

TROPICAL UPDATE



Sunday, October 4, 2020

Tropical Storm Gamma, Invest 92L (80%), Central Tropical Atlantic Wave (10%), Central Atlantic Low (10%)

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.



Tropical Weather Outlook

Possible Areas of Development During the Next 5 Days (LINK)

FDEI





Steering Currents

Color denotes the movement speed through the atmosphere and thin white lines denote direction. Tightly clustered white lines represent faster movement as well.

What is Moving the Systems?

Gamma will drift west-southwest over the **Fast Moving** southern Gulf of Mexico over the next few Storm days as it likely weakens. The other systems in the Atlantic are being steered by a large high pressure system, with Invest 92L tracking northwest. **Fast Moving** Storm Typical Gamma **Moving Storm** Slow Moving Storm



Wind Shear

Is the environment favorable for the systems?

Color denotes the amount of wind shear and the lines denote how it have changed over the last 24 hours (dotted lines show decreasing shear and solid lines show increasing.

Gamma is approaching high wind shear across the Gulf of Mexico, which will cause Gamma to weaken.

The Caribbean Wave (92L) is in an area of lighter shear, and it is expected to remain favorable for development over the next few days.

The two systems in the Atlantic are under low shear right now, but will soon move into higher wind shear likely preventing development.



Dry Air & Saharan Dust

Is the environment favorable for the systems?

Color denotes concentration of Saharan Dust or dry, stable air.

Very Dry

Very dry air behind a cold front has moved into the western Gulf of Mexico and is starting to wrap into the circulation of Gamma. There is a small area of dry air in the Caribbean near 92L, but is not expected to significantly impact the system.

Sea Surface Temperatures & Anomalies

Is the ocean favorable for the system?

Water temperatures are supportive for tropical development across the entire Caribbean, with very warm, deep water. The recent stretch of storms and cold fronts has cooled waters in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

20N



Official Forecast Track

From the National Hurricane Center – Tropical Storm Gamma



- The center of Tropical Storm Gamma is located about 35 miles north of the Yucatan Peninsula, or about 450 miles southwest of Key West, FL.
- Maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph, but Hurricane Hunters are investigating the system.
- Some re-strengthening is possible today, but increasing wind shear and dry air will prevent significant changes in strength over the next few days as it drifts to the southwest.
- Gamma is moving north at 4 mph. A gradual turn to the west and then southwest is expected over the next 24 hours.
- Gamma will then slowly move southwestward over the Bay of Campeche through the middle of the week.



Satellite Imagery

Tropical Storm Gamma

GOES-16 Channel 13 (IR) Brightness Temperature (°C) at 12:07Z Oct 04, 2020

90°W

92°W

Gamma has moved across the Yucatan 26°N GOES-16 Channel 2 (visible) / Channel 7 (shortwave IR) [Dav/Night] at 11:32Z Oct 04, 2020 Cuba Yucatan Peninsula (Mexico)

Peninsula and has emerged over the southern Gulf of Mexico.

Dry air is wrapping into the circulation, eroding away thunderstorms on the southern half of the storm.

FDEM PHONE OF THE GOVERNOR

Tropical Weather Outlook

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



A tropical wave accompanied by a low pressure system is located over the central Caribbean Sea a couple of hundred miles southeast of Jamaica.

The associated shower and thunderstorm activity is beginning to show some signs of organization.

Environmental conditions are expected to be conducive for additional development, and **a tropical depression is likely to form within the next day or two.**

The system should move west-northwestward at 10 to 15 mph across the central and western Caribbean Sea today through Tuesday, and then **move into the southern or southeastern Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday night and Wednesday.**

This system should be monitored closely. Heavy rainfall could be possible in South Florida and the Keys mid-week.

*Formation chance through 48 hrs...high...70% *Formation chance through 5 days...high...80%



GOES-16 Channel 13 (IR) Brightness Temperature (°C) at 12:05Z Oct 04, 2020



The tropical wave in the Caribbean has organized overnight. A weak area of low pressure has formed along the wave axis (orange line) and thunderstorms have been persistent. The environment will continue to become more favorable for development as the system moves northwest towards Jamaica.

Model Forecast Positions

Ensemble Models – Wednesday Evening (10/7)

With two systems so close together, there is significant uncertainty in the long-term tracks due to interactions between Gamma and 92L. At this time, there are too many possible solutions to discuss but the entire Gulf Coast should monitor future forecasts.

In general, 92L will continue to track northwest into the Gulf of Mexico by mid-week as Gamma drifts southwest. **Regardless, 92L** may bring additional heavy rainfall to the Keys and South Florida mid-week.

Understanding WPC Excessive Rainfall Risk Categories

No Area/Label	MARGINAL (MRGL)	SLIGHT (SLGT)	MODERATE (MDT)	HIGH (HIGH)
Flash floods are generally not expected.	Isolated flash floods possible	Scattered flash floods possible	Numerous flash floods likely	Widespread flash floods expected
www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov @NWSWPC	Localized and primarily affecting places that can experience rapid runoff with heavy rainfall.	Mainly localized. Most vulnerable are urban areas, roads, small streams and washes. Isolated significant flash floods possible.	Numerous flash flooding events with significant events possible. Many streams may flood, potentially affecting larger rivers.	Severe, widespread flash flooding. Areas that don't normally experience flash flooding, could. Lives and property in greater danger.
Flash flooding near me?	(1,2,2,2)	(2,2,2)		28 S C
WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER	Contrast of Contra			

- Heavy rainfall is possible across the Peninsula today, particularly along the East Coast this afternoon and evening. Moisture from Gamma and a stalled front are combining to create high rain chances.
- The heavy rain threat returns to South Florida and the Keys on Tuesday as moisture associated with 92L moves into the region.

Flood Watch in Effect

Counties: Flagler, St. Johns, All of Region 5, coastal/metro Palm Beach, coastal/metro Broward, coastal/metro/inland Miami-Dade

Through this evening in Northeast Florida Through early Monday morning for Region 5 Through this evening for Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties

An additional 1-3" of rain is expected with localized totals of 6-8" possible.

Click the links below for more information:

NWS Melbourne | NWS Miami | NWS Jacksonville

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Current & Forecast River Flooding

Southeast River Forecast Center

Rivers Currently in or Forecast to Reach Flood Stage:

- <u>St. Johns River at Astor –</u> Minor
- <u>Peace River at Bartow</u>- Minor
- <u>Peace River at Arcadia</u>- Minor
- Minor coastal flooding at high tide in Northeast Florida
- Additional river flooding is not forecast over the next few days

More details on river levels available at the Southeast River Forecast Center website.

Rainfall Totals Next 5 Days

120-Hour Precipitation (in) Ending Friday, Oct. 9, 2020 at 8 a.m. E

- Little to no rainfall across the Panhandle and western Big Bend through mid-week
- Heavy rainfall is expected in the Peninsula over the next 24 hours
- Scattered activity is expected Monday and Tuesday
- An additional round of heavy rainfall is possible in South Florida and the Keys mid-week.

Tropical Weather Outlook

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

Disorganized showers and thunderstorms continue in association with a tropical wave located over the central tropical Atlantic.

This system has not become any better organized, and any development during the next day or so should be slow to occur while it moves westnorthwestward or northwestward at 10 to 15 mph.

Significant development is not expected beyond that time due to the system moving into a region of strong upper-level winds.

This system does not need to be monitored for Florida impacts.

*Formation chance through 48 hrs...low...10% *Formation chance through 5 days...low...10%

Tropical Weather Outlook

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

An area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms over the central Atlantic about 1000 miles eastsoutheast of Bermuda is associated with a surface trough of low pressure.

This system is expected to move toward the westsouthwest at around 10 mph, and some slow development is possible during the next couple of days before it too encounters strong upper-level winds.

This system does not need to be monitored for Florida impacts.

*Formation chance through 48 hrs...low...10% *Formation chance through 5 days...low...10%

Overall Summary

Tropical Storm Gamma

- Gamma has moved across the Yucatan Peninsula and has emerged over the southern Gulf of Mexico.
- The center of Tropical Storm Gamma is located about 35 miles north of the Yucatan Peninsula, moving north at 4 mph.
- Maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph. Gamma will continue to weaken over the next few days due to hostile wind shear and dry air.
- The weakened system will drift southwest into the Bay of Campeche over the next few days.

Invest 92L (Caribbean Sea)

- A tropical wave over the central Caribbean Sea will quickly move northwestward over the next few days towards the western tip of Cuba.
- The system has become better organized and a tropical depression is likely to form over the next day or two.
- This system has a 70% (high) chance of formation during the next 48 hours and an 80% (high) chance over the next 5 days.
- Nearby Tropical Storm Gamma makes the track forecast for 92L complicated, but it is forecast to be in the Gulf of Mexico by mid-week.

Central Tropical Atlantic Wave

- A tropical wave about midway between the Lesser Antilles and the Cabo Verde Islands has a limited window to develop before conditions become unfavorable. It has been unable to organize over the last day or so.
- This system has a 10% (low) chance of formation.

Central Atlantic Low

- A disorganized area of low pressure over the central Atlantic has another day or so to develop before it also encounters hostile conditions.
- This system has a 10% (low) chance of formation.

Florida Outlook

Florida Outlook:

- Tropical Storm Gamma will not have direct impacts to the state.
- A stalled cold front and the nearby tropical moisture from Gamma will create another day of high rain chances across the Florida Peninsula.
- Flood Watches are in effect for most of the East Coast until late tonight. An additional 1-3" of rainfall if forecast today with locally 6-8".
- The heavy rainfall and flood threat will decrease tomorrow with rainfall more scattered.
- Swells from Gamma could impact the Gulf Coast beaches this week, resulting in dangerous rip currents.

• Invest 92L should be monitored closely.

- While it's too early to determine if 92L will have direct impacts, moisture from the system could make its way into South Florida and the Keys starting on Tuesday. This could bring another round of heavy rainfall and flash flooding.
- Regardless, it's likely that 92L will move into the Gulf of Mexico mid-week, but its forecast beyond then remains highly uncertain due to possible influences from cold fronts and Tropical Storm Gamma.
- The other two systems in the Atlantic do not pose a threat to Florida.

The next briefing packet will be issued Sunday evening. For the latest information on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center website at <u>www.hurricanes.gov</u>.

TROPICAL UPDATE

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