

September 8, 2017 9:15 am

The models are coming more and more into alignment (and finally seem to be staying that way) and the National Hurricane Center (NHC) has more confidence that Irma will likely make landfall in Florida and travel up or near the FL peninsula and then move north west into Georgia and Tennessee. Given the current NHC forecast track, only the very southwestern tip of VA continues to show chances for tropical force winds (5-10% chance). While the NHC has good confidence on where the northward turn will occur, until it Irma makes the turn, we'll need to keep a close eye just to make sure the track doesn't shift significantly eastward again. It's very unlikely, but possible. Impacts to VA, MD and eastern NC will depend on the actual track of Irma, but at this time expected impacts from wind and rain should be limited.

This morning's update from the National Weather Service (NWS), expects that the strongest winds and rains associated with Irma will stay to the south and west of our area. A few gusts to 30mph may be possible late Monday into Tuesday. Exact intensity and impacts from wind may still fluctuate based on the actual track of Irma. Our rain chances will increase Monday through Tuesday. Rainfall totals in the Hampton Roads area are expected to be in the <1"-2" range, and forecast accumulations are expected to continue to trend downward. Rain totals will likely be higher in the southwestern portions of the state (2"-5" range currently). Minor tidal flooding is possible late this weekend into early next week due to east swells and easterly winds.

As of 8am this morning, Irma was located about 450 miles SE of Miami Florida and had sustained winds of 150mph and was moving WNW at about 16pmh. A turn toward the northwest is expected by late Saturday. On the forecast track, the eye of Irma should move near the north coast of Cuba and the central Bahamas today and Saturday, and be near the Florida Keys and the southern Florida Peninsula Sunday morning. Irma is a currently a strong Category 4 hurricane. Some fluctuations in intensity are likely during the next day or two, but Irma is forecast to remain a powerful category 4 hurricane as it approaches Florida.

We continue to monitor Hurricane Jose, which is now also major hurricane (CAT 3, 125pmh). The current forecast track for Jose would keep him off shore about 285 miles south of Bermuda as of next Wednesday. Another system has just come off Africa with a 20% chance of becoming a named system in the next 48 hours. We'll keep our eye on these two systems and provide updates if needed.

