

September 3, 2017 – 9:00 pm

Tonight's update is mostly a reminder that it is much, much too early to have much of an idea about where IRMA will be in the next 7-10+ days. Regardless of where Irma may end up, we are entering the most active portion of hurricane season **NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE PREPARED FOR A HURRICANE IMPACT.** If you don't already have a hurricane plan and the needed supplies, go to www.ready.gov for more information and tools to help you develop your plan and kit. Even if we luck out and Irma doesn't impact us significantly, there is always the chance that at least one of the ones that come after Irma might.

What we do know at this point:

As of the 8pm National Hurricane Center update Irma had maximum sustained winds of 115 mph and is a CAT 3 hurricane. Some strengthening is expected over the next 48 hours and winds could reach 140 mph. Irma is expected to impact the northern Leeward Islands by Tuesday as a major hurricane, accompanied by dangerous wind, storm surge, and rainfall impacts, along with rough surf and rip currents. It will likely be at least 6-8 days before Irma nears the US mainland and it is very likely that Irma will still be a major hurricane when she does.

It is too early to determine what direct impacts Irma might have on the continental United States. Regardless, everyone in hurricane-prone areas should ensure that they have their hurricane plan in place, as we are now near the peak of the season. Now is the time to make sure you are prepared for a potential hurricane impact (even if Irma isn't the one making the impact).

There is another system following closely behind Irma with a 60% chance of reaching a tropical system status in the next 5 days.

What we don't know at this point:

We don't know with any certainty where Irma is headed in the next 7-10+ days. There is considerable uncertainty with regard to Irma's path beyond the NHC day 5 forecast. **REMEMBER: *Small track changes can mean BIG impact changes (good and bad).*** We've watched the models trend east and then back to the west over the past few runs and it's likely we will continue to see model track shifts, especially beyond the 5 day track forecast. Any conclusions drawn about Irma's ultimate track beyond the 5-day range are highly speculative and usually serve little useful purpose from a preparedness perspective. We recommend that you plan for the worst and hope for the best.

