



# TROPICAL UPDATE



5:00 PM EDT

Saturday, September 12, 2020

Tropical Storm Sally, Tropical Storm Paulette, Tropical Depression Rene, Tropical Depression #20, Gulf of Mexico Low (30%), Invest 97L Near Cabo Verde Islands (60%)

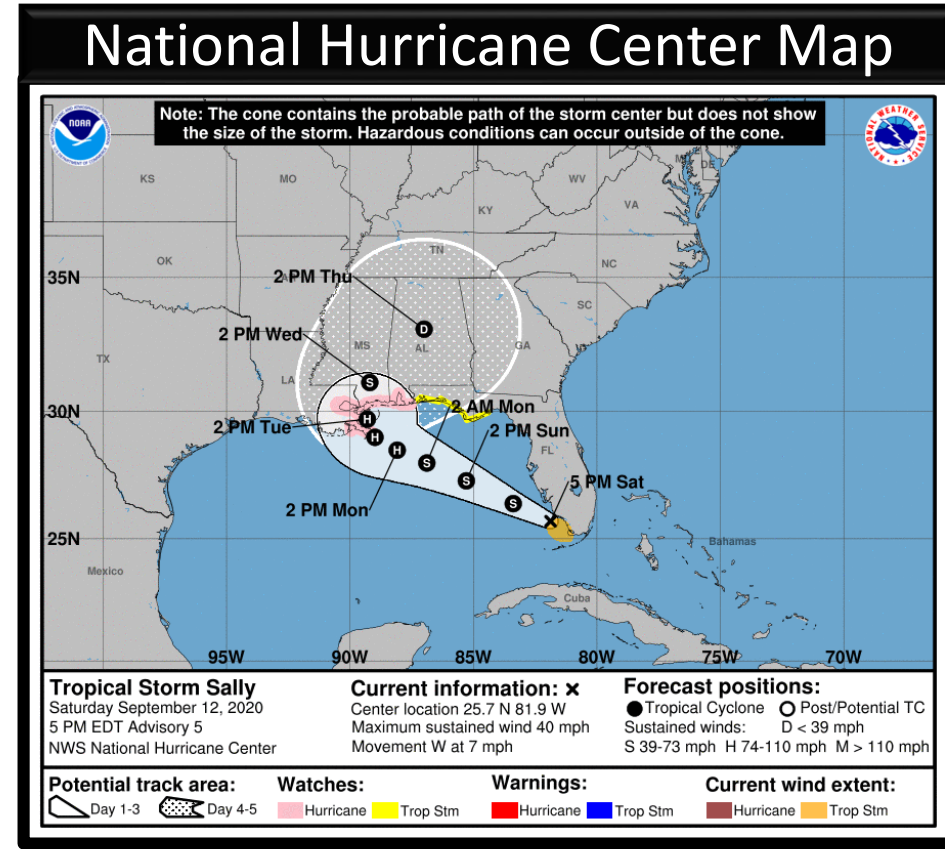
This update is intended for government and emergency response officials, and is provided for informational and situational awareness purposes only. Forecast conditions are subject to change based on a variety of environmental factors. For additional information, or for any life safety concerns with an active weather event please contact your County Emergency Management or Public Safety Office, local National Weather Service forecast office, or visit the National Hurricane Center website at [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov).



# Tropical Storm Sally

5 PM ET Saturday: Florida Threats & Changes Since Last Packet

	MINIMAL	Low	MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREME
WINDS					
STORM SURGE					
FLASH FLOODING					
TORNADOES					
	Low	MODERATE		HIGH	
RIP CURRENTS					



## Overview/Recent Changes:

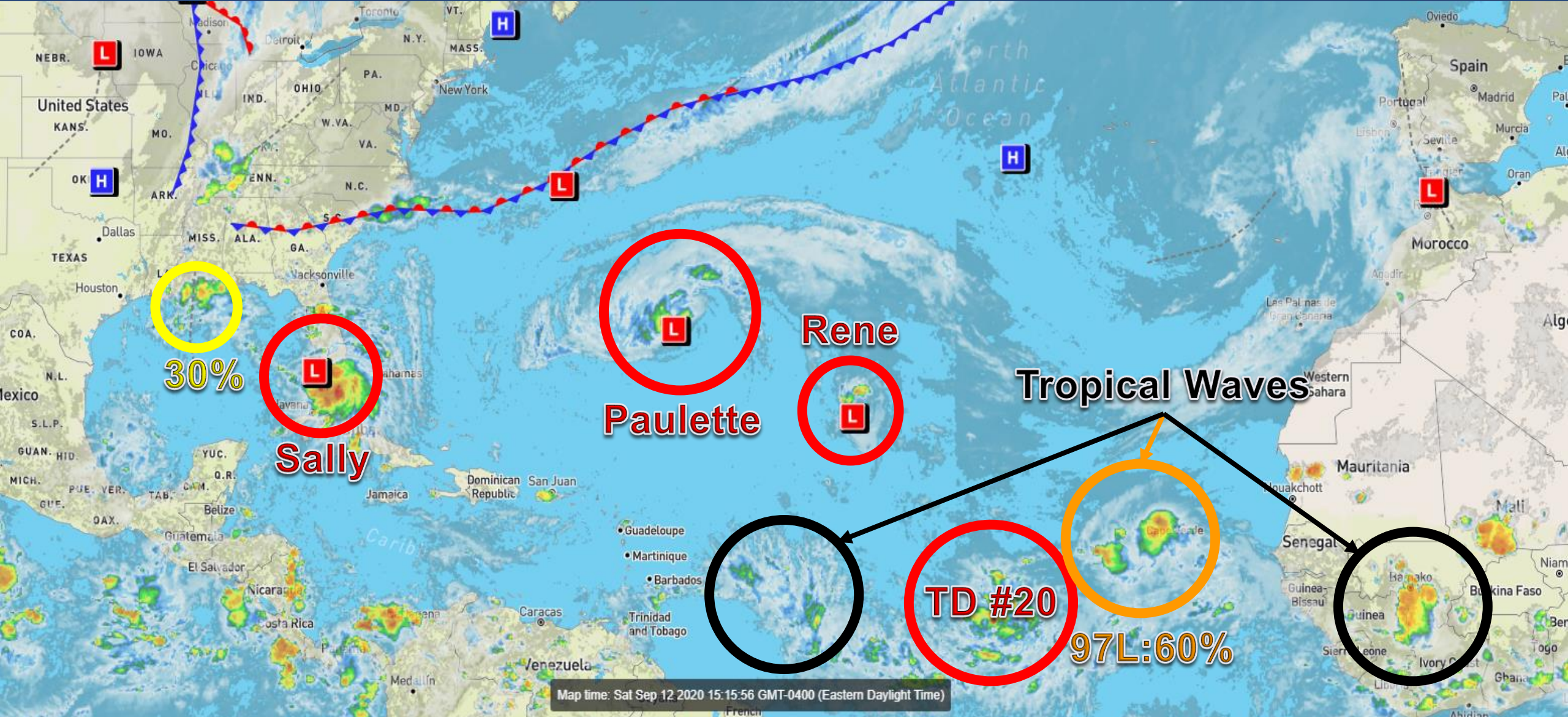
TD #19 strengthened to Tropical Storm Sally this afternoon as it moved offshore of Southwest Florida. The Tropical Storm Watches have been extended westward to the AL/FL border. The peak intensity for Sally has been increase to 85 mph (mid-grade Category 1). Changes in track and intensity forecasts are still possible. Do NOT focus on the center of the cone as impacts will extend well outside of the forecast cone.





# Atlantic Basin Satellite Image

Chance of development: — None — Low — Medium — High



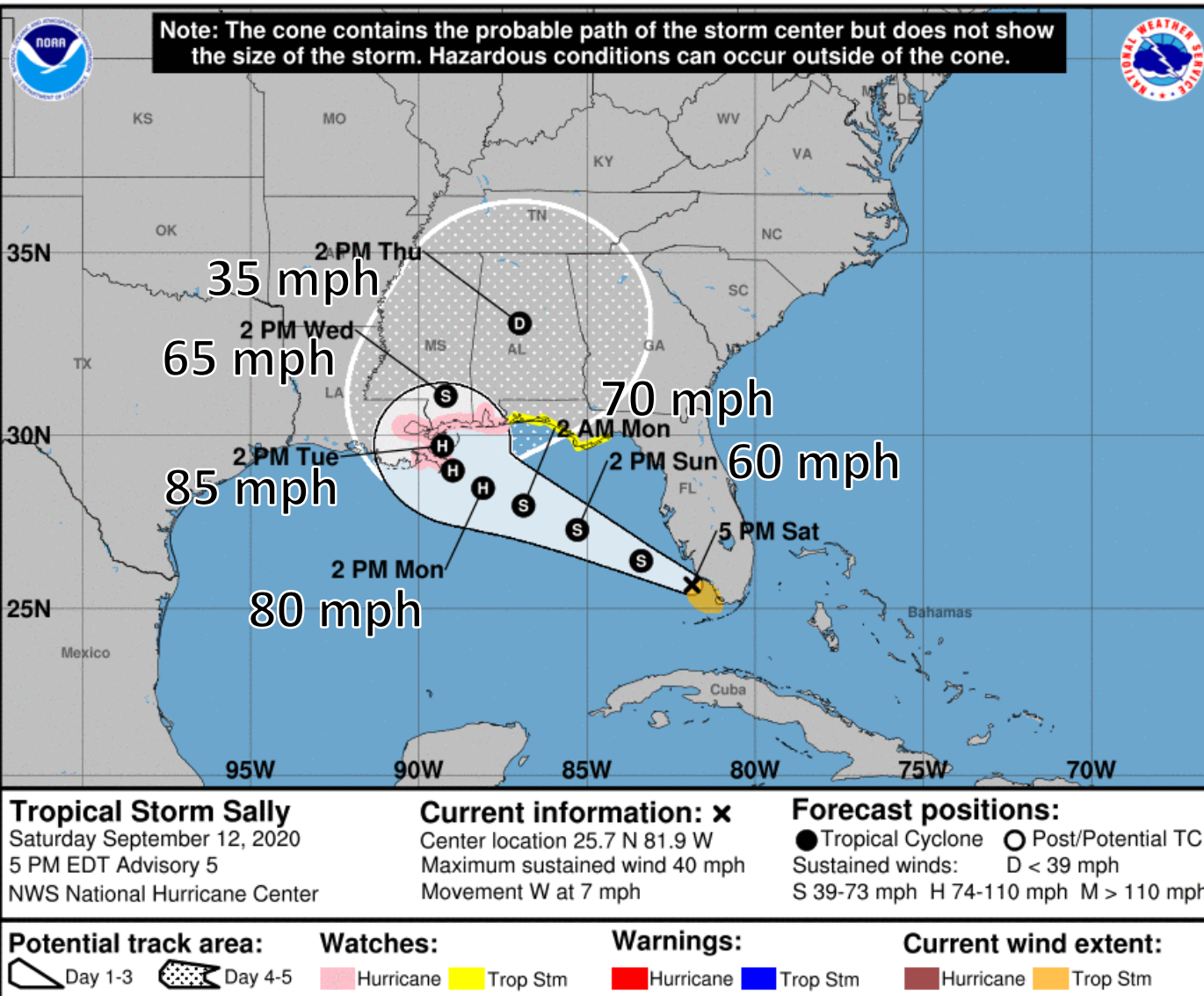






# Official Forecast Track

From the National Hurricane Center: Tropical Storm Sally



- The center of Tropical Storm Sally is located about 30 miles south-southwest of Naples, FL
- Maximum sustained winds are 40 mph, and Sally is moving to the west at 7 mph.
- Sally will continue strengthening as it moves west-northwestward over the Gulf of Mexico, and Sally will become a hurricane on Monday.
- Sally will slow down drastically on Monday as it turns very slowly northward and eventually northeastward

**Sally will bring very heavy rainfall, possibly tropical-storm-force winds, minor storm surge, and isolated tornadoes.**

**Do NOT focus on the center of the cone! The impacts can and will extend well outside of the cone!**



# Tropical Weather Outlook

Possible Area of Development During the Next 5 Days ([LINK](#))



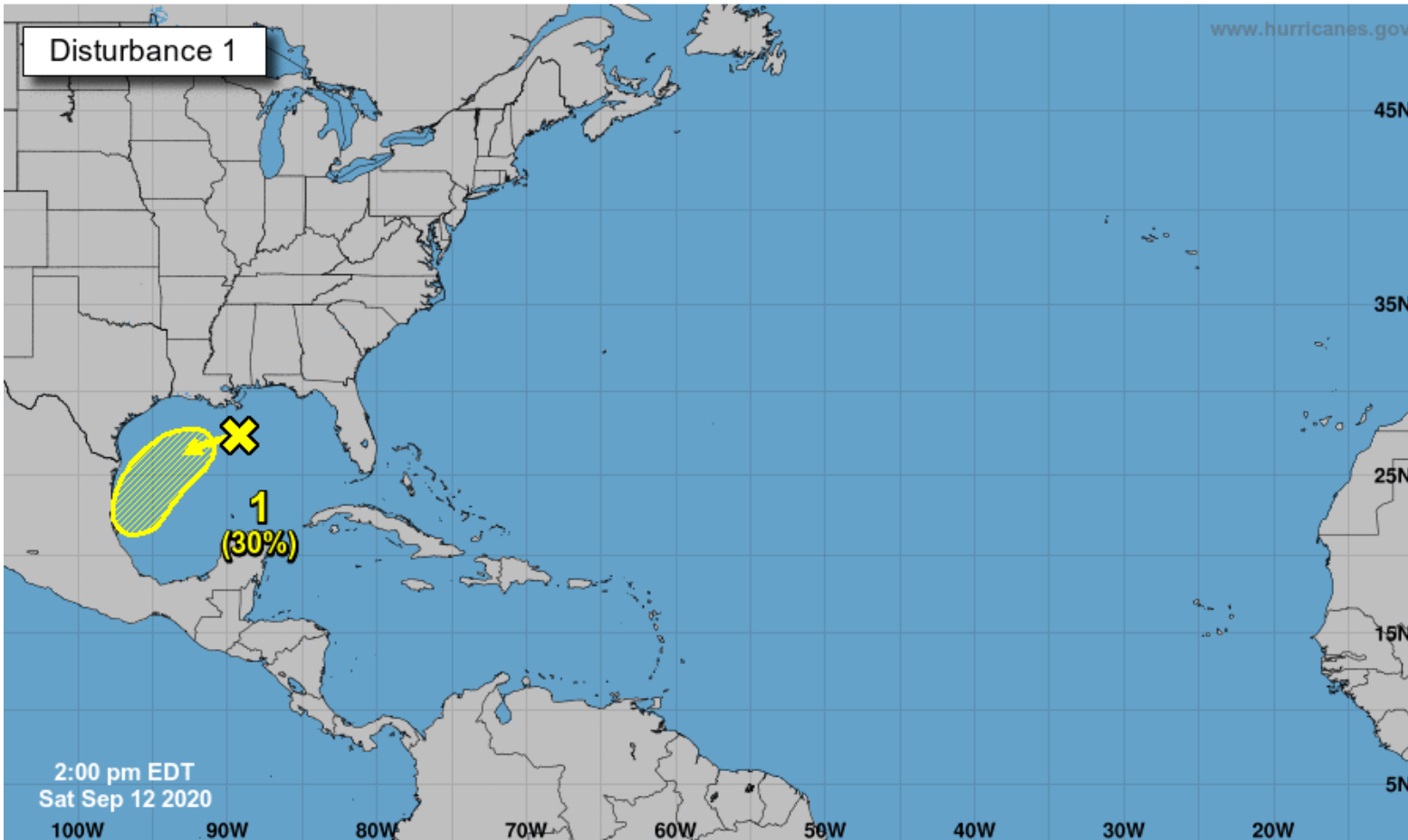
## Five-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



www.hurricanes.gov

Disturbance 1



A surface trough over the north-central Gulf of Mexico is producing disorganized showers and a few thunderstorms.

Some slow development of this system is possible while it moves westward and then southwestward over the northern and western Gulf of Mexico through the middle of next week.

**No direct impacts to Florida are expected.**

**\*Formation chance through 48 hrs...low...20%**

**\*Formation chance through 5 days...low...30%**

Current Disturbances and Five-Day Cyclone Formation Chance:   
 Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone:   
 X < 40%   X 40-60%   X > 60%   
 ○ Depression   ⚡ Storm   ⚡ Hurricane   
 ⊗ Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants





# Key Messages

## From the National Hurricane Center



### Key Messages for Tropical Storm Sally Advisory 5: 5:00 PM EDT Sat Sep 12, 2020



1. Life threatening storm surge is possible along the Gulf Coast beginning on Monday, and a Storm Surge Watch is in effect for areas outside the southeast Louisiana Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System from the Mouth of the Mississippi River to the Alabama/Florida border. Residents in these areas should follow any advice given by local officials.

2. Hurricane conditions are possible by early Tuesday from Grand Isle, Louisiana to the Alabama/Florida border, including Metropolitan New Orleans, with tropical storm conditions possible by Monday.

3. Sally is expected to produce flash flooding across portions of southern Florida and prolong existing minor river flooding across central Florida through Sunday. Flash, urban, and minor to moderate river flooding is likely across portions of the central Gulf Coast from Sunday through the middle of next week.

4. Tropical storm conditions are possible early next week in portions of the Florida Panhandle, where a Tropical Storm Watch is in effect. Wind gusts to tropical-storm force could occur over portions of the southern Florida Peninsula and the Florida Keys this evening.



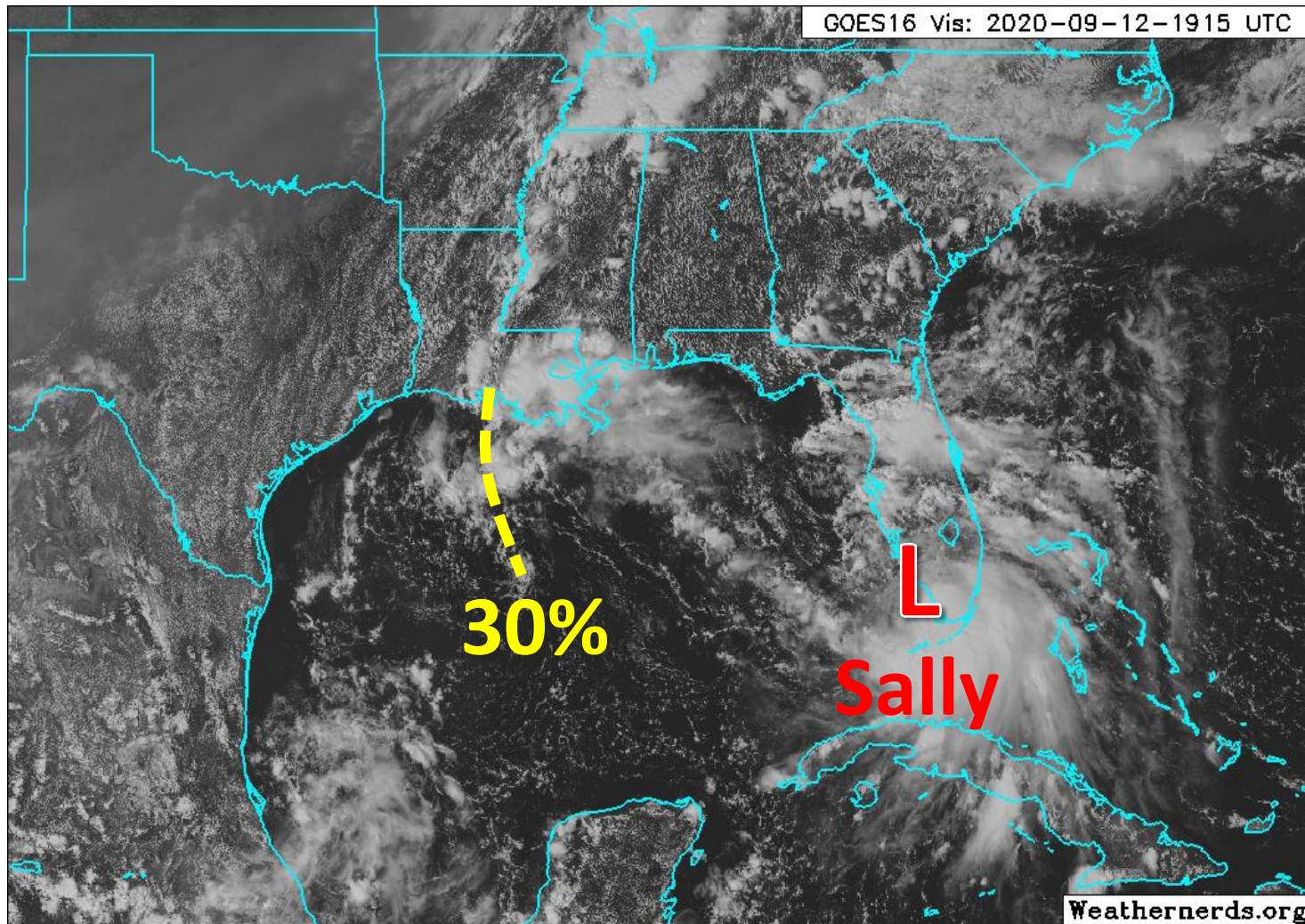
For more information go to [hurricanes.gov](https://hurricanes.gov)





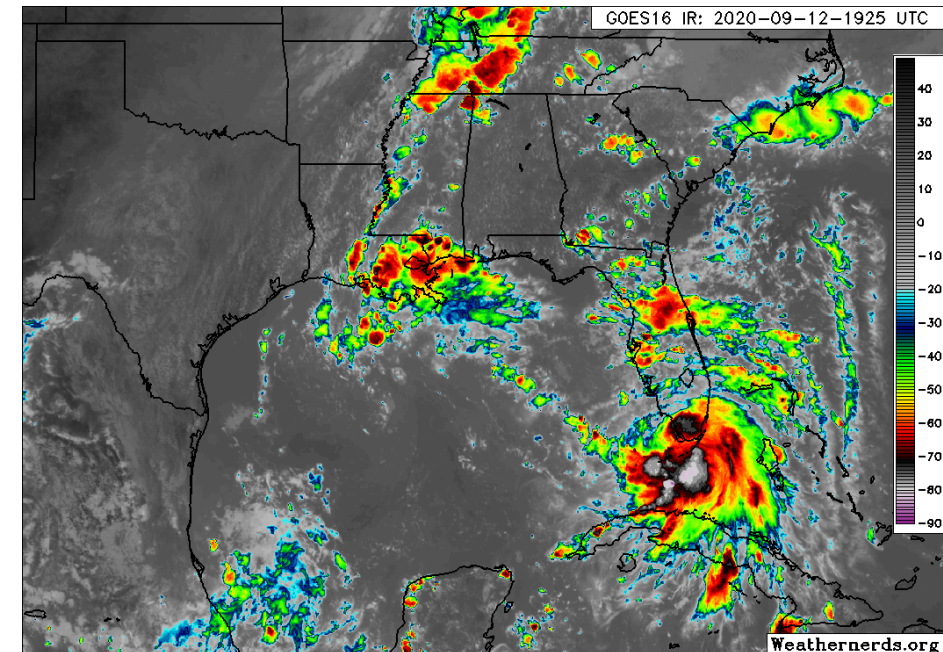
# Satellite Imagery

## Western Atlantic – Gulf of Mexico & Southwestern Atlantic



TD #19 strengthened to Tropical Storm Sally earlier this afternoon as it moved offshore of Southwest Florida. Sally is still experiencing a bit of northerly wind shear, but the wind shear is expected to lessen over the Gulf of Mexico.

The trough of low pressure south of Louisiana is still producing limited showers and storms.

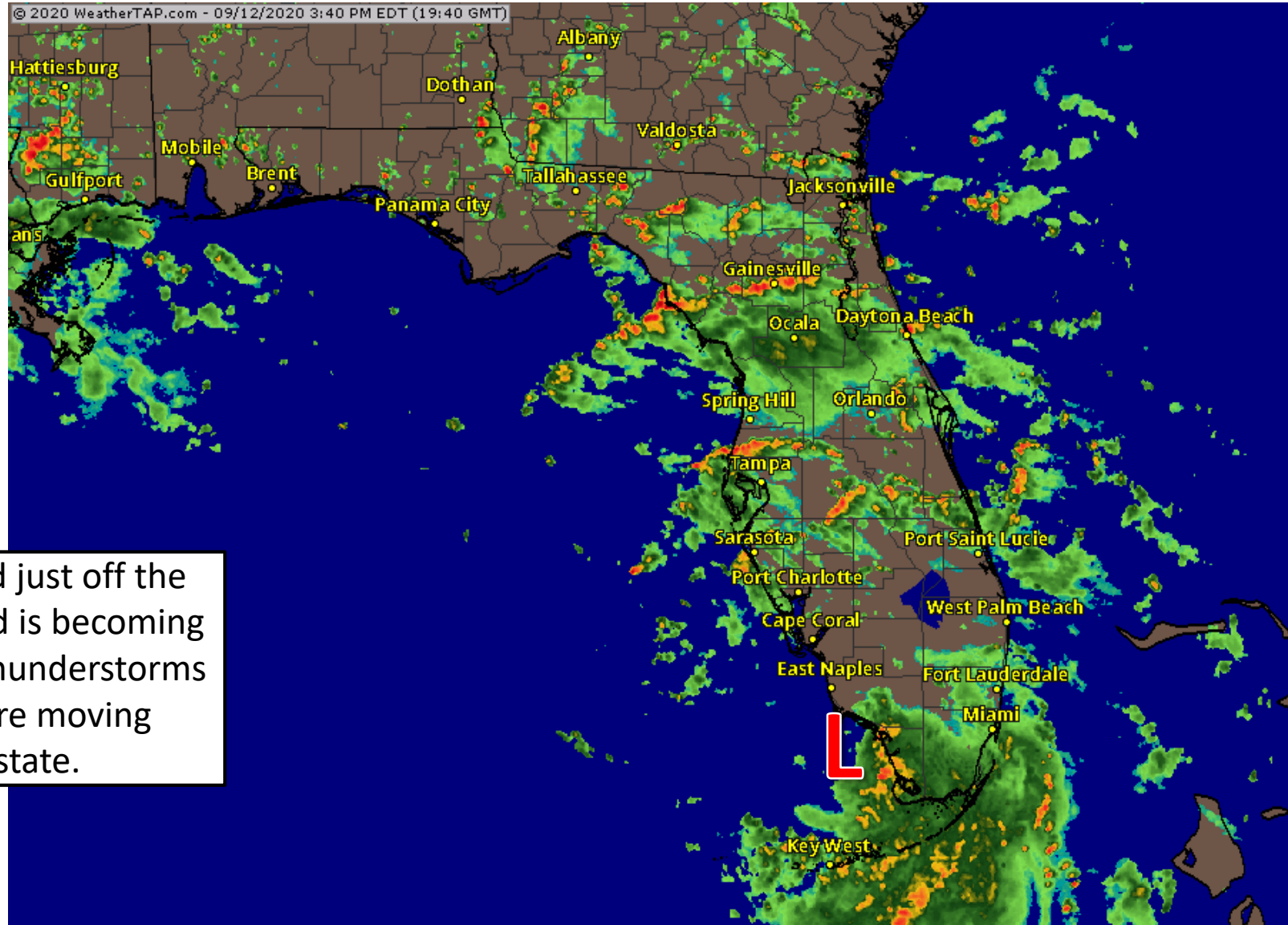






# Current Florida Radar

As of 3:35 PM ET



Tropical Storm Sally is located just off the coast of Southwest Florida and is becoming better organized. Numerous thunderstorms indirectly related to Sally are moving northward across the state.



# Damaging Wind Threat Overview

## Tropical Storm Sally

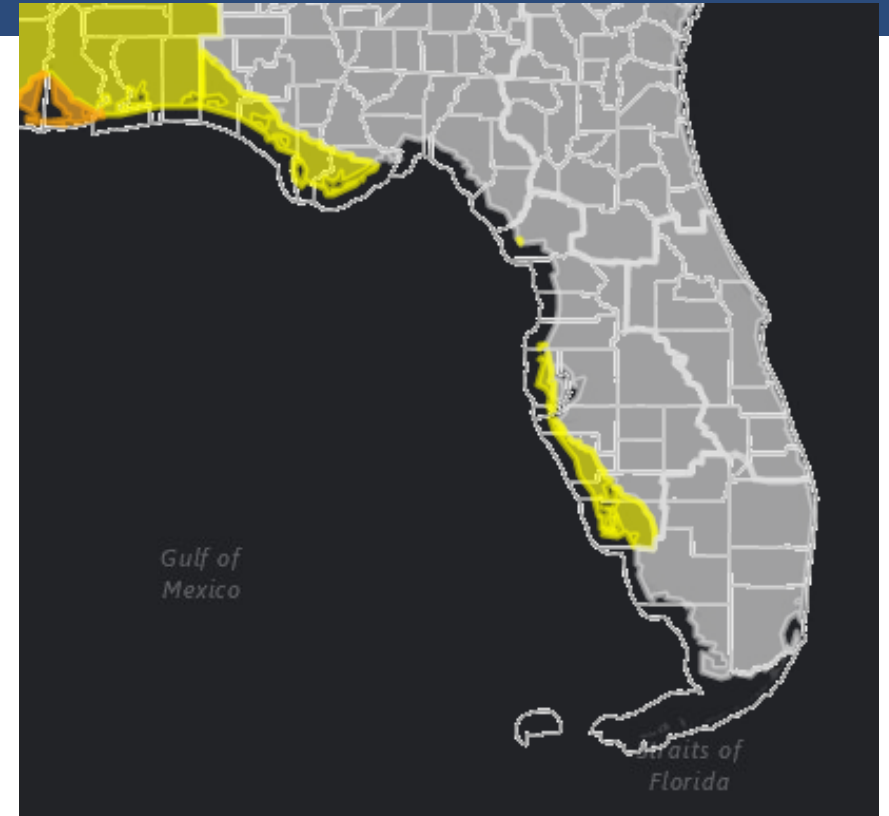
There is the possibility for tropical storm force winds along parts of the West Coast over the next day or so, primarily in gusts in rain bands.

Sustained tropical storm force winds will likely begin Monday evening in the Big Bend and eastern Panhandle, then spreading into the rest of the Panhandle Monday night into Tuesday.

These risks may increase in the Panhandle depending on the track and intensity of Sally.

[https://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?  
office=mfl](https://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?office=mfl)

Click on “Threats and Impacts” Tab



[\[Download KML\]](#)

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Wind Threat
Potential for wind greater than 110 mph
Potential for wind 74 to 110 mph
Potential for wind 58 to 73 mph
Potential for wind 39 to 57 mph
Wind less than 39 mph



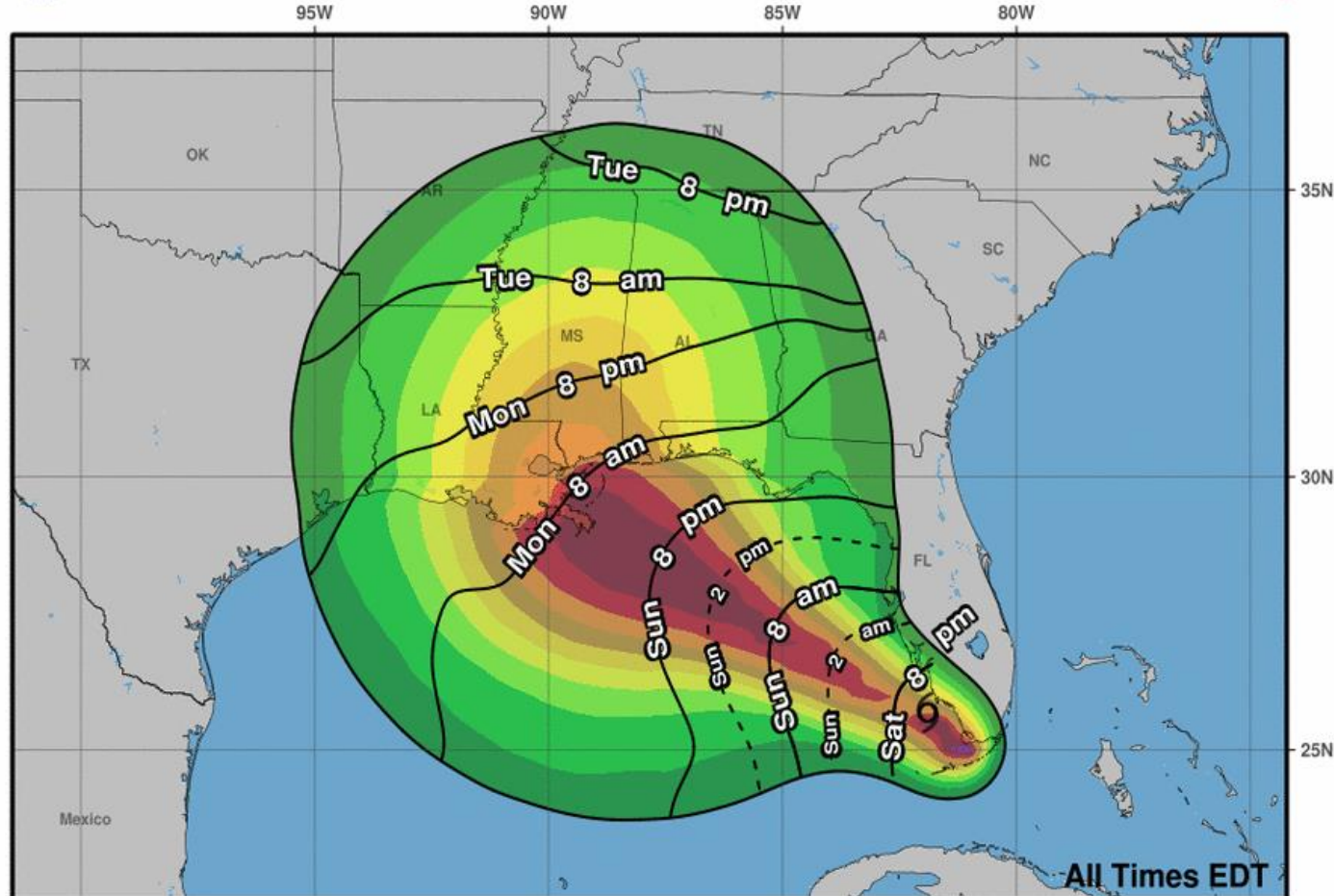


# Time of Arrival & Wind Speed Probabilities

**EARLIEST REASONABLE** Time of Arrival of Tropical Storm Force Winds (>39 mph)



**Earliest Reasonable Arrival Time of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds**



**Naples: 15% (-10)**

**Venice: 11% (-12)**

**Tampa: 10% (-4)**

**Cedar Key: 12% (-4)**

**Tallahassee: 14% (+3)**

**Apalachicola: 29% (-11)**

**Panama City: 34% (-13)**

**Destin: 32% (+2)**

**Milton: 37% (+4)**

**Pensacola: 41% (+4)**

Tropical storm force wind gusts are possible along the West Coast through today and tonight. Sustained tropical storm force winds could begin in the Big Bend and Panhandle as early as Sunday night, but it will likely begin Monday night.

**Tropical Storm Sally**  
Sat. Sep. 12, 2020 5 pm EDT  
Advisory 5

Storm Location & Wind Speed  
○ < 34 kt (39 mph)  
○ 34-63 kt (39-73 mph)  
● ≥ 64 kt (74 mph)

5-day chance of receiving sustained 34+ kt (39+ mph) winds  
5 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 %

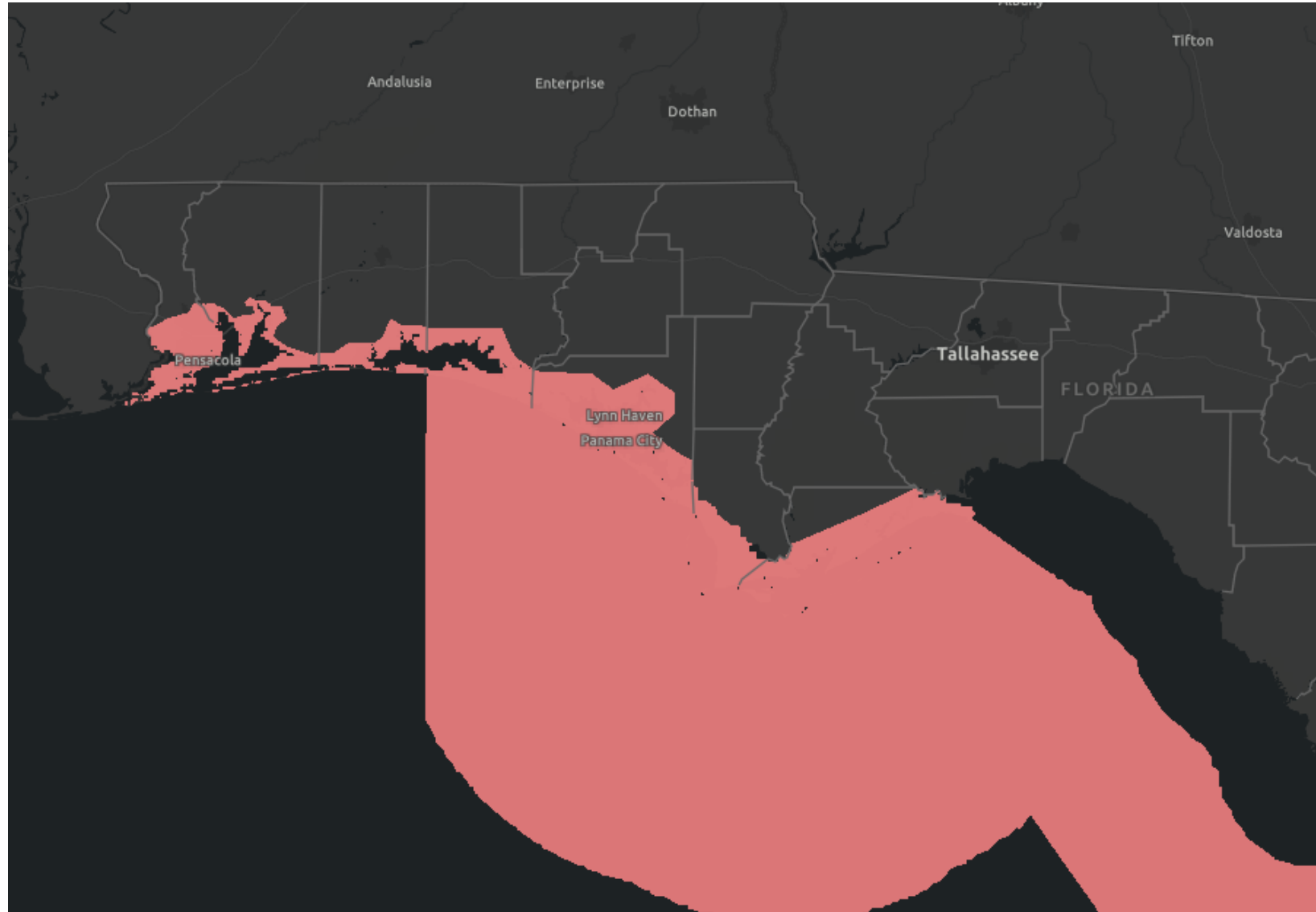


# Wind Watches and Warnings

In Effect Until Further Notice

**Tropical Storm Watches:**  
coastal Escambia, coastal Santa Rosa, coastal Okaloosa, south Walton, coastal Bay, coastal Gulf, and coastal Franklin Counties

Parts of these areas could be upgraded to warnings tonight or Sunday.







# Tropical Storm & Hurricanes

## Watches Versus Warnings

### ***WATCH***

Tropical storm and/or hurricane conditions are **POSSIBLE** in Watch area

Issued up to 48 hours in advance of tropical storm force winds

### ***WARNING***

Tropical storm and/or hurricane conditions are **EXPECTED** in Warning area

Issued up to 36 hours in advance of onset of tropical storm force winds

Hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force. **Watches & Warnings are issued in advance of onset of tropical storm force winds, 39-73mph**



NWSMobile



[weather.gov/mob](https://weather.gov/mob)



# Flood Threat Overview

## Tropical Storm Sally

The greatest flood threat is across coastal southwest Florida, the western Big Bend, and the Panhandle. However, flooding is possible nearly anywhere in the state due to TD #19.

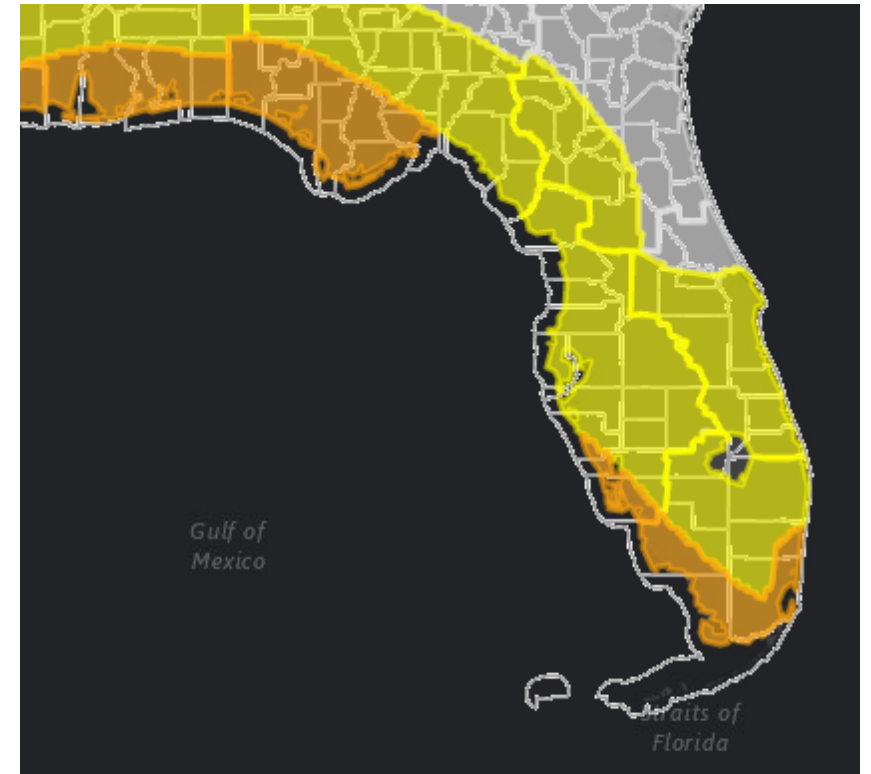
### 7 Day Rainfall Totals:

- **West Coast, South Florida, Keys:** 3-6", locally 6-9"
- **Big Bend:** 4-8", locally 8-10"
- **Panhandle:** 6-12", locally 15-18"

**Flood Watches are in effect for much of the Peninsula.**  
**More Flood Watches are expected in North Florida.**

[https://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?  
office=mfl](https://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?office=mfl)

Click on "Threats and Impacts" Tab



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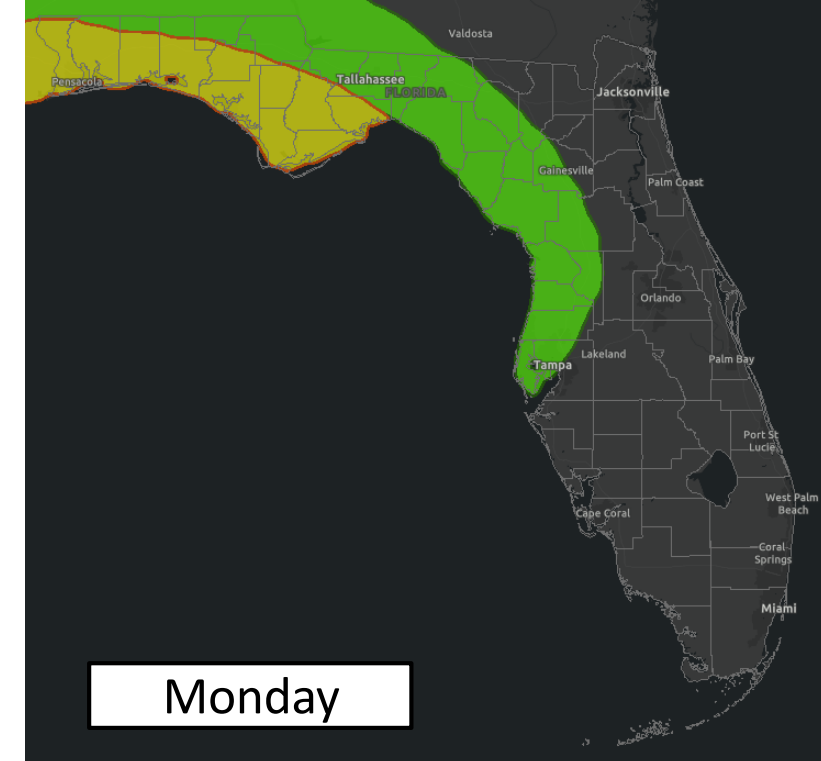
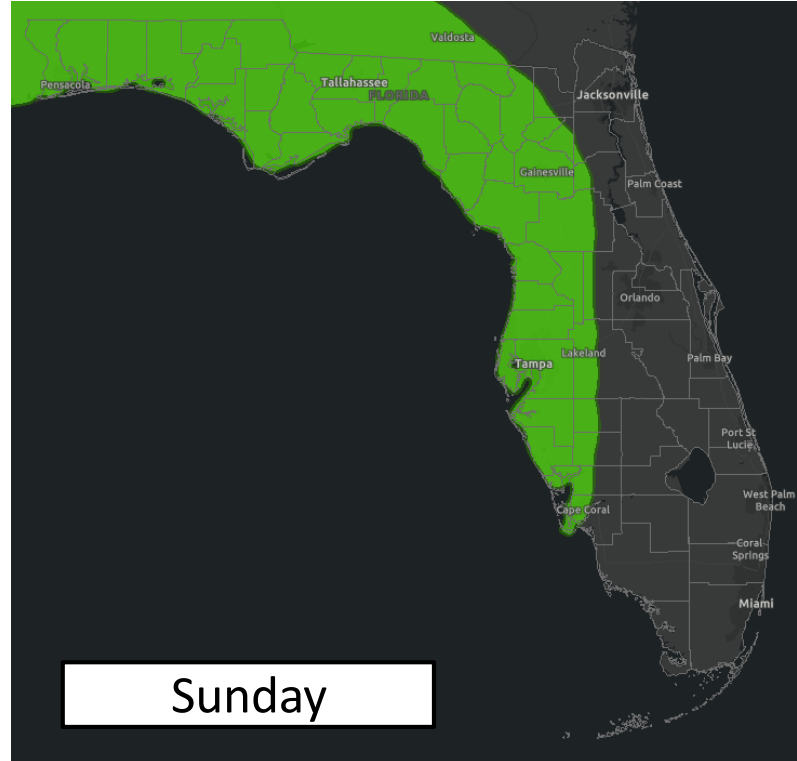
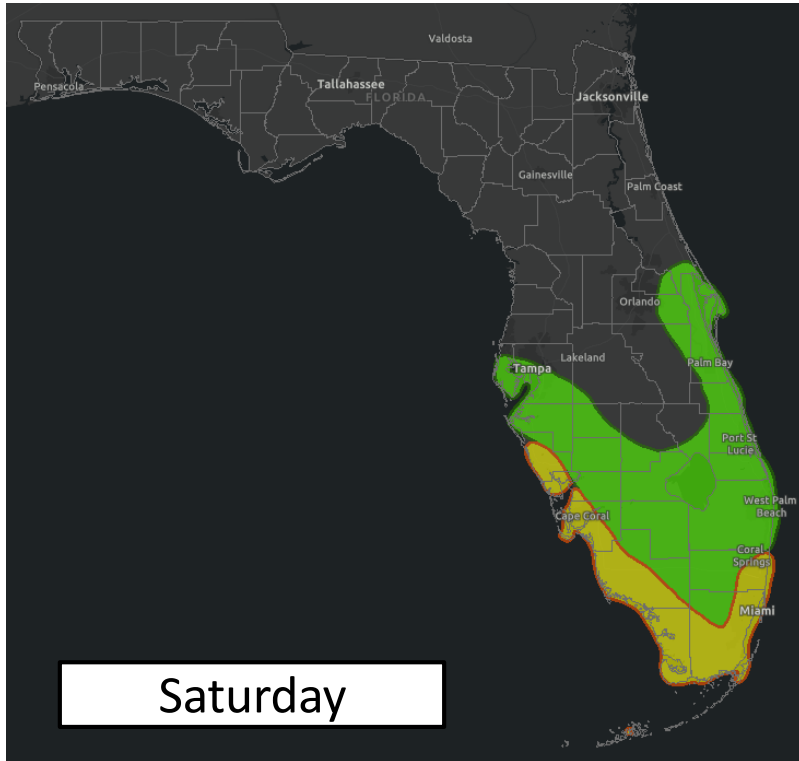
Flooding Rain Threat
Potential for extreme flooding rain
Potential for major flooding rain
Potential for moderate flooding rain
Potential for localized flooding rain
Little to no potential for flooding rain





# Flash Flood Outlooks

From the Weather Prediction Center



Risk of rainfall exceeding flash flood guidance within 25 miles of a point to the right of a line

**HIGH: > 50%**

**SLGT: 10%-20%**

**MDT: 20%-50%**

**MRGL: 5%-10%**

Heavy rainfall will lead to a threat of flash flooding across much of the state. If the track shifts a little farther north or east, then the flash flood threat will likely increase further across the Panhandle and Big Bend.

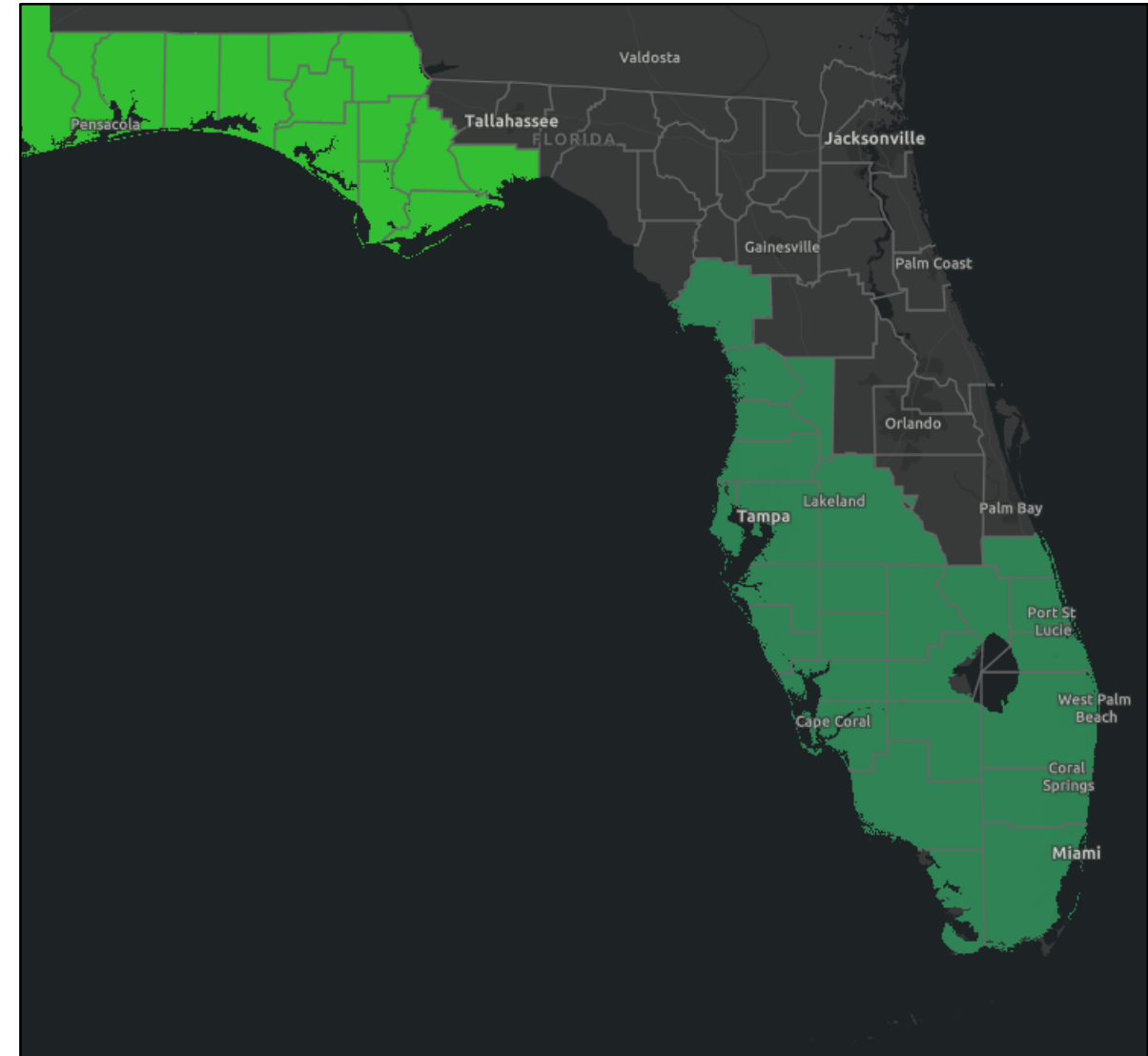


# Flood/Flash Flood Watches

NWS Links: [Mobile](#) | [Tallahassee](#) | [Tampa Bay](#) | [Melbourne](#) | [Miami](#)

Tropical Storm Sally will produce very heavy rainfall across much of the state. This rain will be falling on wet to saturated soils, which will result in possible flash flooding.

River flooding is also likely across North Florida as we head into next week. River flooding may be exacerbated along the West Coast.





# Flash Flood Guidance

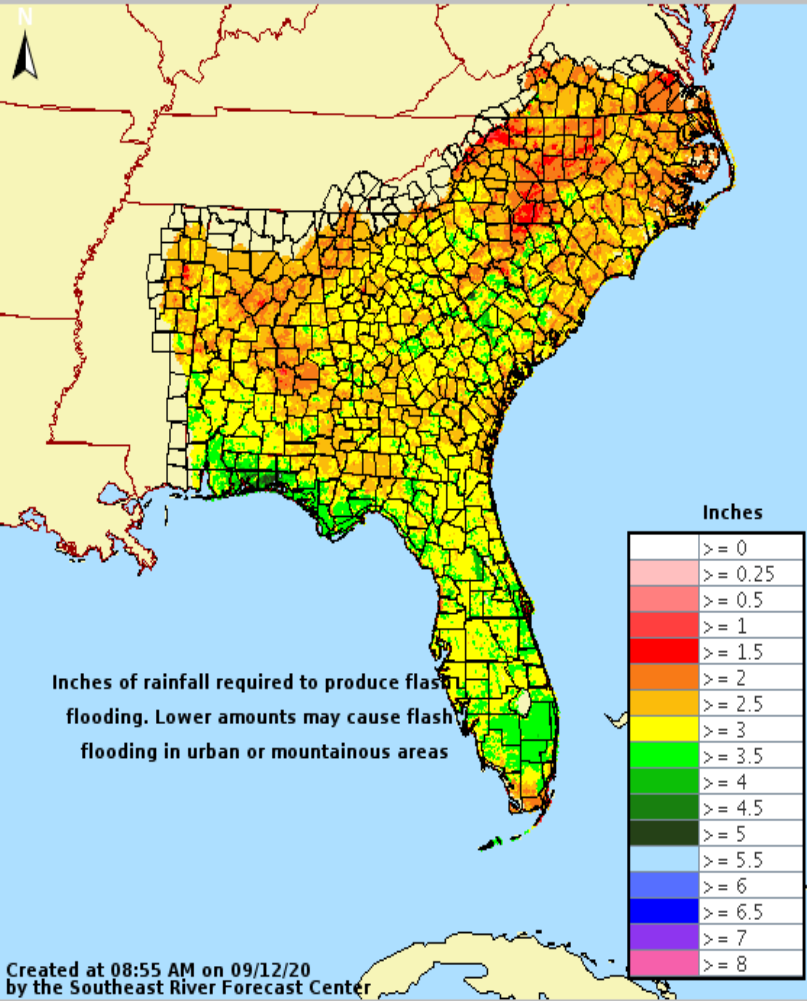
## How Much Rain is Needed to Create Flash Flooding?



### 1-hr Flash Flood Guidance

Valid: 09/12/2020 @ 08:55 AM



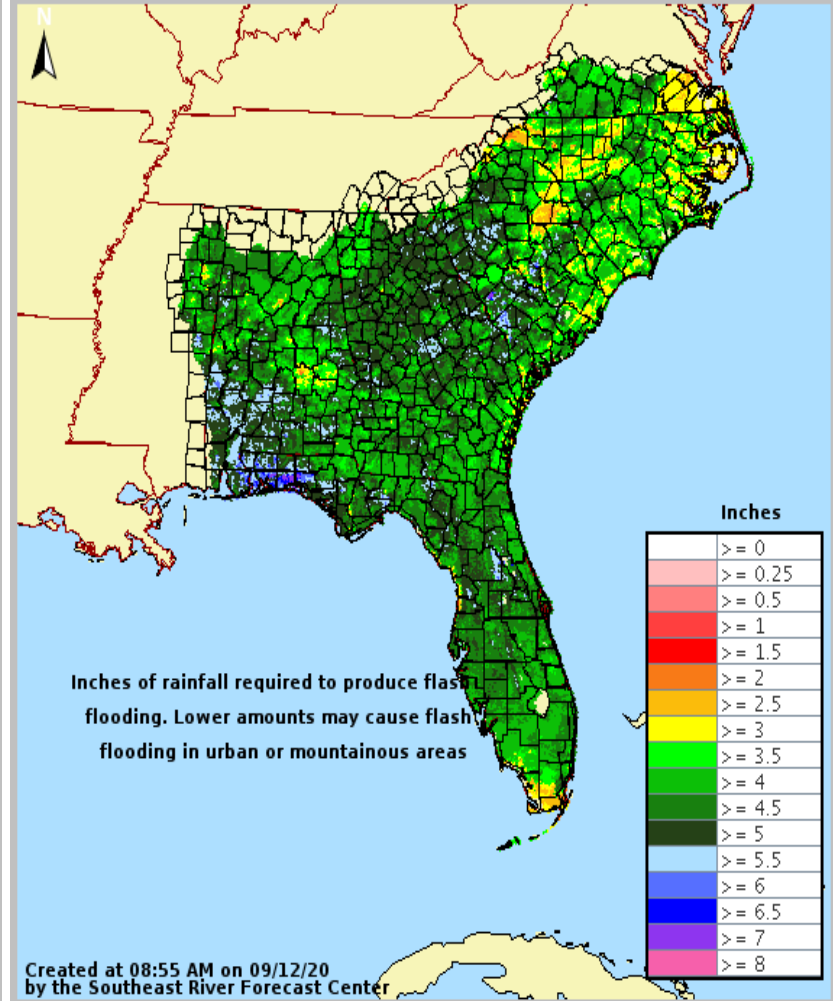




### 6-hr Flash Flood Guidance

Valid: 09/12/2020 @ 08:55 AM





Along the West Coast, it will only take about 1.5-3" of rain within 1 hour or 3-5" within 6 hours to cause flash flooding due to recent heavy rainfall.

Elsewhere in the state, it will take about 3-4" in 1 hour or 5+" within 6 hours to cause flash flooding.





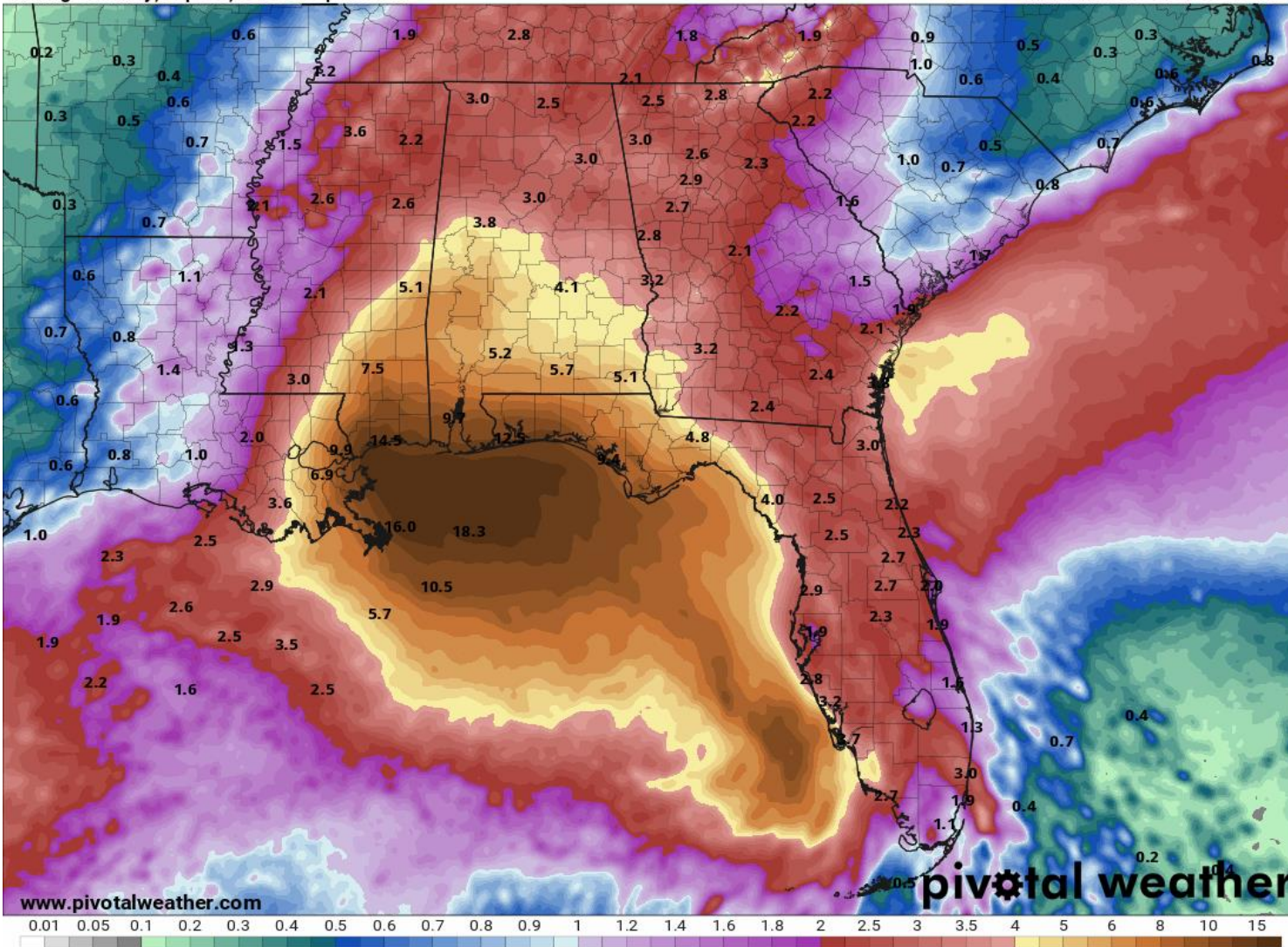
# Rainfall Totals Next 7 Days

Ending 8 PM ET Saturday 9/19 – Gulf of Mexico Systems

7-Day Precipitation (in)

Ending Saturday, Sep. 19, 2020 at 8 p.m. EDT

Init: Sun 2020-09-13 00z WPC



Rainfall totals of 3-6" are expected over the next 7 days along the West Coast and in South Florida, localized totals of 6-9" possible.

Rainfall totals of 4-8" are expected over the next 7 days in the Big Bend and 7-12" in the Panhandle. Localized totals of 12-18+" are possible.

Exact rainfall totals will depend on the track of Sally. Regardless, rainfall impacts will extend well away from the center.

These rainfall totals may also increase in North Florida if the track were to shift northward or eastward.



# Current & Forecast River Flooding

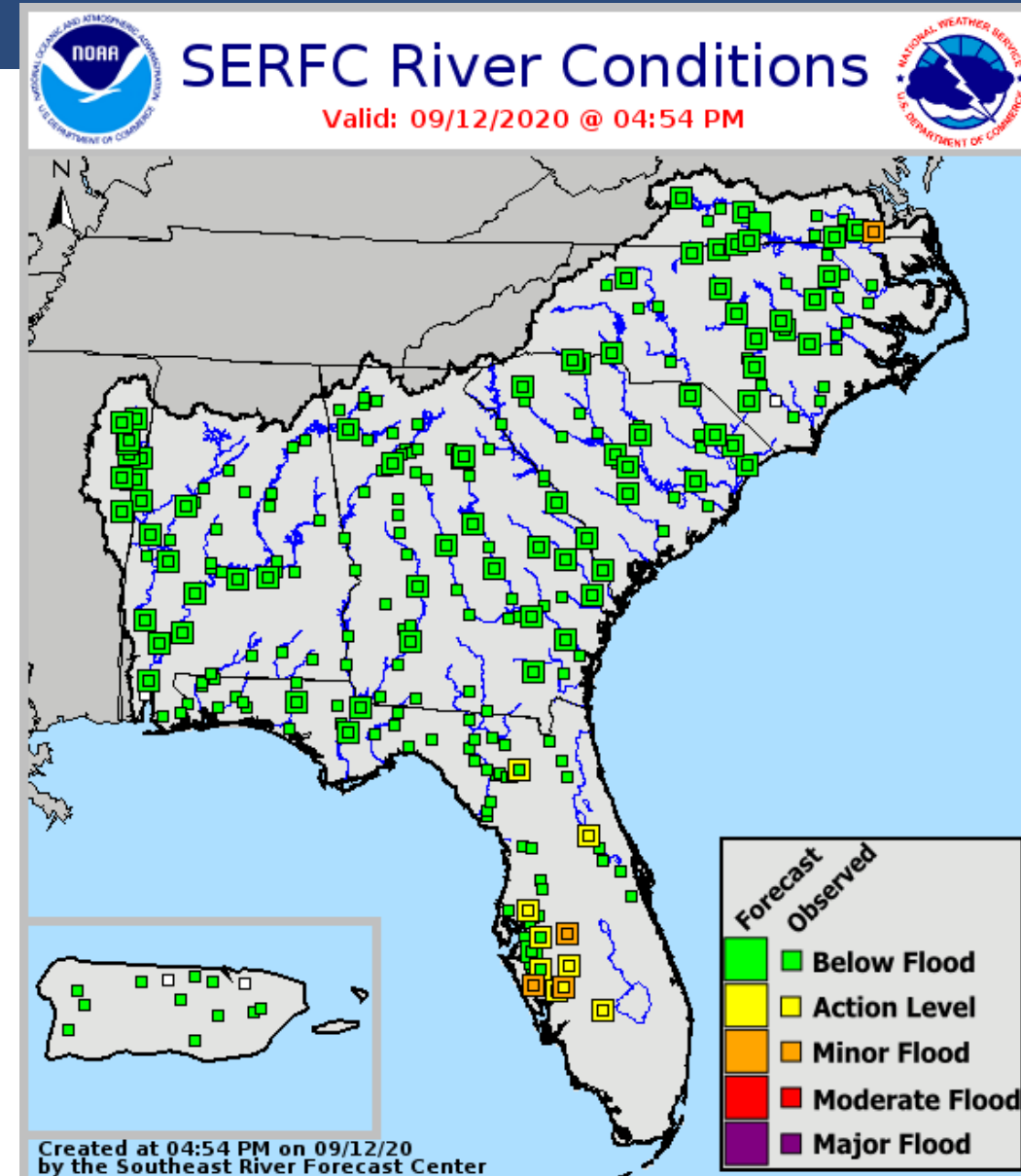
## Southeast River Forecast Center

### Rivers Currently in or Forecast to Reach Flood Stage:

- [Peace River at Bartow](#) – STEADY
- [Peace River at Arcadia](#) – RISING
- [Myakka River at Myakka River State Park](#) – RISING
- [Ocklawaha River at Rodman Dam](#) – STEADY

With more heavy rainfall expected across the state, additional river rises may occur over the next several days.

More details on river levels available at the [Southeast River Forecast Center website](#).





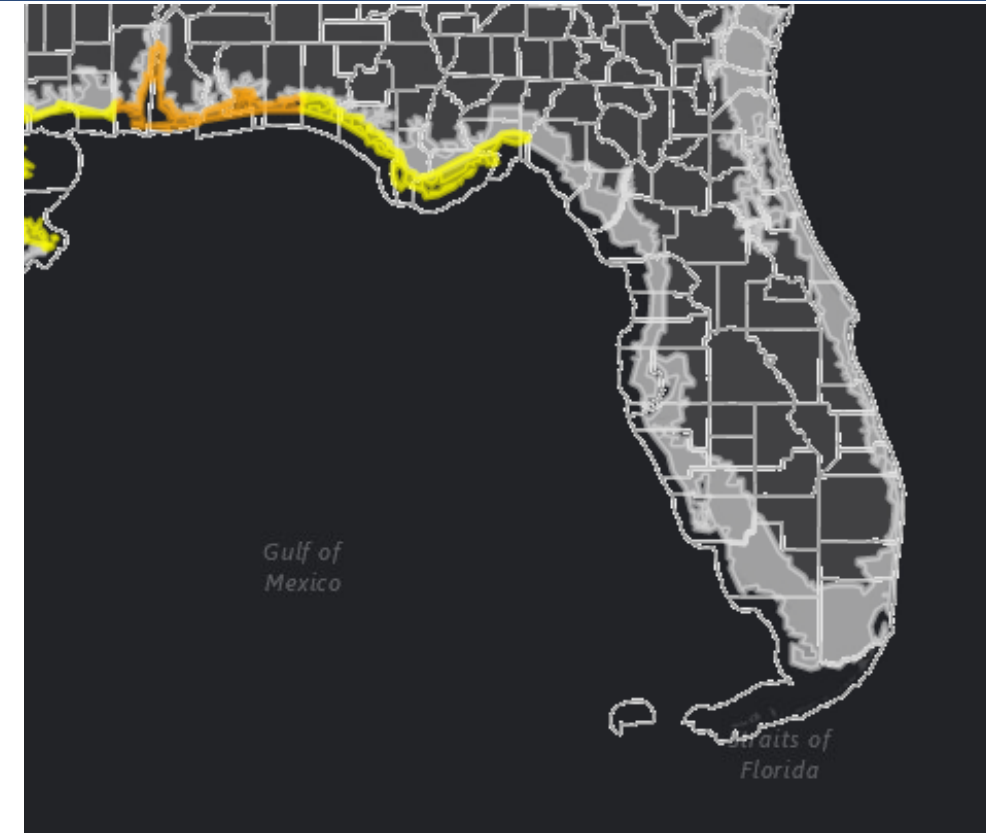
# Storm Surge Threat Overview

## Tropical Storm Sally

About 1-3' of storm surge is possible across the Panhandle and Big Bend.

Tides are already running about 1' above normal along the Gulf Coast at high tide, which could result in some nuisance flooding of normally flood-prone areas

**If the surge threat increases in the Panhandle, then Storm Surge Watches may be issued in the western Panhandle.**



[\[Download KML\]](#)

[\[Download Image\]](#)

[https://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?  
office=mfl](https://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?office=mfl)

Click on "Threats and Impacts" Tab

Storm Surge Threat
Potential for storm surge flooding greater than 9 ft above ground
Potential for storm surge flooding greater than 6 ft above ground
Potential for storm surge flooding greater than 3 ft above ground
Potential for storm surge flooding greater than 1 ft above ground
Little to no storm surge flooding





# Tornado Threat Overview

## Tropical Storm Sally

Isolated tornadoes are possible in South Florida this afternoon and tonight.

The threat for isolated tornadoes will increase in the Panhandle and Big Bend late Sunday through early next week.



[\[Download KML\]](#)

[\[Download Image\]](#)

Tornado Threat
Potential for outbreak of tornadoes
Potential for many tornadoes
Potential for several tornadoes
Potential for a few tornadoes
Tornadoes not expected

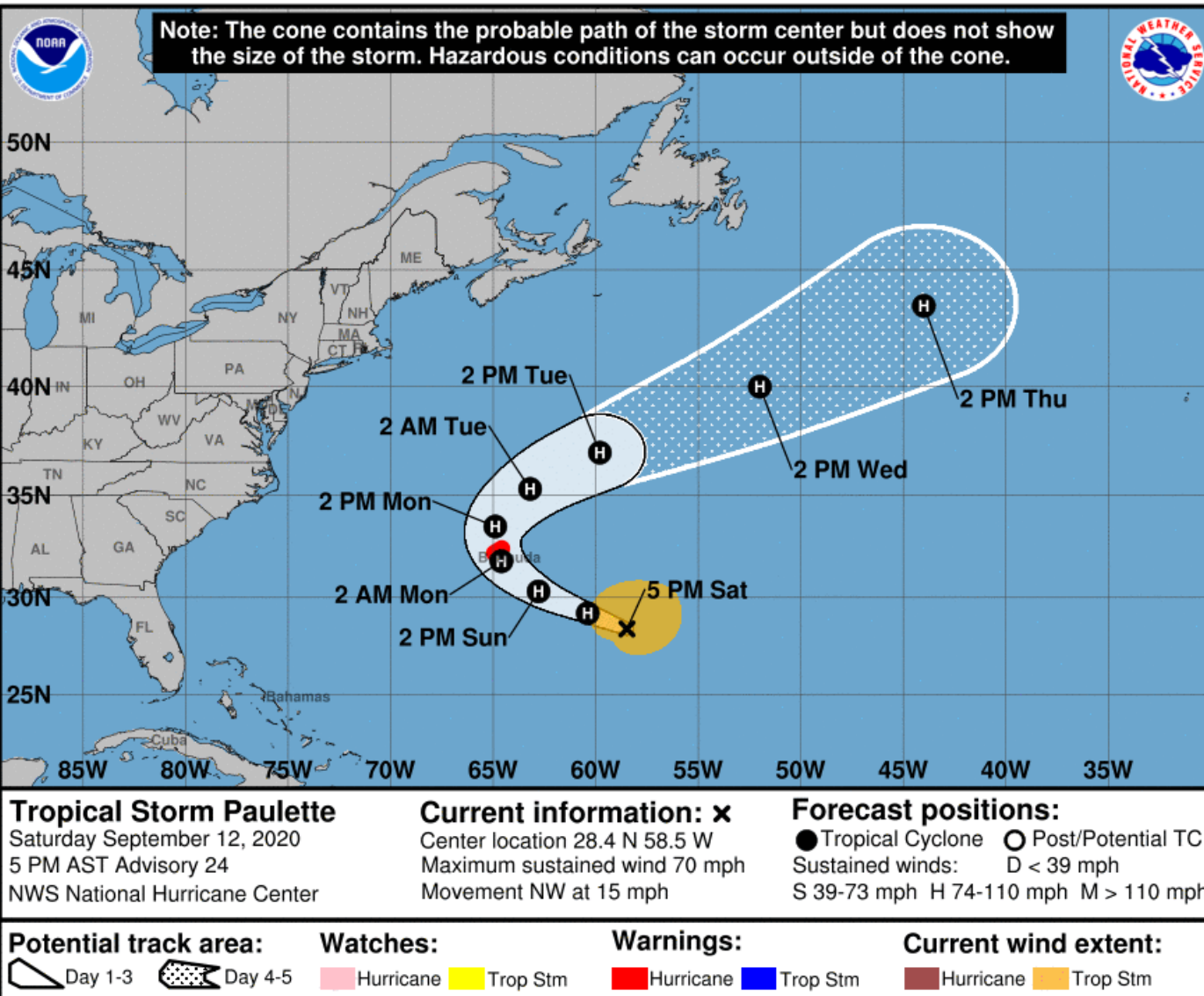
[https://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?  
office=mfl](https://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?office=mfl)

Click on “Threats and Impacts” Tab



# Official Forecast Track

## From the National Hurricane Center – Tropical Storm Paulette



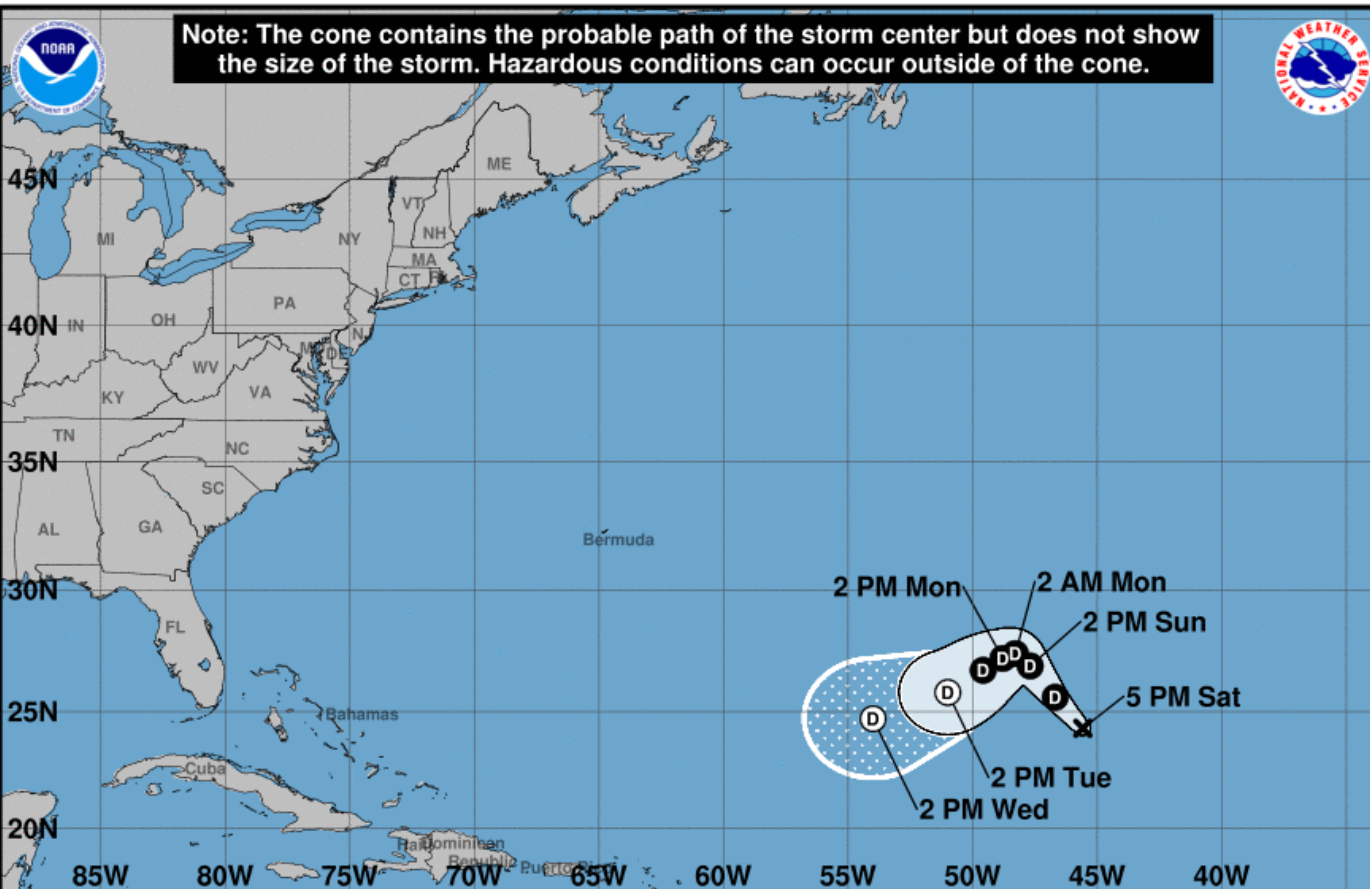
- The center of Paulette is located about 460 miles southeast of Bermuda
- Maximum sustained winds are 70 mph, and Paulette is moving to the northwest at 15 mph.
- Strengthening is forecast, and Paulette is expected to become a hurricane tonight.
- Paulette will move near or over Bermuda Monday morning.
- Paulette could become a major hurricane as it turns northeastward next week.

**Direct impacts from Paulette are not expected, but swells may impact the East Coast, increasing the risk for rip currents.**



# Official Forecast Track

## From the National Hurricane Center – Tropical Depression Rene



- The center of Tropical Depression Rene is located 1,200 miles east-northeast of the northern Leeward Islands
- Maximum sustained winds are 35 mph, and the system is moving to the northwest at 14 mph.
- Rene is likely to remain a tropical depression as it meanders over the open Atlantic. It could degenerate into an open wave over the next few days.

**This system is not a threat to Florida, or the U.S.**

### Tropical Depression Rene

Saturday September 12, 2020  
5 PM AST Advisory 23  
NWS National Hurricane Center

### Current information: x

Center location 24.3 N 45.6 W  
Maximum sustained wind 35 mph  
Movement NW at 14 mph

### Forecast positions:

● Tropical Cyclone ○ Post/Potential TC  
Sustained winds: D < 39 mph  
S 39-73 mph H 74-110 mph M > 110 mph

### Potential track area:

Day 1-3 Day 4-5

### Watches:

Hurricane Trop Stm

### Warnings:

Hurricane Trop Stm

### Current wind extent:

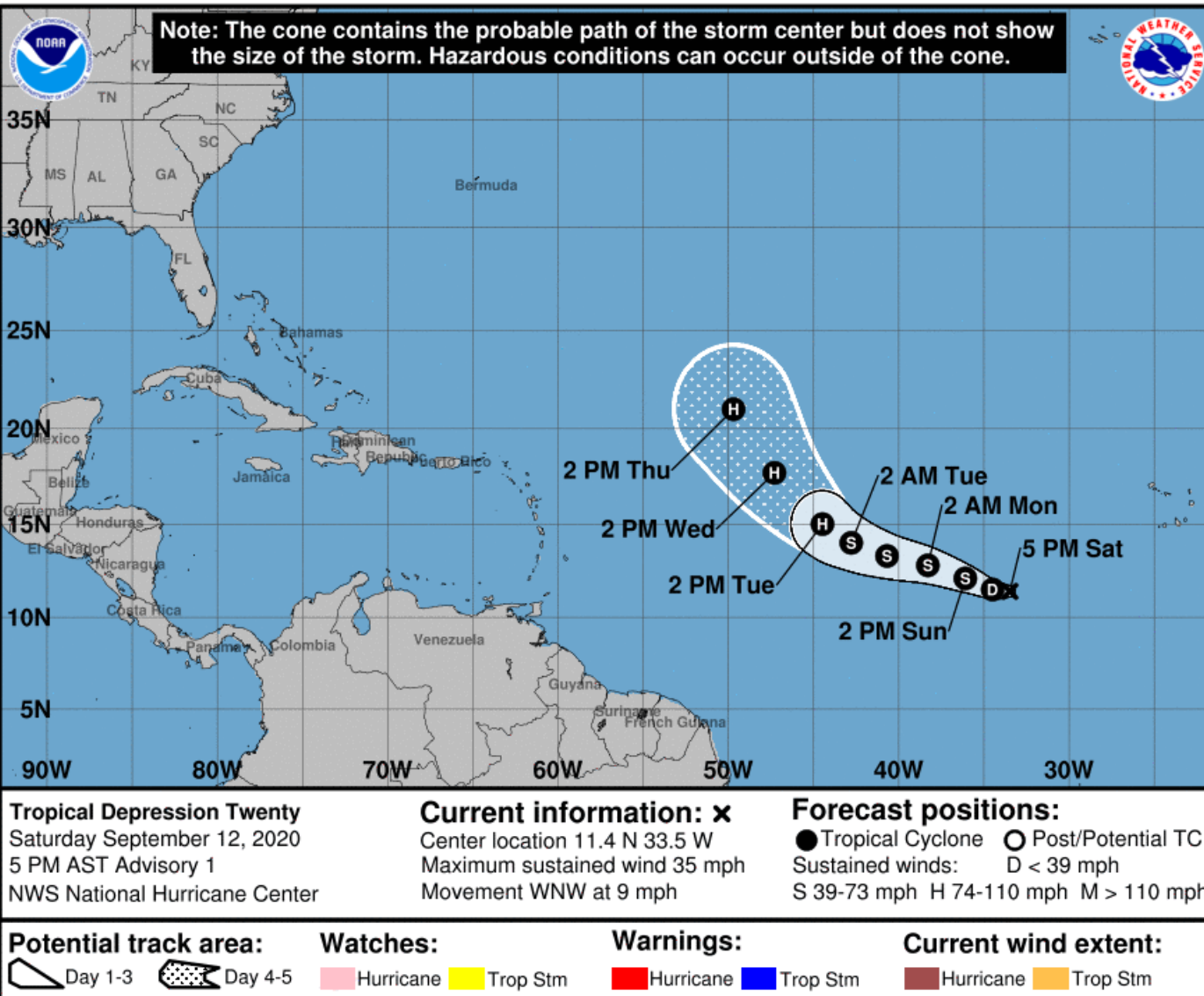
Hurricane Trop Stm





# Official Forecast Track

## From the National Hurricane Center – Tropical Depression #20



- The center of newly-formed Tropical Depression #20 is located about 2,030 miles east of the northern Leeward Islands.
- Maximum sustained winds have decreased to 35 mph, and the system is moving to the west-northwest at 9 mph.
- TD #20 will likely become a tropical storm on Sunday, and it could become a hurricane by Tuesday.

**This system may need to be monitored, but it is not an immediate threat.**



# Tropical Weather Outlook

Possible Area of Development During the Next 5 Days ([LINK](#)) – Invest 97L



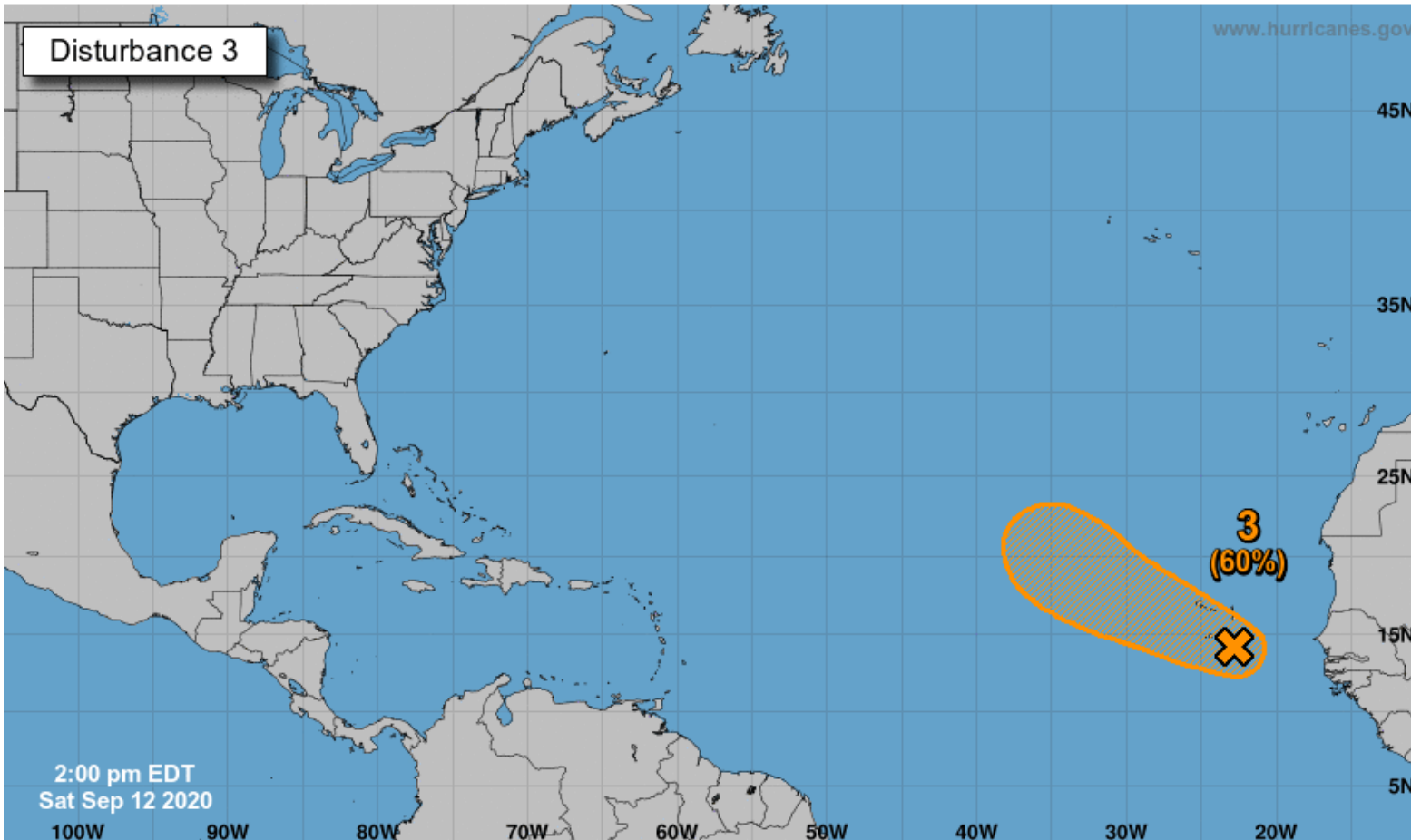
## Five-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



www.hurricanes.gov

Disturbance 3



Showers and thunderstorms located near the Cabo Verde Islands are associated with a broad area of low pressure that has developed along a tropical wave. Environmental conditions support some additional development during the next few days, and a tropical depression could form over the far eastern tropical Atlantic early next week while the system moves slowly west-northwestward. By mid-week, upper-level winds could become less conducive for development

**This system does not need to be monitored at this time.**

**\*Formation chance through 48 hrs...medium...40%**

**\*Formation chance through 5 days...medium...60%**

Current Disturbances and Five-Day Cyclone Formation Chance:   
 Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone:   
 < 40% 40-60% > 60%   
 Depression Storm Hurricane   
 Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants



# Overall Summary

## **Tropical Storm Sally**

- The center of Tropical Storm Sally is located about 30 miles south-southwest of Naples
- Maximum sustained winds are near 40 mph, and Sally is forecast to continue strengthening over the next few days.
- Sally is likely to become a hurricane on Monday before making landfall early to mid next week along the northern Gulf Coast.
- TD #19 is moving toward the west at 7 mph, and a general west-northwest motion is expected over the Gulf until landfall.
- On the forecast track, TD #19 could approach the northern Gulf Coast early next week. The system will slow down and turn toward the north near or after landfall.
- This system will bring heavy rainfall, gusty winds, minor coastal flooding, and isolated tornadoes to parts of Florida and the northern Gulf Coast over the next several days.

## **Gulf of Mexico Low**

- A trough of low pressure over the northeastern Gulf of Mexico will move westward over the northern Gulf of Mexico during the next day or so before turning southwestward early next week over the western Gulf.
- This system has a 20% (low) chance of formation during the next 48 hours and a 30% (low) chance of formation during the next 5 days.

## **Tropical Storm Paulette**

- The center of Paulette is about 460 miles southeast of Bermuda.
- Maximum sustained winds are near 70 mph, and Paulette is moving northwest at 15 mph.
- Paulette is forecast to become a hurricane tonight and possibly affect Bermuda by Monday morning.
- Paulette could briefly become a major hurricane as it turns toward the northeast early next week.
- Swells from Paulette could cause dangerous rip currents along the East Coast.





# Overall Summary

## **Tropical Depression Rene**

- The center of Rene is located about 1,200 miles east-northeast of the northern Leeward Islands.
- Maximum sustained winds are at 35 mph, and Rene is moving northwest at 14 mph.
- Rene will likely remain a tropical depression for the remainder of its life. It may dissipate within the next 5 days.

## **Tropical Depression #20**

- Invest 95L has become sufficiently organized to be classified as Tropical Depression #20
- The center of Tropical Depression #20 is located about 2,030 miles east of the northern Leeward Islands
- Maximum sustained winds are at 35 mph, and TD #20 is moving west-northwest at 9 mph.
- Slow strengthening is expected, and TD #20 will likely become a tropical storm by Sunday night.

## **Invest 97L (near the Cabo Verde Islands)**

- A tropical wave emerging near the Cabo Verde Islands will move northwestward over the open far eastern Atlantic where conditions are somewhat favorable for development.
- This system has a 40% (medium) chance of formation over the next 48 hours, but a 60% (medium) chance over the next 5 days.



# Florida Outlook

## Florida Outlook:

- **Impacts will extend well outside of the cone! It is important to not focus on the center of the forecast track.**
- Tropical Storm Sally will likely produce heavy rainfall and gusty winds across much of the state, particularly near the West Coast, Panhandle, and Big Bend.
- Tropical Storm Watches: coastal Escambia, coastal Santa Rosa, coastal Okaloosa, south Walton, coastal Bay, coastal Gulf, and coastal Franklin
- Some watches could be upgraded to warnings tonight or on Sunday.
- Tropical storm force winds could begin along the Panhandle and Big Bend as early as Sunday night or Monday morning, but more likely beginning Monday evening and Monday night.
- 3-6" of rainfall is expected along the West Coast over the next 7 days. Localized totals of 6-9" are possible.
- 6-12" of rainfall is expected along the Panhandle and Big Bend with localized totals of 12-18" possible.
- Rises on rivers are expected along the West Coast and in North Florida over the next several days.
- Flood Watches and Flash Flood Watches are now in effect for much of the state
- Isolated tornadoes are possible in South Florida through tonight, then in North Florida early next week.
- Minor storm surge flooding is possible early next week in the Panhandle and western Big Bend. 1-3' of storm surge is expected in these areas.
- High surf and dangerous rip currents are expected for Gulf beaches for the next several days.
- Paulette could generate swells that reach the Atlantic beaches, possibly elevating the rip current risk next week.
- Direct impacts from any other systems in the tropics are not expected over the next several days.
- Tropical Depression #20 may need to be monitored as uncertainty remains high.

The next briefing packet will be issued Sunday morning. For the latest information on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center website at [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov).



# TROPICAL UPDATE



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State Meteorological Support Unit

Florida Division of Emergency Management

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