

Thursday, September 5, 2019 7:30 pm

As of the 5pm National Hurricane Center (NHC) forecast update, Dorian remains a . Sustained winds of 105mph (CAT2) and was about 45 miles SSE of Myrtle Beach SC. Dorian is currently moving north northwest at about 10mph. Dorian has finally made the turn and is moving northeast at 10mph, and this general motion is expected to continue with an increase in forward speed through Saturday. On the forecast track, the center of Dorian will continue to move close to the coast of eastern South Carolina for the next several hours, and then move near or over the coast of North Carolina tonight and Friday. Dorian is currently forecast to be a CAT2 storm (105-100mph) as it crosses over/near the OBX

Based on this evening's NHC and NWS forecasts here is a summary of potential conditions for IOW (Note: while the forecast confidence has improved, 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 Watch 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 5pm NHC update has slowed the timing for Dorian has remained about the same. The main impacts from Dorian are possible as early as Thursday afternoon, but the more likely timing is currently for greatest impacts is after midnight through Friday afternoon/evening.

**Winds.** Based on the 5pm 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. 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.** Based on NWS forecast information and the current track for Dorian, the chance for tornados has increased for the eastern parts of Hampton Roads (Chesapeake & Virginia Beach) – if any tornados form, there will likely only be a few. We saw tornado watches and warnings pop up in SC/NC most of today. We checked with NWS about the cause of these tornados, and NWS explained that supercell thunderstorms imbedded in Dorian's outer bands were spinning up the tornados, partially due to how close to the coast Dorian is moving. These types of tornados are generally associated with wind bands just to the north of the eye of the strom as it makes landfall. While Dorian didn't make actual landfall today, it has been so close to the coast that it has basically been a "landfalling" hurricane all day. By the time Dorian began to exit off the OBX the storms direction will

likely limit this type of situation to extreme eastern Hampton Roads. Typically these types of tornados are of a shorter duration and on the lower end of the tornado wind level scales. We'll update you as more information comes in.

**Rain.** The National Weather Service (NWS) is currently forecasting rains across the county of 3-6" with higher isolated amounts possible. Currently, looking like the areas receiving higher rain amounts could be in the 6-10" range. The majority of the rainfall will likely occur Thursday night into Friday afternoon. Rain could be very heavy at times and flash flooding is possible.

**Coastal flooding.** Coastal flooding impacts are about the same this evening. Flooding associated with storm surge could begin as early as Thursday night, with highest concerns during Friday's high tides. Moderate to major tidal flooding is predicted for with Friday evening's high tide. – Friday evening high tide at Sewell's point is forecast at 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 5.1 feet. 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.

**Shelters.** IOW is still 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.

See brief images below.

## Key Take-Aways

Hurricane Dorian



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- ✓ Confidence is **HIGH** that the event will occur
- ✓ Confidence is **HIGH** regarding impacts



Prolonged periods of heavy rainfall is expected to lead to areas of significant flash flooding and water covered roads for portions of Eastern VA and Northeast NC.



Life threatening winds/wind damage is expected to lead to downed trees, power outages, and communication issues across portions of Eastern VA, Northeast NC, and Southeast MD.



Moderate to major tidal flooding is expected late tonight through Saturday in the Bay and along the coast.



There is the potential for increased tornado activity, mainly across Northeast NC and Southeast VA. Tornadoes will be occurring at night, making them incredibly difficult to spot.



Marine conditions will become very dangerous to extreme due to increasing waves and tropical storm/hurricane force wind gusts into Saturday.

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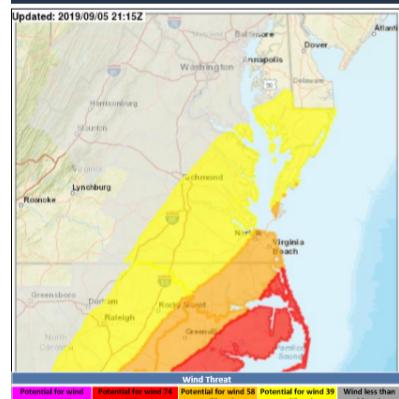
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## Wind Threat / Potential Impact

Hurricane Dorian



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### Impacts

- Damage to porches, awnings, carports, sheds, and unanchored mobile homes. Unsecured lightweight objects blown about.
- Large trees snapped or uprooted, especially in areas where soils are saturated. Some roadway signs will be blown over.
- Some roads will be impassable from debris. Hazardous driving conditions on bridges and other elevated roadways.
- Scattered to widespread power and communication outages can be expected.

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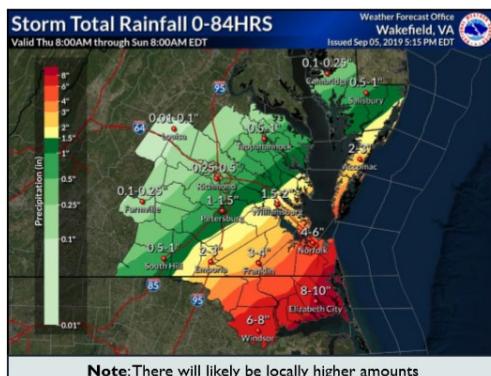
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## Expected Storm Total Rainfall

Hurricane Dorian



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- A Flash Flood Watch is in effect for Northeast NC and Southeast VA through Friday
- Storm Total rainfall forecast valid this afternoon through the event.
- Locally, most rain will occur tonight into Friday afternoon, lingering into Friday night along the coast.

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