

Friday, September 14, 2018 7:15 am

Florence is currently a CAT1 ( 90mph) located about 35 miles east of Wilmington NC moving towards the east south-east at 6mph. Based on the current NHC forecast, it could take Florence over 14 hours to reach Myrtle Beach, SC.

Winds in IOW likely peaked about 6am this morning. Winds will very gradually taper off from this point on. However, for the most part, the winds you are seeing this morning will be about the same we'll see through about 4pm (maybe 7pm in Carrollton area). The possibility of tropical storm gusts up to 40mph still exists especially in the southern end of the county. This afternoon's tide will be about a foot higher than yesterday's.

**Watches/Warnings** - A coastal flood warning is in effect for IOW until 6am Sunday. A coastal flood warning means that flooding is occurring or imminent. No storm surge watches or warnings are currently issued for VA. A tropical storm warning remains in effect for areas north of Duck NC to Cape Charles Light VA. (Additional watches and warnings are to our south, but I have not included them in this update – additional information is available on the NWS website.)

**Strength/size** – Florence is currently a CAT1(90mph). Florence's intensity is not expected to change much in the next 12 hours or so that it has over water. Florence's high wind fields have remained the same –tropical force winds extend up to 195 miles and hurricane force winds now extend 80 miles from her center.

On the forecast track, the center of Florence is expected to move inland across extreme southeastern North Carolina and extreme eastern South Carolina Friday and Saturday. Florence will then move generally northward across the western Carolinas and the central Appalachian Mountains early next week.

**Rainfall** – NWS is currently forecasting 2"-3+" for IOW with locally higher amounts possible. Depending on the duration of Florence's stall we could also see higher rain totals. Dangerous flash flooding and flooding may occur Friday through the weekend.

**Winds** – NHC forecast has not changed the wind chances for Hampton Roads significantly from the last update.

- 13% chance of tropical force winds (39+mph) (down from 30%)

Based on NWS forecast information, we are not forecast to see sustained tropical force winds across IOW. Winds in IOW likely peaked about 6am this morning. Winds will very gradually taper off from this point on. However, for the most part, the winds you are seeing this morning will be about the same we'll see through about 4pm (maybe 7pm in Carrollton area). Forecast gust are from the mid-20s to low-40s. Sustained winds will be from mid-teens to high-20s. Actual wind timing and extent will be highly dependent on the actual track of Florence. The NWS is currently forecasting winds begin to taper off Saturday morning.

**Tidal Flooding** – Moderate to major tidal flooding is forecast for IOW. Based on the current tide forecast, looks like the Friday afternoon high tide cycle may see the highest tidal levels for IOW. We could see similar tide heights with Saturday's daytime high tide. Depending on the length of Florence's stall, the number of higher than normal high tide cycles may be extended.

High tides for:

- Pagan River will occur 2:57pm Friday, 3:17am Saturday, 3:47pm Saturday
- James River Bridge will occur at 2:02pm, Friday, 2:21 am Saturday, 2:54pm Saturday

**Inland Flooding** – NWS still has IOW in the moderate risk level for inland flooding. Flooding in low lying areas and ditch overflow will also likely be an issue – especially on the back roads. Flooding due to rainfall could persist through the weekend.

**Blackwater River** – Potential for flooding major flooding along the Blackwater has decreased again this morning. The forecast models are now projecting a worst case maximum river level into the just into the minor flood stage (12') on Monday (9/21). However, THE MOST LIKELY forecast level is still around 8' which is well below the minor flooding level through next Friday (9/21). The forecast information available only projects through next Friday.

**Storm Surge/Evacuation** - Factoring in Florence's increasing total size and the forecast stall, NWS has increased the storm surge impacts slightly from this morning. NWS is currently forecasting less than 1' storm surge along the IOW coast. As of 7am this morning, 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. The longer Florence stalls along the NC/SC coast, the higher the actual storm surge may be especially along the James River.

IOW Storm Surge Zone A remains under the Governor's evacuation order. It is important that individuals be aware of their storm surge risk and make preparations to act accordingly.

**Power Outages** – As of 7am this morning, there are no power outages in the county.

**Shelter** – The IOW emergency shelter at Windsor High School will close at 8am Friday morning.

**EOC** – Emergency Operations Center will transition to virtual operations in conjunction with the shelter closing.

**Additional Information** - Follow the county's Facebook page (Isle of Wight County Virginia) of for more frequent updates. We've also setup a public inquiry phone line at 757-365-6205.