



Tropical Update



5:30 PM EDT

Saturday, October 5, 2024

Tropical Storm Milton Forms This Afternoon

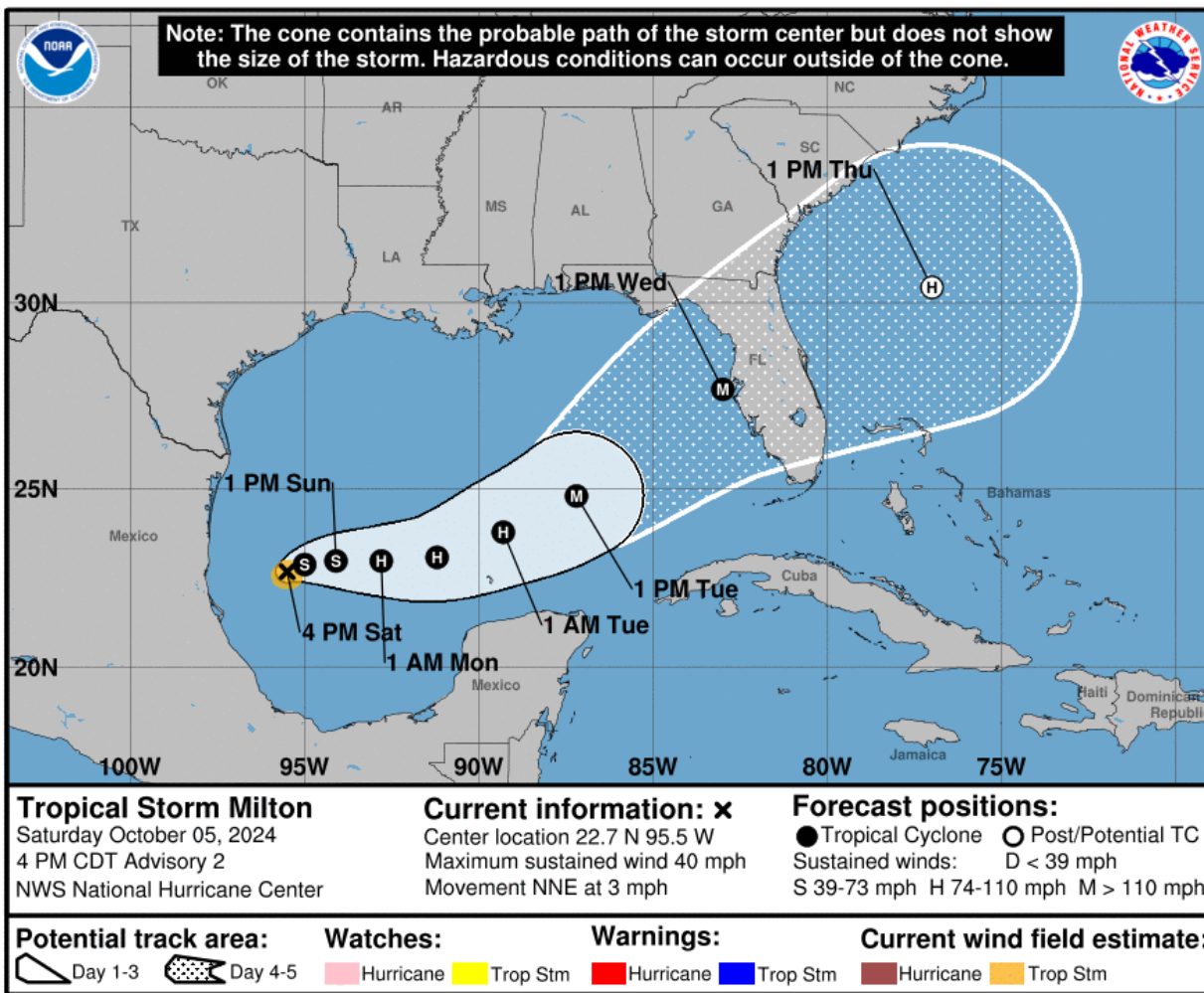
Forecast to Strengthen and Bring the Risk of Life-Threatening Storm Surge and Wind Impacts to Portions of the West Coast of Florida Next Week

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 Storm Milton

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)

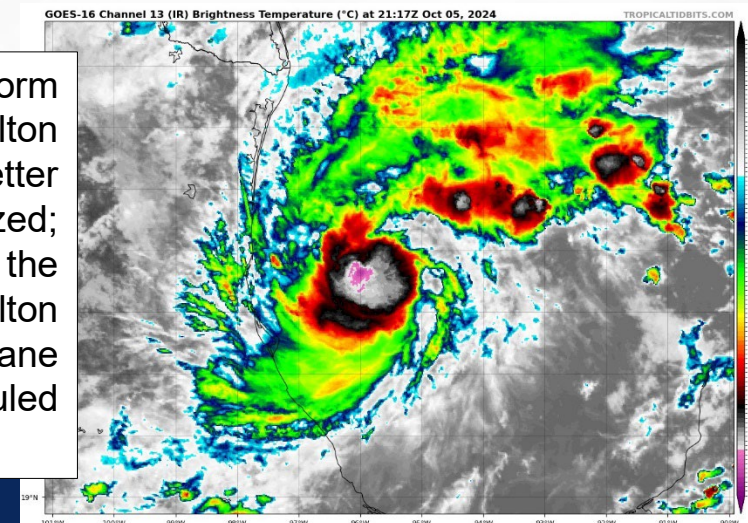


- **Location:** 245 miles N of the Veracruz, Mexico
- **Maximum Sustained Winds:** 40 mph
- **Current Movement:** NNE at 3 mph

A slow east-northeastward motion is expected to begin tonight. A slightly faster eastward to east-northeastward motion is forecast by Monday and Tuesday. On the forecast track, Milton is forecast to remain over the southwestern Gulf of Mexico through Sunday night, then move across the south-central Gulf of Mexico on Monday and Tuesday, and approach the west coast of Florida by midweek. Steady to rapid strengthening is forecast during the next few days, and Milton is expected to become a hurricane Sunday night. It could become a major hurricane while it moves across the central and eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Milton is forecast to quickly intensify while it moves eastward to northeastward across the Gulf of Mexico and be at or near major hurricane strength when it reaches West Florida midweek. There is an increasing risk of life-threatening storm surge and wind impacts for the Florida West Coast beginning late Tuesday or Wednesday.

Shower and thunderstorm activity associated with Milton continue to become better defined and organized; additional data regarding the structure and behavior of Milton with the addition of Hurricane Hunter flights scheduled tomorrow.





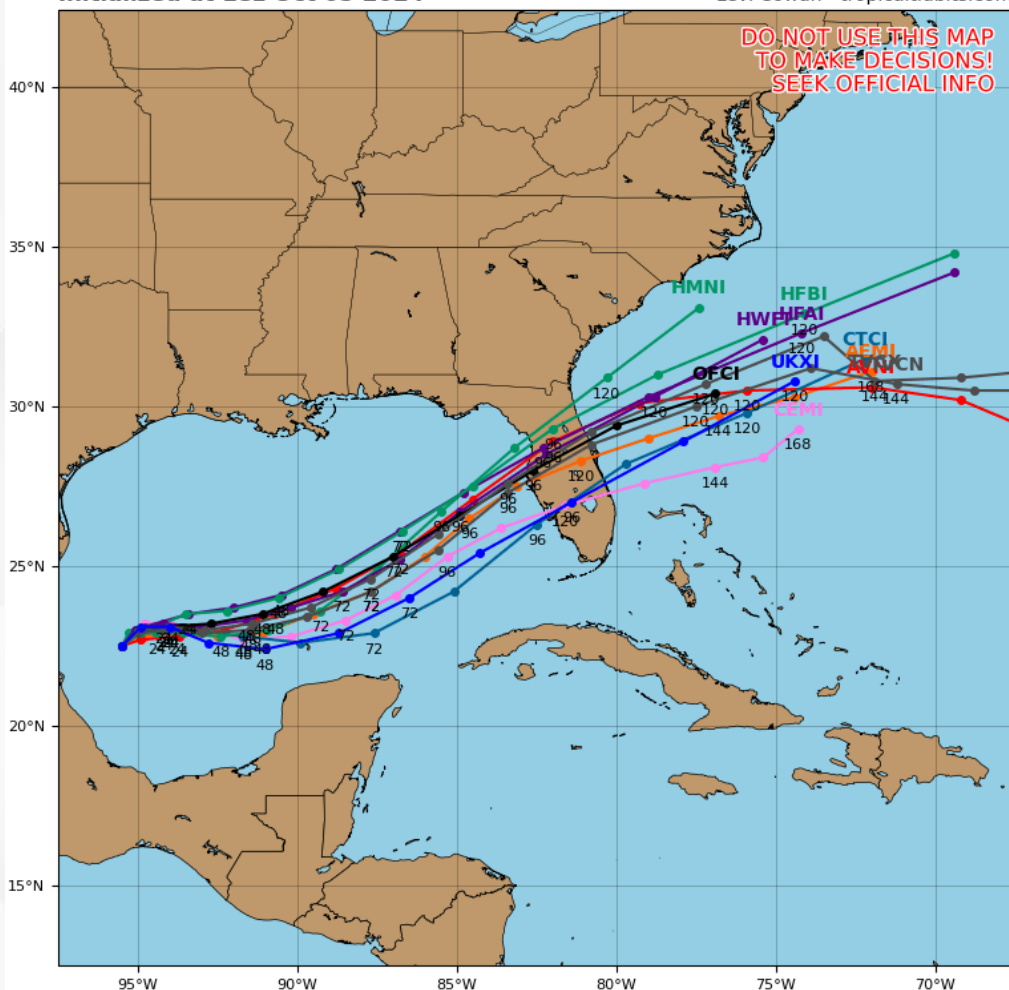
Forecast Computer Models – Next 5 Days

Tropical Storm Milton

Tropical Storm MILTON Model Track Guidance

Initialized at 18z Oct 05 2024

Levi Cowan - tropicaltidbits.com



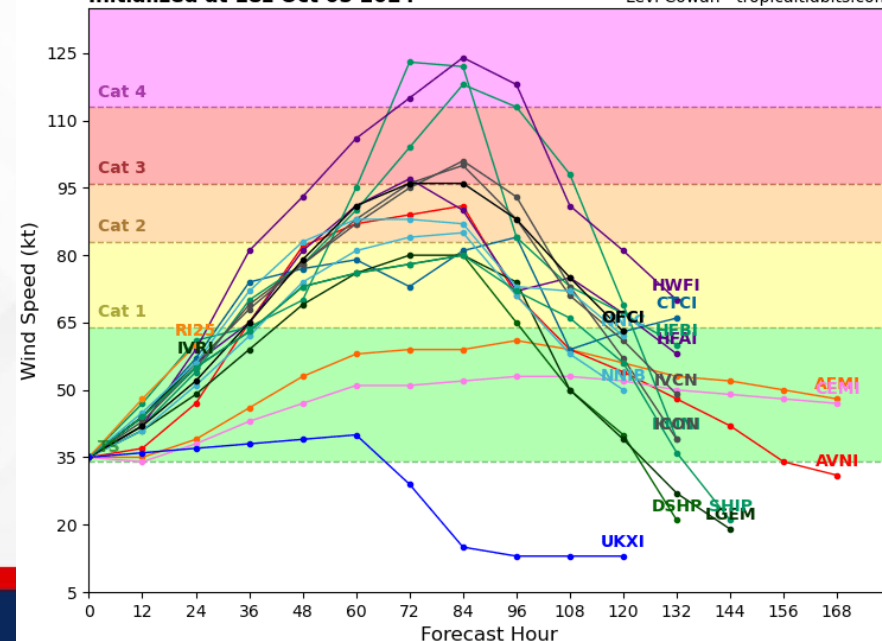
Computer forecast models remain in decent agreement that Milton is not expected to move much through tonight, but it should begin to move eastward to east-northeastward on Sunday as influenced by an upper-level disturbance. While timeline disparity across computer models persist, a little faster motion is forecast early next week. Overall guidance this afternoon has nudged Milton's eventual path north with a little slower forward motion. Changes to the eventual track can be expected, it is important not to focus on single model runs or solutions!

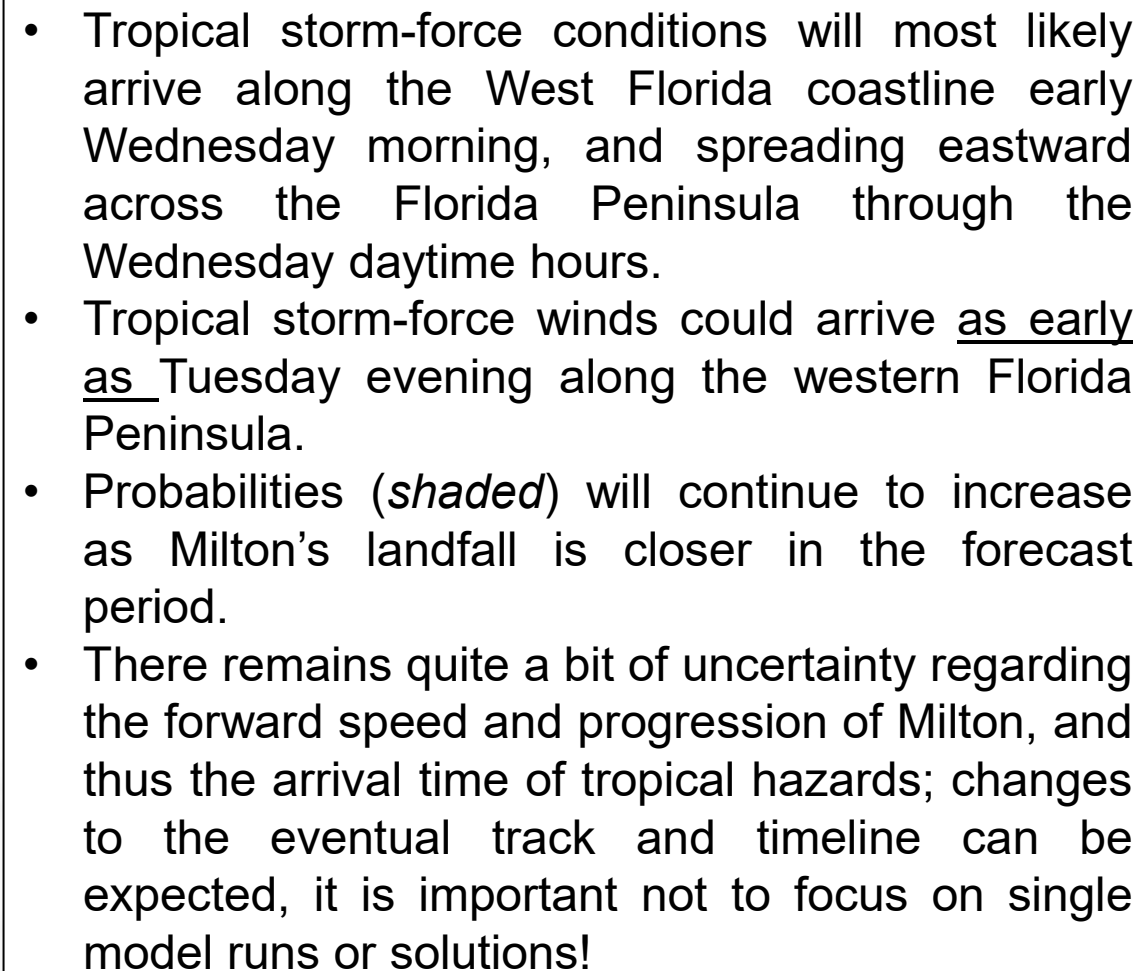
Computer forecast models continue to support favorable atmospheric and oceanic conditions across the Gulf of Mexico, allowing for Milton to steadily and/or rapidly strengthen. There remains quite a bit of uncertainty regarding the intensity of Milton; however, trends have shown that the system could become a hurricane in about 36 hours and a major hurricane in about 72 hours. Upward adjustments in the intensity could be required if computer forecast models continue their trend.

Tropical Storm MILTON Model Intensity Guidance

Initialized at 18z Oct 05 2024

Levi Cowan - tropicaltidbits.com







Key Messages

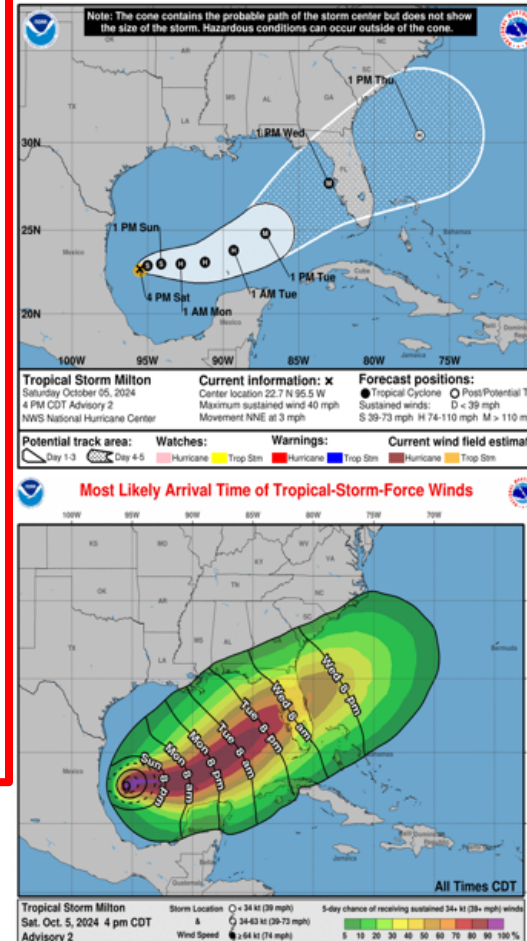
From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



Key Messages for Tropical Storm Milton Advisory 2: 4:00 PM CDT Sat Oct 05, 2024



1. Milton is forecast to quickly intensify while it moves eastward to northeastward across the Gulf of Mexico and be at or near major hurricane strength when it reaches the west coast of the Florida Peninsula mid week.
2. There is an increasing risk of life-threatening storm surge and wind impacts for portions of the west coast of the Florida Peninsula beginning late Tuesday or Wednesday. Residents in these areas should ensure they have their hurricane plan in place, follow any advice given by local officials, and check back for updates to the forecast.
3. Areas of heavy rainfall will impact portions of Florida Sunday and Monday well ahead of Milton, with heavy rainfall more directly related to the system expected later on Tuesday through Wednesday night. This rainfall brings the risk of flash, urban, and areal flooding, along with minor to moderate river flooding.



For more information go to hurricanes.gov

FOUO – For Government Official Use Only



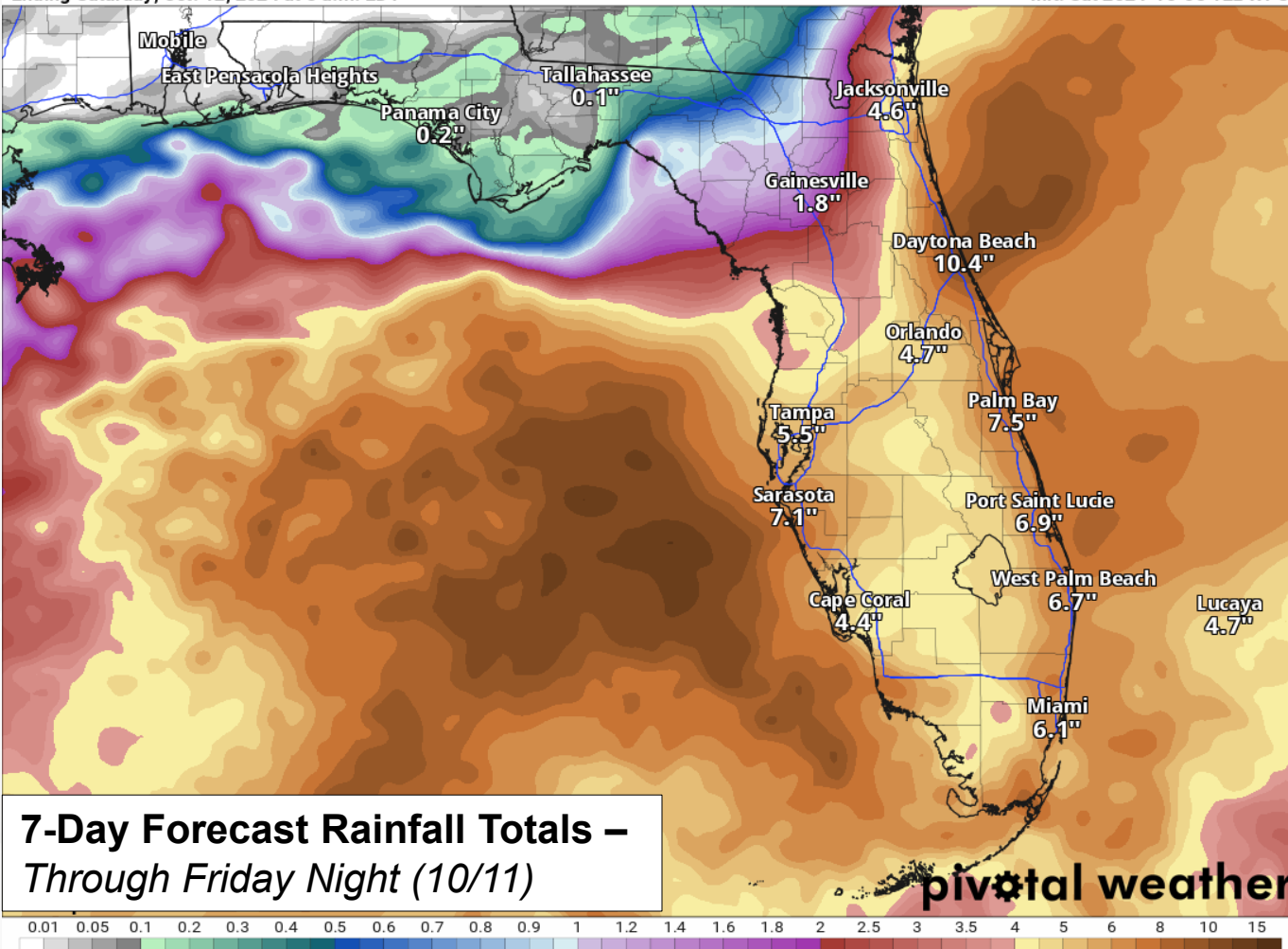
Rainfall Totals – Next 7 Days

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

7-Day Precipitation (in)

Ending Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024 at 8 a.m. EDT

Init: Sat 2024-10-05 12z WPC

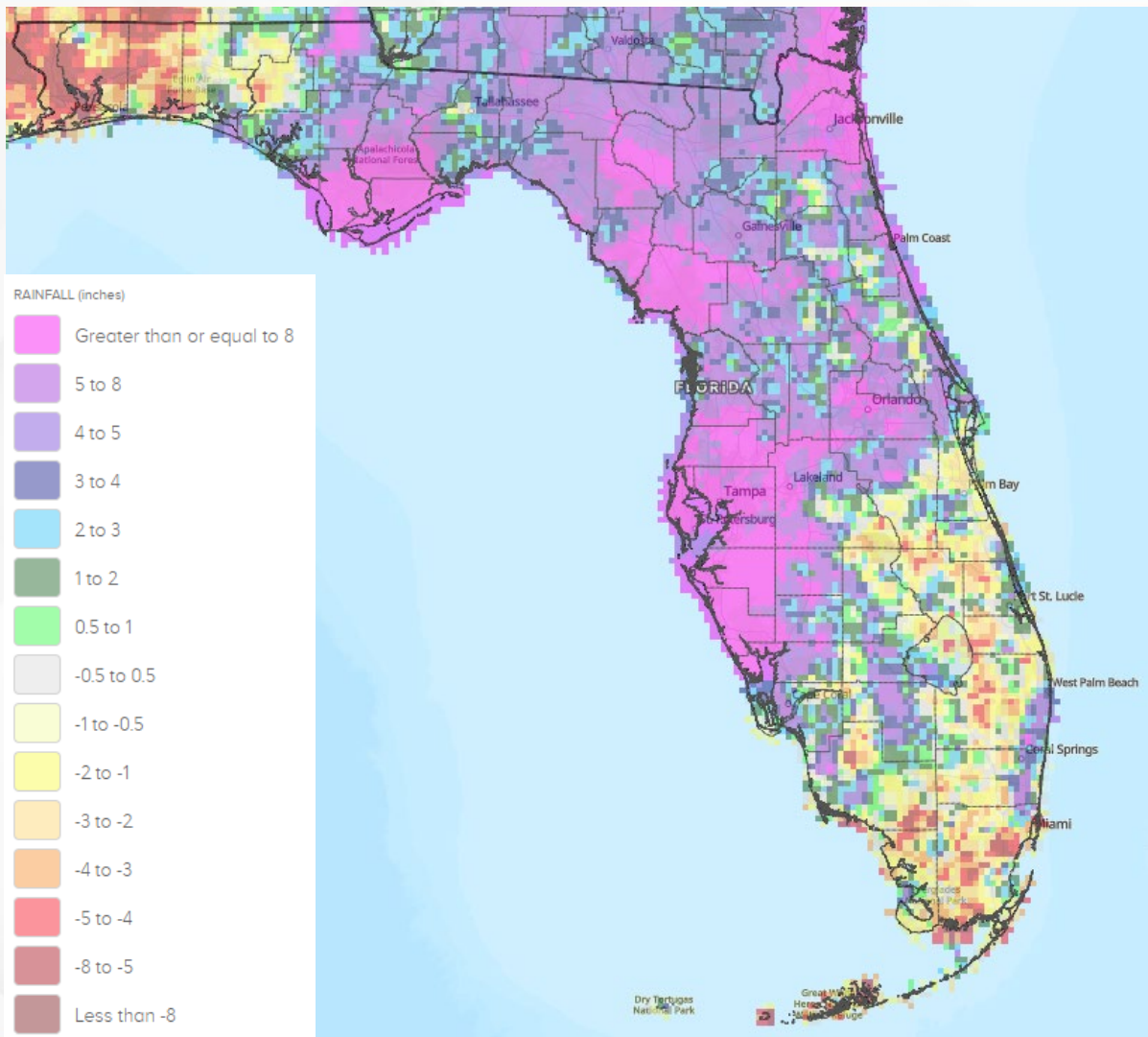


- A frontal boundary is expected to push into the state this weekend kicking off a wet and active weather pattern across the Peninsula, even prior to tropical impacts.
- *Rainfall totals heavily tied to the eventual track and forward speed of the system. With computer model guidance uncertainty regarding the exact track, there remains uncertainty as to where the heaviest rainfall can be expected.*
- Widespread rainfall totals near 5-8" with **locally higher totals in excess of 8-12"** are possible across portions of the Peninsula.
 - Computer models are indicating the heaviest rainfall totals may occur along and near the I-4 corridor through Central and South Florida; however, the exact placement of these more significant totals will continue to be modified depending on the tropical disturbance's organization and track.
 - **Please continue to stay tuned for the latest computer forecast model guidance and trends in the subsequent days.**



60-Day Rainfall Departure From Normal

From the National Weather Service



Much of the Big Bend and Northern Peninsula southward through the I-4 corridor and into West-Central and Southwest Florida have experienced rainfall totals greater than 5-10" above normal over the past 60-days. More localized areas have seen rainfall totals near 10-15" above normal over the past 60-days across with isolated higher totals near 15-20" over the past 60 days across portions of Apalachicola, the Suwannee Valley, Northeast Florida, and West-Central Florida.

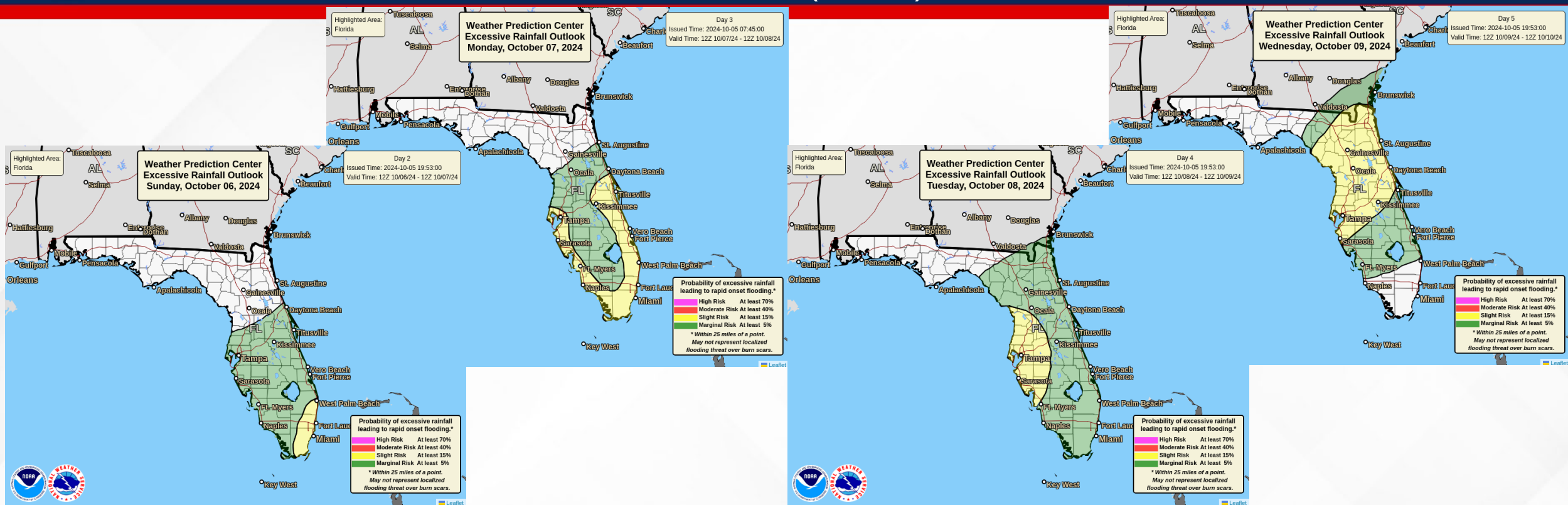
Numerous North, West-Central, and Southwest Florida rivers are already running high and/or within flood stage at this time.

Saturated areas will be more vulnerable to heavy rainfall and a faster onset of flooding.



Flash Flood Outlooks – Next 5 Days

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

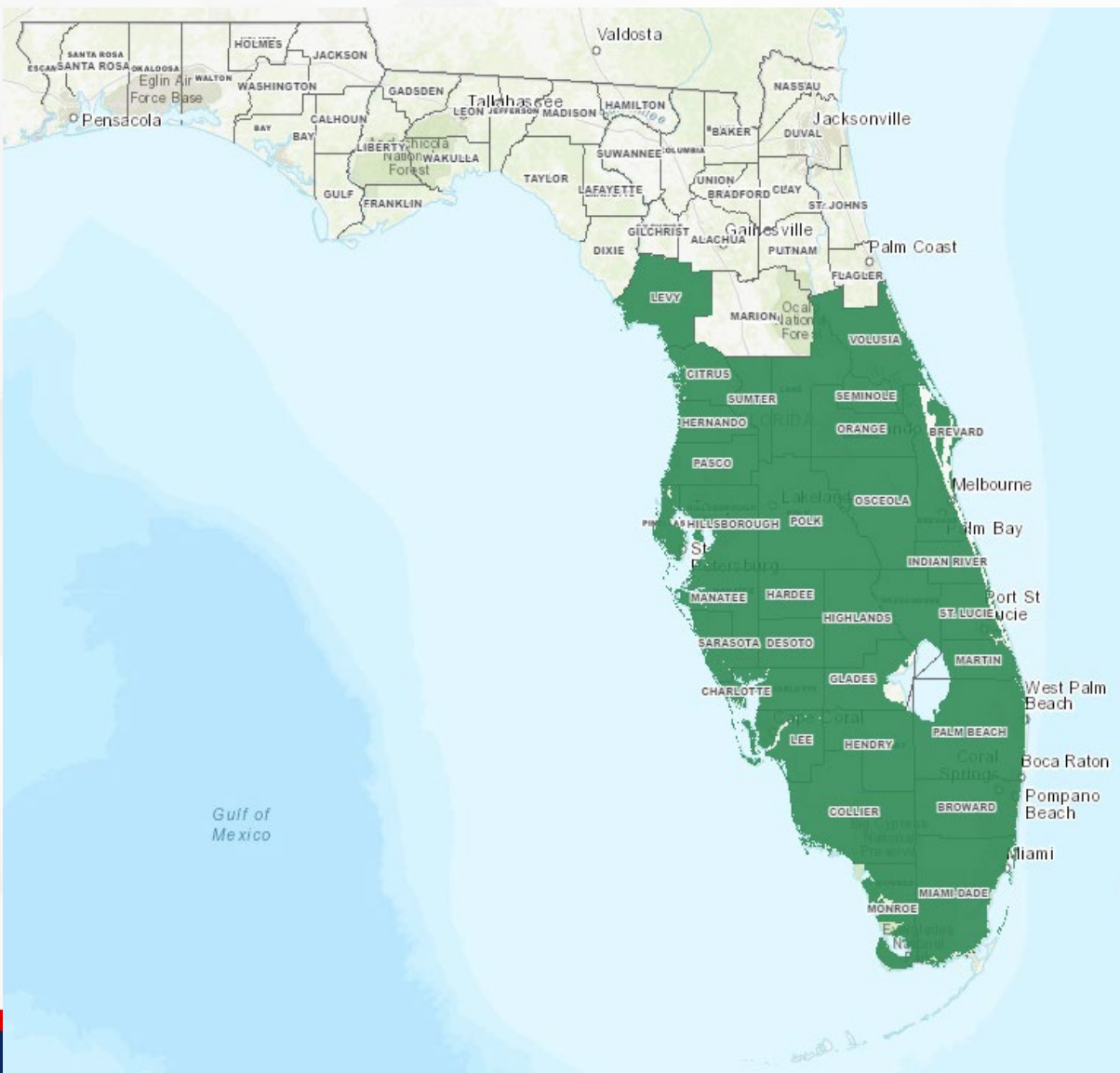


The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along and south of the I-4 corridor through the Peninsula and Keys Sunday as rain chances and the potential for locally heavy rainfall begins to increase. A **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooking along coastal portions of South and Central Florida and the Keys Monday with a **Marginal Risk** maintained through the rest of the Peninsula northward to Gainesville and St. Augustine as abundant tropical moisture streaming in will allow heavy rainfall to become more widespread. Coastal locations along the West Coast experienced flooding (both tidal and rainfall) due to Major Hurricane Helene, and any coastal or low-lying areas will remain vulnerable to additional rounds of rainfall. Heavy rainfall rates will also be a concern over already saturated and vulnerable soils; ponding water and instances of flooding will be possible, especially throughout the urban and poor drainage/low-lying areas in the Florida Peninsula. There remains uncertainty as to where the heaviest rainfall will fall Tropical Depression Fourteen approaches and crosses the Florida Peninsula around mid-week. The heaviest rainfall totals will be closely tied to the future track of the system. WPC is currently outlooking a **Marginal Risk for Flash Flooding** across the Peninsula and Keys Tuesday and Wednesday; however, upgrades and updates to the level and extent of these flash flood outlooks can be expected as the future path of the system become clearer. A **Flood Watch** has been issued for portions of the Peninsula and additional **Flood Watches** will likely be issued as details become clearer.



Flood Watches

From the National Weather Service (NWS)



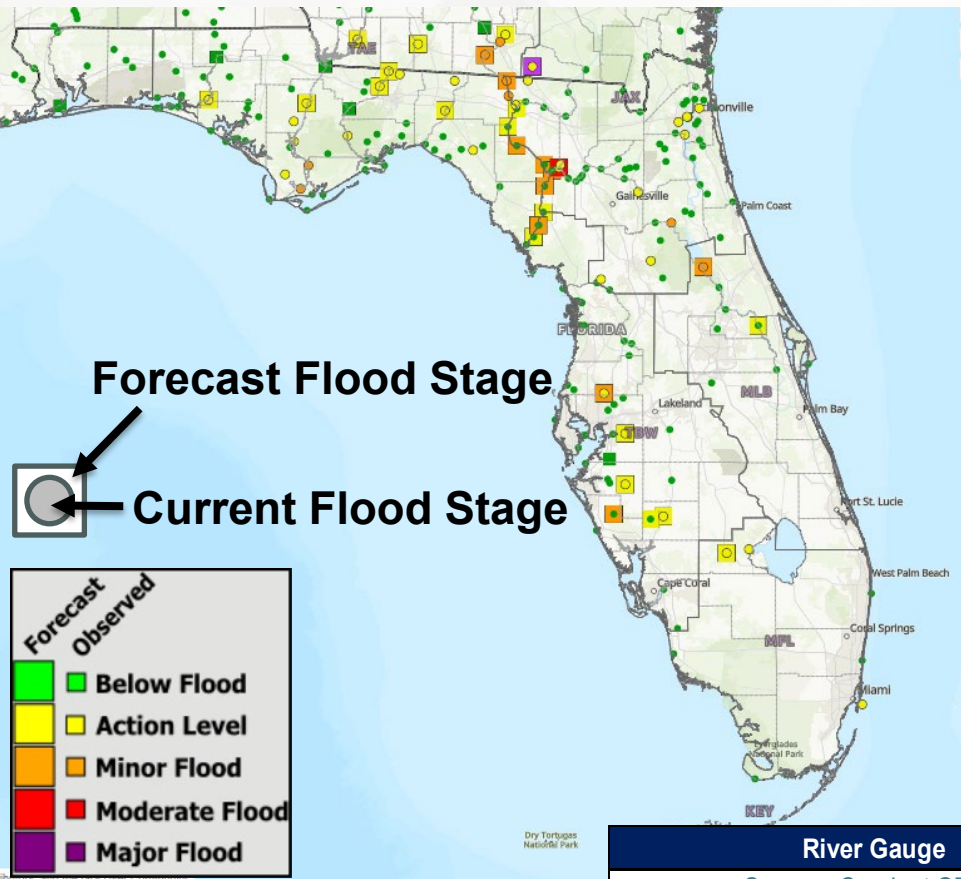
Flood Watches have been issued for the Florida Peninsula, spanning from the Nature Coast to along and south of the I-4 corridor beginning Sunday morning until Thursday morning. This impacts the following counties:

Levy	Volusia	Citrus	Hernando
Pasco	Pinellas	Hillsborough	Manatee
Sarasota	Charlotte	Lee	Collier
Monroe	Hendry	Glades	Highlands
Hardee	DeSoto	Polk	Sumter
Lake	Seminole	Orange	Osceola
Brevard	Okeechobee	Indian River	St. Lucie
Martin	Palm Beach	Broward	



Current & Forecast River Conditions

From the National Weather Service



River Flood Warnings remain in effect along the [St. Johns River at Astor](#) as water levels very slowly decline but remain within **minor flood stage**.

The lower Withlacoochee and the middle Suwannee Rivers will continue to rise over the next several days into **minor flood stage**.

The [Withlacoochee River near Pinetta \(CR-150\)](#) will crest later today with the flood wave progressing down the Suwannee River well into next week.

Flood waters continue to travel down the Suwannee, with backwater flooding possible up the [Santa Fe River including at Three Rivers Estates](#) by late weekend; **minor to moderate riverine flooding** will be possible.

River Flood Warnings are also in effect for the [Manatee River near Myakka Head at SR-64](#), [Myakka River at Myakka River State Park](#), and [Cypress Creek at SR-54](#) as **minor flooding** is occurring or forecast due to recent locally heavy rainfall and additional heavy rainfall anticipated late this weekend into next week.

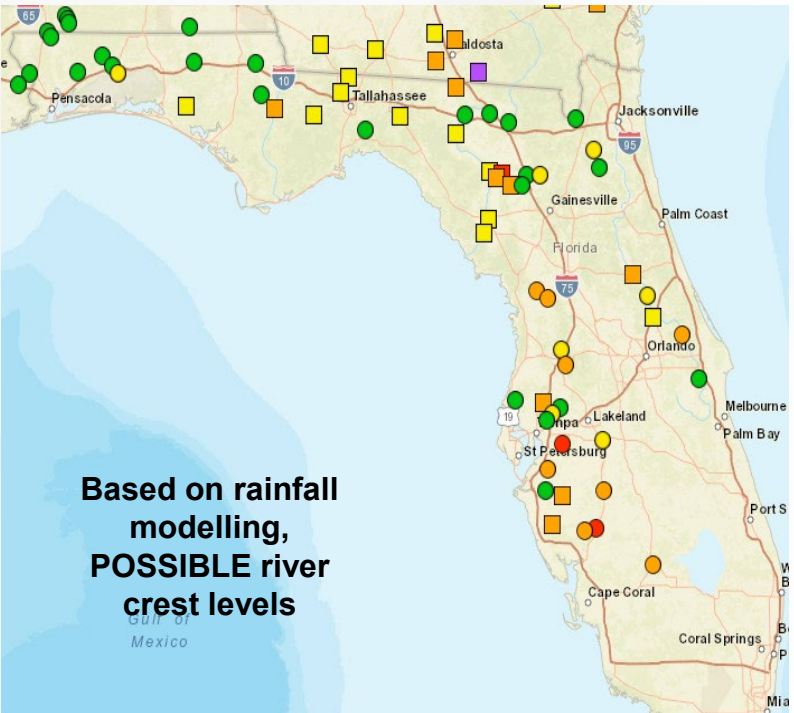
For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

River Gauge	County(ies) Affected	Current Level	Crest Level	Record Level	Status	Crest Date	Warning Expires
Cypress Creek at SR-54	Pasco	Action: 7.98 ft	Minor: 8.90 ft	13.80 ft	Rising	8-Oct	Until Further Notice
Little Manatee River near Wimauma at US-301	Hillsborough	Action: 10.00 ft	Minor: 11.60 ft	20.10 ft	Falling	5-Oct	0342 EDT 5-Oct
Manatee River near Myakka Head at SR-64	Manatee	Action: 10.63 ft	Minor: 13.80 ft	20.90 ft	Falling	Crested	1435 EDT 5-Oct
Myakka River at Myakka River State Park	Sarasota	Below: 6.44 ft	Minor: 7.30 ft	12.80 ft	Rising	9-Oct	Until Further Notice
Withlacoochee River near Pinetta	Hamilton, Madison	Minor: 77.10 ft	Minor: 78.40 ft	87.80 ft	Cresting	5-Oct	1830 EDT 8-Oct
St. Johns River at Astor	Volusia, Lake	Minor: 2.62 ft	Minor: 2.60 ft	4.70 ft	Rising	5-Oct	Until Further Notice



Riverine Flooding

Chance of River Flooding Based on Range of Forecast Rainfall



Rivers, creeks/streams, and waterways across North and West-Central Florida are already running above normal for this time of year due to widespread heavy rainfall from Hurricane Debby. **River Flood Warnings** remain in effect along portions of the Withlacoochee, St. Johns, and several West-Central Florida rivers, creeks, and waterways for ongoing **minor flooding**.

Water will continue to filter through the river basins and further downstream from heavy rainfall across the Southeast U.S. from Hurricane Helene over the next few weeks. Computer models are suggesting the potential for **minor flooding** along portions of the Suwannee River as excess heavy rainfall discharge through the basin from the Georgia headwaters with **minor to moderate backwater flooding** possible along the Santa Fe River. The Alapaha River near Jennings may also see water levels rise above flood stage in the next week or so as the Alapaha River at Statenville, Georgia is forecast to crest in major flood stage early next week before the crest wave moves further downstream into Florida.

Heavy rainfall is anticipated Sunday and next week due frontal boundary and Tropical Depression Fourteen, likely leading to water level rises in the Peninsula. Computer models are currently suggesting there is potential for locally **moderate flooding** along a few rivers, creeks, and waterways in West-Central Florida with more widespread **minor flooding** along the Peninsula.

Chance of Exceedance		
30%	Level	70%
	Action	
	Minor Flood	
	Moderate Flood	
	Major Flood	
= less than 30% chance of reaching Action level		

Significant River Flooding impacts include road hazards and damage to residential, commercial, and/or agricultural areas. Evacuation may be required. Flash flooding or Minor river flooding are NOT included in this outlook. Check your local weather forecast frequently for the most up-to-date information for your area.

Shaded areas are the forecast region of the Southeast River Forecast Center

Significant River Flooding Not Expected	Significant River Flooding Possible Weather conditions indicate, without certainty that significant river flooding could occur
Significant River Flooding Likely Weather conditions indicate that significant river flood conditions can be expected	Significant River Flooding Occurring Significant river flooding is occurring at this time



Summary

FOUO – For Government Official Use Only

Tropical Storm Milton:

- Tropical Depression Fourteen became Tropical Storm Milton this afternoon over the southwestern Gulf of Mexico.
- As of 5:00 PM EDT, Milton is located about 245 miles north of Veracruz, Mexico and is moving north-northeastward at 3 mph.
- A slow east-northeastward motion is expected to begin tonight; a slightly faster eastward to east-northeastward motion is forecast to remain over the southwestern Gulf of Mexico through Sunday night, then move across the south-central Gulf of Mexico on Monday and Tuesday, and approach the west coast of the Florida Peninsula by midweek.
- Maximum sustained winds are near 40 mph, and steady to rapid strengthening is forecast during the next few days.
- Milton is forecast to become a hurricane Sunday night, and it could become a major hurricane while it moves across the central and eastern Gulf of Mexico.
- *Milton is forecast to quickly intensify while it moves eastward to northeastward across the Gulf of Mexico and be at or near major hurricane strength when it reaches West Florida midweek. There is an increasing risk of life-threatening storm surge and wind impacts for the Florida West Coast beginning late Tuesday or Wednesday.*

Florida Outlook:

- Multiple rounds of heavy rainfall are expected across portions of the Peninsula and Keys Sunday into next week.
 - Widespread rainfall totals near 5-8" with **locally higher totals in excess of 8-12"** are possible across portions of the Peninsula.
 - Rainfall totals heavily tied to the eventual track and forward speed of the system. With computer model guidance uncertainty regarding the exact track, there remains uncertainty as to where the heaviest rainfall can be expected.
 - The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal to Slight Risk for Flash Flooding (level 1 to 2 of 4)** across much of the Florida Peninsula beginning Sunday into the middle of next week; additional updates and refinements to this forecast can be expected.
 - A **Flood Watch** has been issued for the Florida Peninsula, mainly along and south of the I-4 corridor, from Sunday morning through Thursday.
- Rivers, creeks/streams, and waterways across North and West-Central Florida are already running above normal for this time of year due to widespread heavy rainfall from Hurricane Debby. **River Flood Warnings** remain in effect along portions of the Withlacoochee, St. Johns, and several West-Central Florida rivers, creeks, and waterways for ongoing **minor flooding**.
 - Water will continue to filter through the river basins and further downstream from heavy rainfall across the Southeast U.S. from Hurricane Helene over the next few weeks, likely leading to minor to moderate flooding along portions of the Suwannee, Alapaha, and Santa Fe Rivers.
 - Heavy rainfall is anticipated Sunday and next week due frontal boundary and Tropical Depression Fourteen, likely leading to water level rises in the Peninsula. Computer models are currently suggesting there is potential for locally **moderate flooding** along a few rivers, creeks, and waterways in West-Central Florida with more widespread **minor flooding** along the Peninsula.

The next briefing packet will be issued on Sunday morning. For the latest information, please visit the National Hurricane Center website.



Tropical Update

FOUO – For Government Official Use Only



Created by:

Caitlyn Gillespie, Deputy State Meteorologist

Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com

State Meteorological Support Unit

Florida Division of Emergency Management

Users wishing to subscribe (approval pending) to this distribution list, register at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?topic_id=SERT_Met_Tropics.

Other reports available for subscription are available at:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?preferences=true>