

Friday, September 6, 2019 – 6:30 am

As of the 5am National Hurricane Center (NHC) forecast update, Dorian remains a CAT1. Sustained winds of 90mph (CAT) and was about 55miles SW of Cape Hatteras. Dorian is currently moving north northwest at about 14mph. Dorian is moving toward the northeast near 14 mph (22 km/h) and this general motion with an increase in forward speed is expected through Saturday. On the forecast track, the center of Dorian will move near or over the coast of North Carolina during the next several hours.

Based on this morning's NHC and NWS forecasts here is a summary of potential conditions for IOW (Note: all forecast information is highly dependent on the actual track of Dorian and is subject to change based on the actual track.)

Watches/Warnings. Isle of Wight is currently under a tropical storm warning, a storm surge warning and a flash flood watch. A Tropical Storm Warning means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area, generally within 36 hours. A Storm Surge Warning means there is the potential for storm surge flooding greater than 3 feet above ground. within the next 36 hours. Storm surge in Hampton Roads is currently forecast in the 2-4 feet range.

Timing. The 5am NHC update has slowed the timing for Dorian has remained about the same. We'll see the main wind impacts from Dorian now through mid-afternoon. Winds will gradually taper off and should be below 10mph by dark. While coastal flooding will be an issue all day for us, we still expect the highest tide levels with this evening's high tide – which will likely be several hours after we see the peak winds.

Winds. Based on the 5am NHC forecast, forecast wind speeds have remained about the same. In general, the National Weather Service(NWS) is forecasting sustained winds in the high 20mph to high30mph range with gusts in the 40mph to high-40mph (some gust nearing 55mph are possible) for IOW. Highest winds will likely be from late morning through about 2-3pm. Winds will begin to taper down from then and should be back to "normal" levels by early evening. Winds will likely be highest in areas along the IOW/Suffolk border and along the James River. Note: the actual winds we will see is highly dependent on the actual track of Dorian.

Tornados. Tornado chances should remain low for IOW. VA Beach remains under a tornado watch until 7am. All other tornado watches for eastern Hampton Roads have been lifted.

Rain. The National Weather Service (NWS) is currently forecasting additional rains across the county of 1-3" with higher isolated amounts possible. Currently, looking like the areas receiving higher rain amounts could be in the 4-6" range. The majority of the rainfall should be over early afternoon and rain chances end by dark. Rain could be very heavy at times and flash flooding is possible.

Coastal flooding. Coastal flooding impacts are about the same this morning. We'll see high tides all day today. Today's low tides will be near normal high tide levels and tides. Moderate to major tidal flooding is predicted during today's high tides. The worst of our tidal flooding will occur during the Friday evening high tide. Friday evening high tide at Sewell's point is forecast at 6.7 feet (they are seeing a significant amount of variation in the projected height – NWS believes somewhere between 6.5-7 feet is possible) and Jamestown is forecast at 5feet. These tide levels would be similar to the 2006 Nor'Ida storm (6.63ft), Hurricane Sandy (6.81ft), with worst case similar to Hurricane Irene (7.55ft). (High tide on the Pagan River High will occur at: Thursday 4:35pm, Friday 4:58am & 5:38pm).

Coastal erosion. 3 foot waves are currently forecast for the James River along IOW's coastline. The chance for coastal erosion due to the wave action is likely.

Blackwater River. Flooding along the Blackwater is not currently expected to be a significant issue. Blackwater river levels are currently forecast to stay below the Action level.

Power outages. As of 6am, Community Electric was reporting 1 outage. Dominion Power was reporting 0 outages. Both power companies have crews from outside the area available to assist with power restoration and will be working to get any power back on as soon as possible.

Shelters. IOW is not planning to open emergency shelters for Dorian. Shelter staff are on standby should forecast conditions indicate that shelters are necessary. We'll alert you if a decision is made to open shelters.

Closings. IOW county government, DSS, courts and schools will be closed Friday.