impact details).

As of the 5pm National Hurricane Center (NHC) update, Hurricane Michael was a major CAT4 (140mph) storm when it made landfall near Mexico Beach Florida earlier this afternoon. Since landfall Michael has weakened to a CAT2 (100mph) storm and is located near the FL/GA/AL border. A motion toward the northeast at a faster forward speed is forecast on Thursday and Friday.

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.

Isle of Wight is also under a Wind Advisory from 6pm Thursday to noon Friday. A Wind Advisory means that winds of 35mph are expected. Winds this strong can make driving difficult, especially for high profile vehicles – use caution.

A Tropical Storm Warning is now in effect from Fernandina Beach FL to Duck, NC, and the Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds. A Storm Surge Watch is in effect for Ocracoke Inlet NC to Duck NC. There are currently no tropical watches or warnings for VA.

We will likely see changes to the forecast specifics tomorrow as the forecast adjust to reflect how Michael is impacted by being overland and the cold front to our west. We would not be surprised to see the timing of the winds move a slightly earlier with tomorrow's forecast update. Based on the most current NHC and National Weather Service (NWS) forecast:

Tropical Force Winds – The strongest winds in our area may actually be a result of Michael interacting with a strong cold front as he moves off shore. 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's afternoon 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-50s Thursday night through Friday morning. Sustained winds are forecast to be in the low-20s to low-30s Thursday night through Friday morning. We will likely see winds start to pick up by around 4pm Thursday. Based on the current timing, looks like we'll see wind impacts from Michael from around 7pm Thursday – 10am Friday. The strongest winds will likely be from around midnight Thursday - 7am Friday (peak winds from around 1am to 4am Friday). While the strongest winds will likely be in the Carrollton area, all areas of the county could see gusts into the 40s.

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.

Rain – NWS is currently forecasting 3"-6" of rain for the region area. The NWS is currently forecasting 3"-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.

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.

