



Tropical Update



5:00 PM EDT

Sunday, October 6, 2024

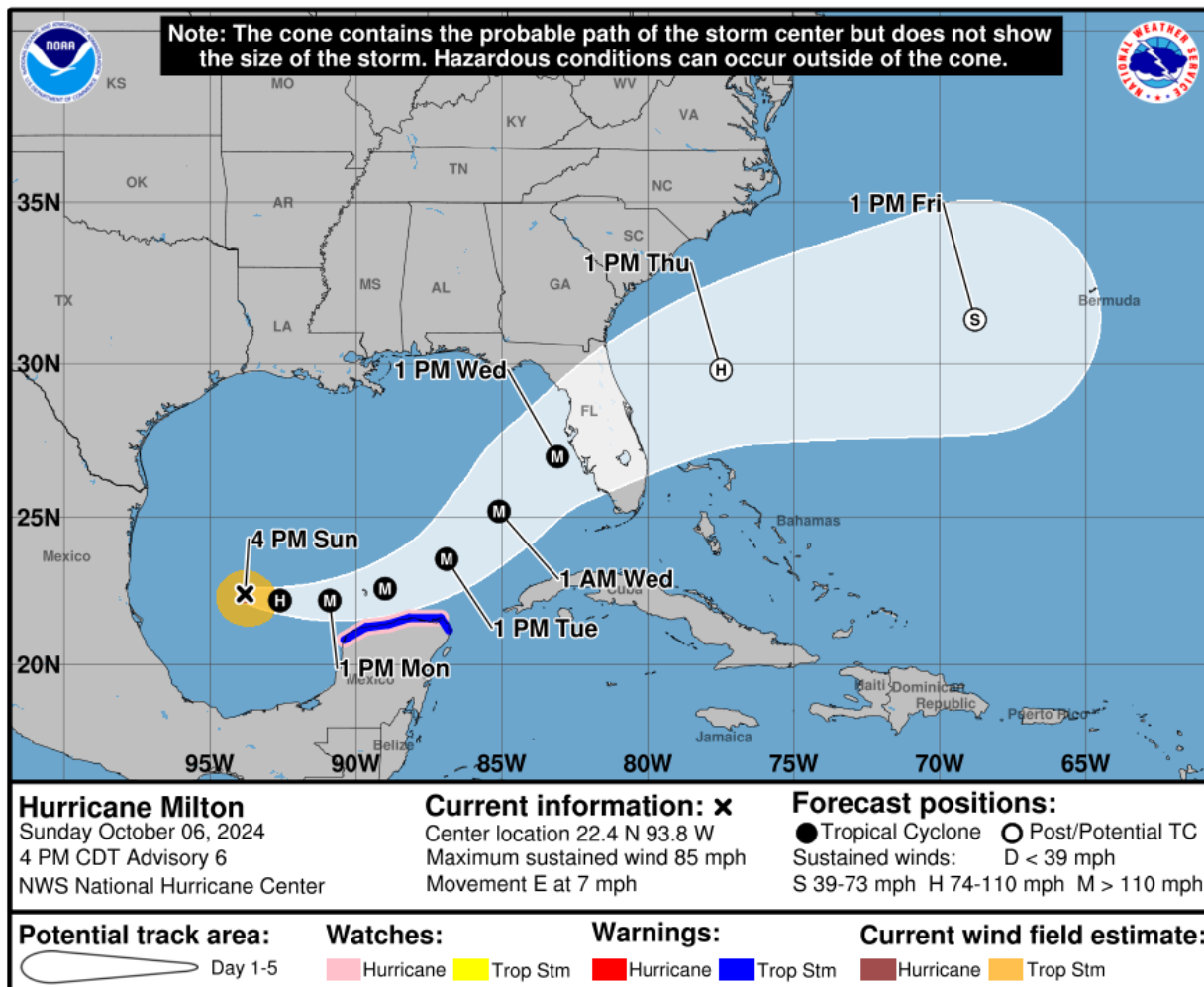
Hurricane Milton Continuing to Rapidly Intensify Over the Southwestern Gulf of Mexico This Evening

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.



Hurricane Milton

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)

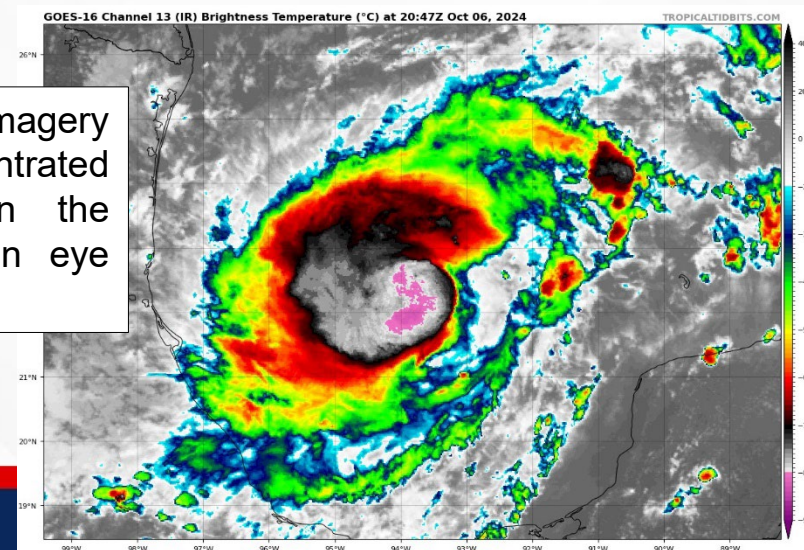


- **Location:** 805 miles WSW of Tampa, Florida
- **Maximum Sustained Winds:** 85 mph, Category 1 hurricane
- **Current Movement:** E at 7 mph

This general motion is expected today, with an east-northeastward motion expected on Monday followed by a faster northeastward motion on Tuesday and Wednesday. On the forecast track, Milton is forecast to move just north of the Yucatan Peninsula and across the southern Gulf of Mexico Monday and Tuesday and approach the west coast of Florida by Wednesday. Milton is forecast to rapidly intensify during the next couple of days and become a major hurricane on Monday.

Milton is forecast to be a major hurricane when it reaches the west coast of Florida midweek. There is an increasing risk of life-threatening storm surge and damaging winds for portions of the western Florida Peninsula beginning early Wednesday and expanding eastward through the daytime hours. Storm Surge and Hurricane Watches will likely be issued by early Monday.

Current satellite imagery indicated very concentrated thunderstorm activity in the eyewall and hints of an eye starting to appear.





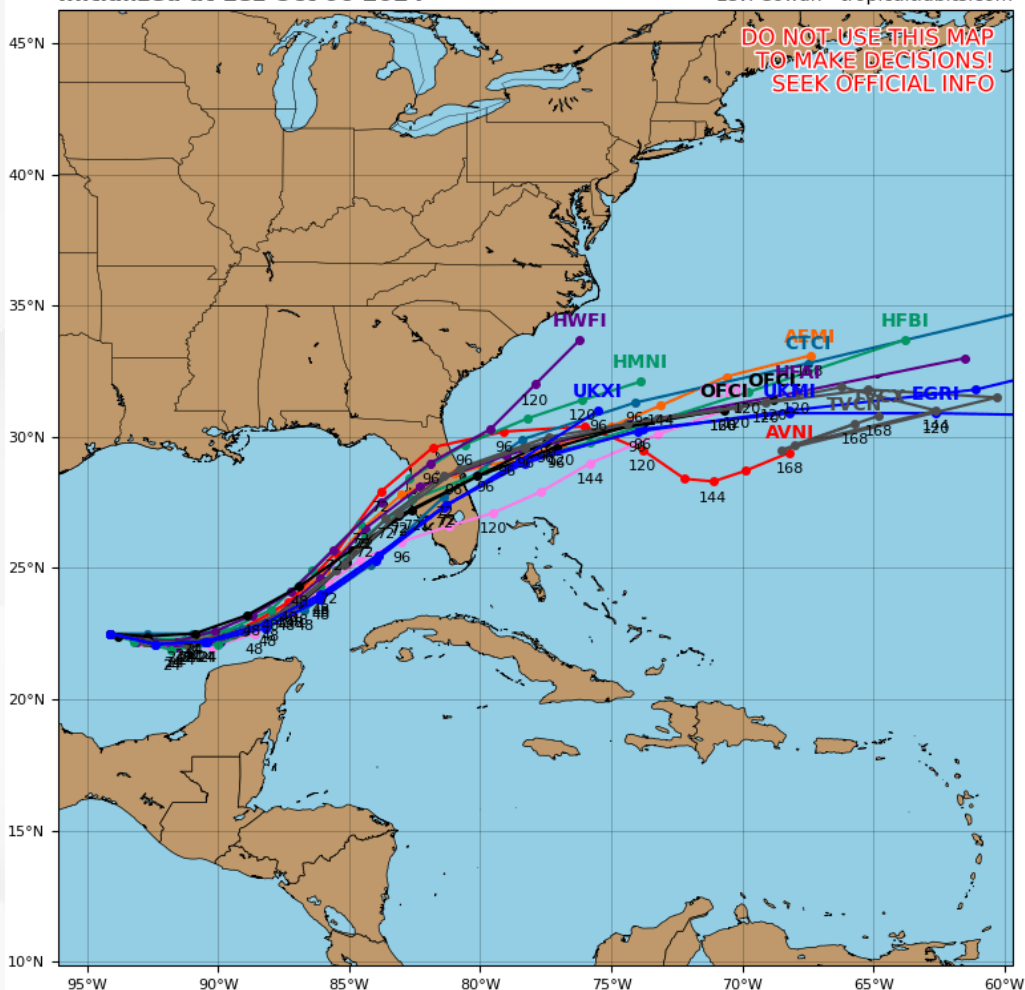
Forecast Computer Models – Next 5 Days

Hurricane Milton

Hurricane MILTON Model Track Guidance

Initialized at 18z Oct 06 2024

Levi Cowan - tropicaltidbits.com



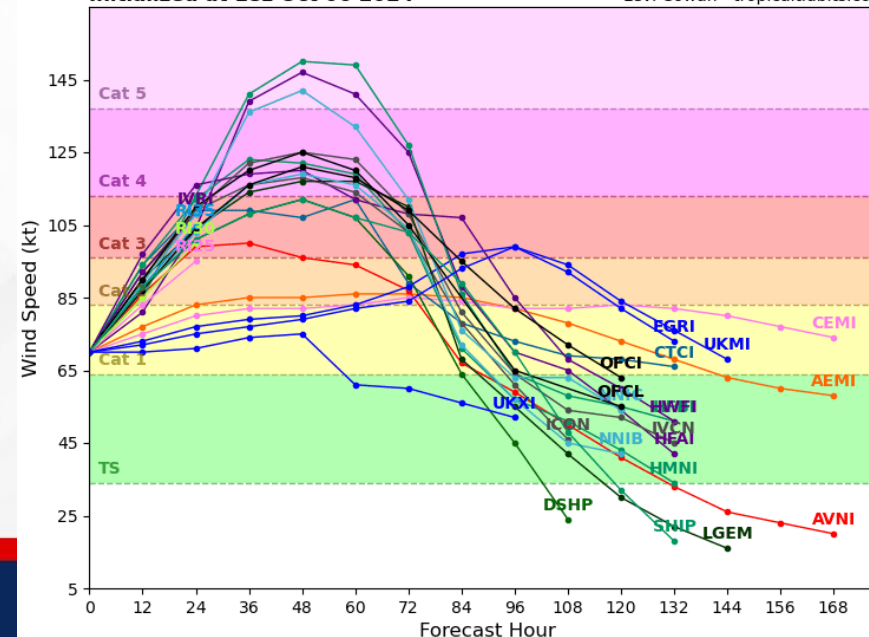
Computer forecast models remain in decent agreement that Milton will gradually turn eastward on Monday and then accelerate to the northeast on Tuesday and Wednesday toward the Florida Peninsula ahead of an upper-level disturbance offshore of Texas. It is important to note that the average National Hurricane Center track error at Day 3 is around 100 miles, and we urge all of you to not focus on the exact track.

Computer forecast models remain in good agreement regarding Milton's rapid intensification during the near-term forecast as the tropical cyclone remains small, within light upper-level winds, and deep warm waters. The peak intensity over the southern-central Gulf of Mexico may still be conservative at this time. The forecast becomes a bit trickier as it nears landfall as upper-level winds sharply increase; however, computer forecast models are showing the system growing in areal extent if it weakens, and computer forecast models show Milton being a large hurricane at landfall, with dangerous impacts able to spread over a big area.

Hurricane MILTON Model Intensity Guidance

Initialized at 18z Oct 06 2024

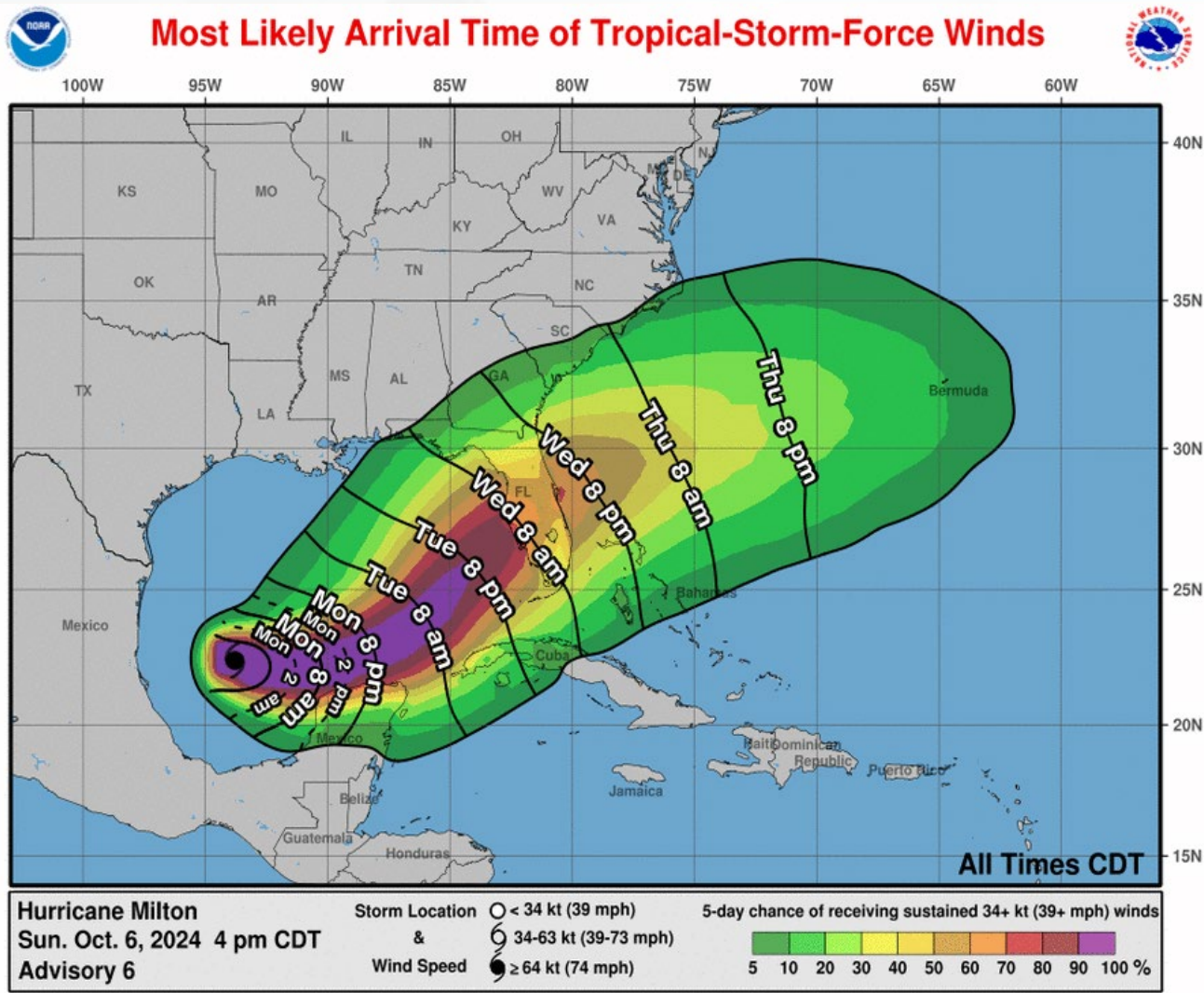
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Timing of Arrival

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



- Tropical storm-force conditions will most likely arrive along the West Florida coastline early Wednesday morning, and spread eastward across the Florida Peninsula through the Wednesday daytime hours.
- Tropical storm-force winds could arrive as early as Tuesday evening along the western Florida Peninsula.
- Probabilities (*shaded*) will continue to increase as Milton's landfall is closer in the forecast period.
- There remains quite a bit of uncertainty regarding the forward speed and progression of Milton, and thus the arrival time of tropical hazards; changes to the eventual track and timeline can be expected, it is important not to focus on single model runs or solutions!

Location	Probability
Key West	48%
Naples	72%
Fort Myers	60%
Miami	26%
West Palm	56%
Venice	84%
Tampa	80%
Orlando	59%
Cocoa Beach	72%
Cedar Key	58%
Daytona Beach	51%
Gainesville	38%
Jacksonville	28%



Key Messages

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



Key Messages for Hurricane Milton Advisory 6: 4:00 PM CDT Sun Oct 06, 2024



1. Milton is forecast to be a major hurricane when it reaches the west coast of the Florida Peninsula midweek. Users are reminded to not focus on the details of the forecast as there remains significant uncertainty in the eventual track and intensity of Milton.
2. While it is too soon to specify the exact magnitude and location of the greatest impacts, there is an increasing risk of life-threatening storm surge and damaging winds for portions of the west coast of the Florida Peninsula beginning early Wednesday and Storm Surge and Hurricane Watches will likely be issued tonight or early Monday. Residents in the Florida Peninsula should follow any advice given by local officials and monitor updates to the forecast.
3. Areas of heavy rainfall will impact portions of Florida through Monday well ahead of Milton, with heavy rainfall more directly related to Milton expected on Tuesday through Wednesday night. This rainfall will bring the risk of considerable flash, urban, and areal flooding, along with the potential for moderate to major river flooding.
4. Tropical storm conditions are expected with hurricane conditions possible beginning Monday across portions of the northern Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico where a Tropical Storm Warning and Hurricane Watch are in effect.



For more information go to hurricanes.gov



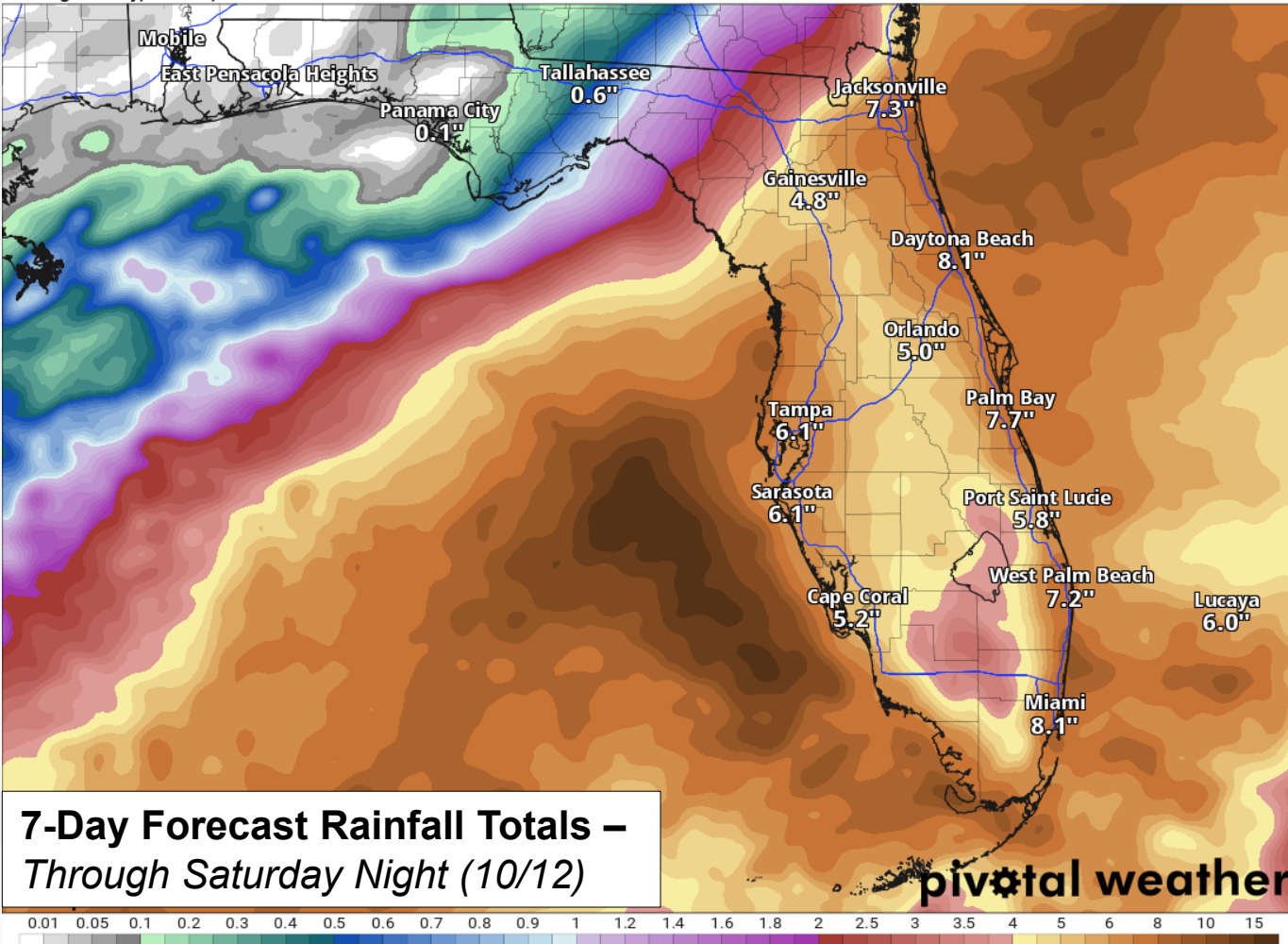
Rainfall Totals – Next 7 Days

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

7-Day Precipitation (in)

Ending Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024 at 8 a.m. EDT

Init: Sun 2024-10-06 12z WPC

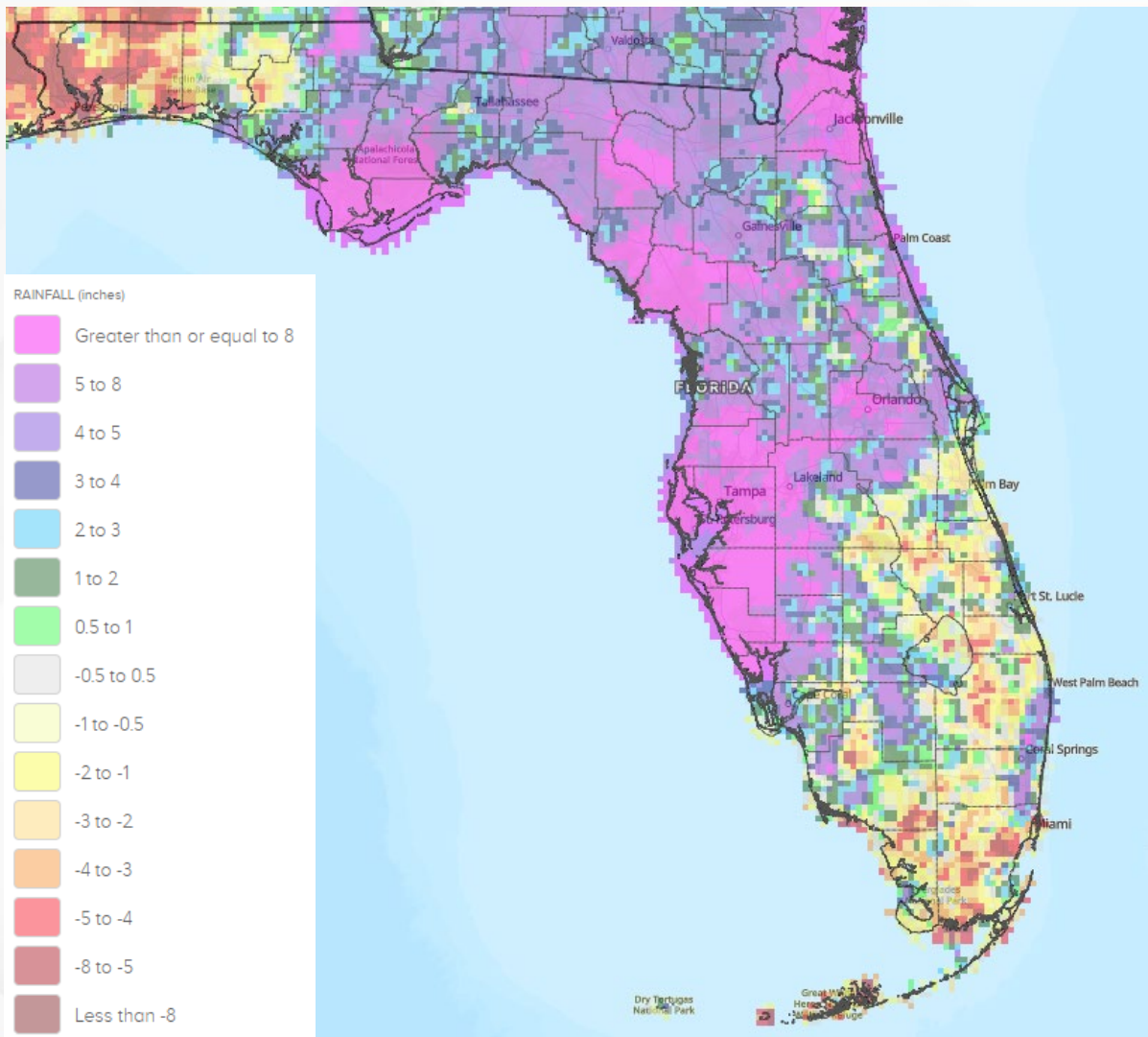


- A frontal boundary is expected to push into the state this weekend kicking off a wet and active weather pattern across the Peninsula, even prior to tropical impacts.
- *Rainfall totals heavily tied to the eventual track and forward speed of the system. With computer model guidance uncertainty regarding 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.
 - Drier air circulating along the southern side of the system as it moves across the Peninsula will keep heavy rainfall along the northern side of the system, allowing for widespread rainfall to extend into Northeast Florida.
 - **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.

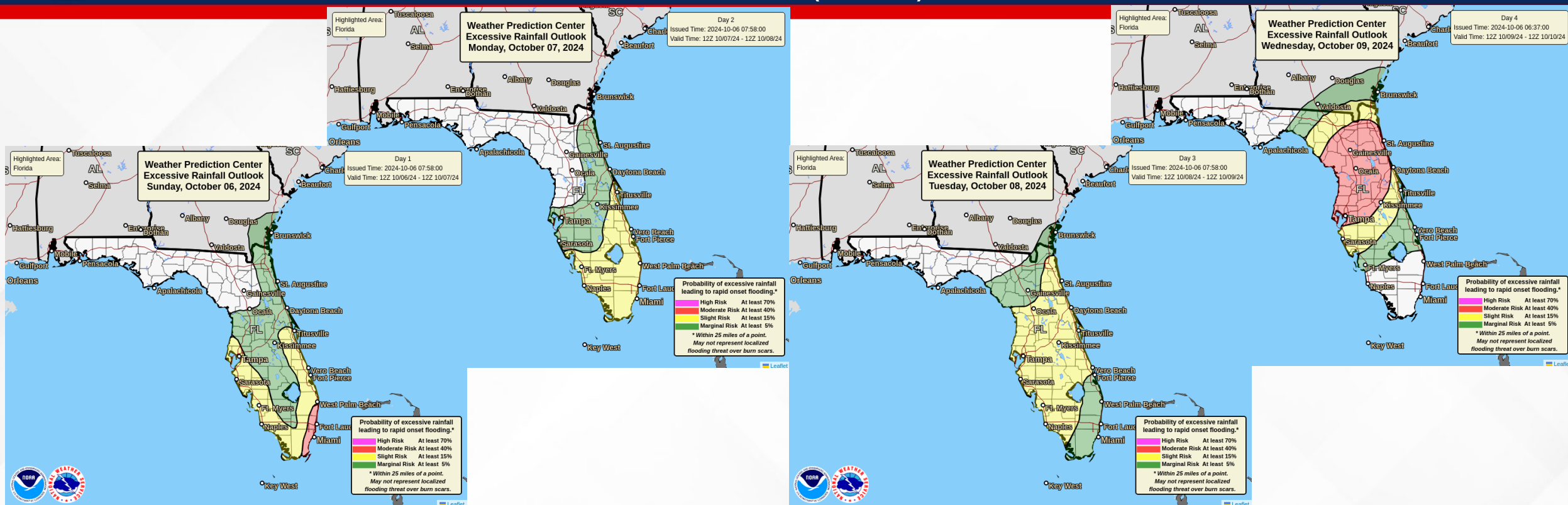
Numerous North, West-Central, and Southwest Florida rivers are already running high and/or within flood stage at this time.

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)

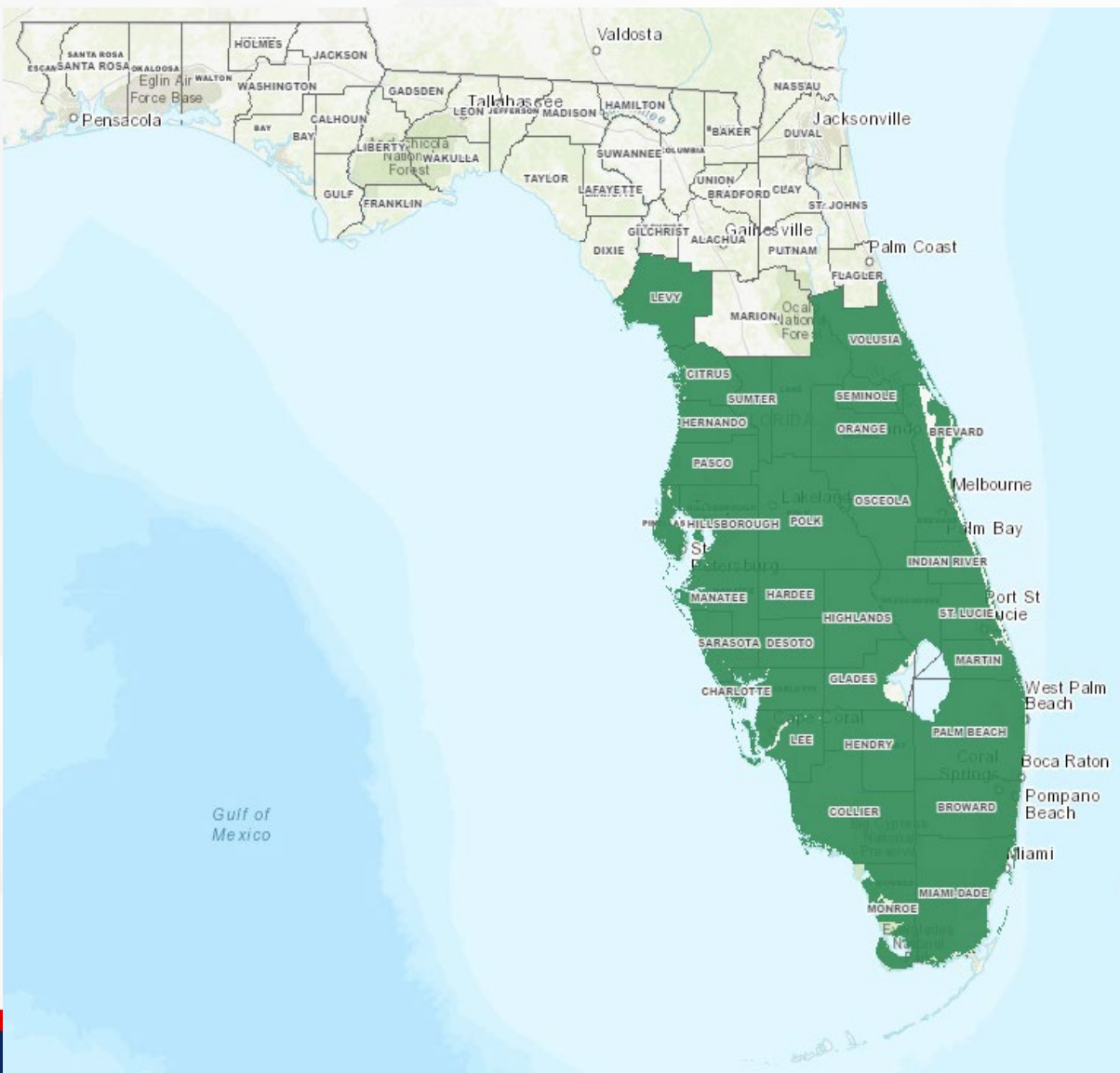


The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Southeast Florida Metro on Sunday with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** along the coastal Peninsula and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending for Sunday due to tropical moisture associated with an upper-level disturbance separate from Tropical Storm Milton. Widespread rainfall can be expected on Sunday and continue into next week before Tropical Storm Milton approaches the Florida West Coast midweek. Widespread heavy rainfall can be expected to continue on Monday and into Tuesday ahead of the outer bands of Milton, and the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** south of the I-4 corridor on Monday and throughout most of the Peninsula and towards Northeast Florida on Tuesday. 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 as Tropical Storm Milton approaches and crosses the Florida Peninsula around mid-week. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across Nature Coast and inland towards Northeast Florida, including both the northern I-75 corridor and the entire I-4 corridor, with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** extending into portions of the Big Bend and Southwest Florida. Additional **Flood Watches** will likely be issued as details become clearer.



Flood Watches

From the National Weather Service (NWS)



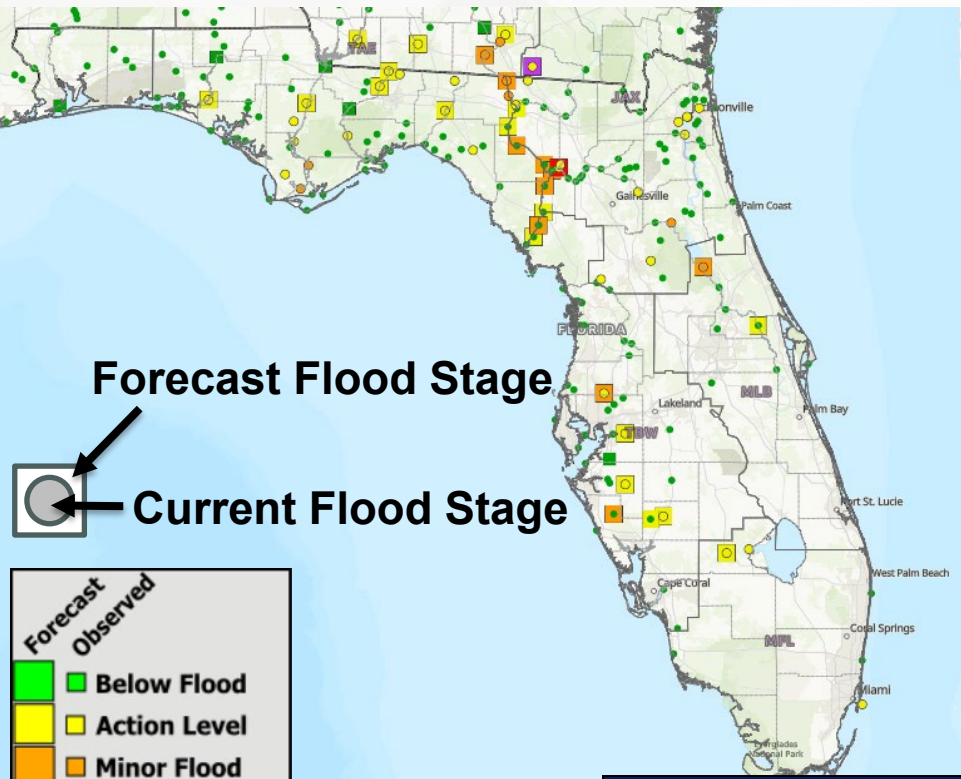
Flood Watches have been issued for the Florida Peninsula, spanning from the Nature Coast to along and south of the I-4 corridor beginning today until Thursday morning. This impacts the following counties:

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 will remain within minor flood stage over the next several days as heavy rainfall occurs over trapped water levels within the basin.

The [Aucilla River at Lamont](#) is forecast to gradually rise near or just above **minor flood stage** over the next couple of days with widespread rainfall anticipated. 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 \(CR-150\)](#) has crested with the flood wave progressing down the Suwannee River well into next week and water levels will slowly decline. 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; additional **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](#), [Little Manatee at Wimauma](#), and [Cypress Creek at SR-54](#) as **minor flooding** is occurring or forecast due to recent locally heavy rainfall and additional heavy rainfall anticipated this weekend and into next weekend ahead of Milton, then Milton could also bring additional heavy rainfall.

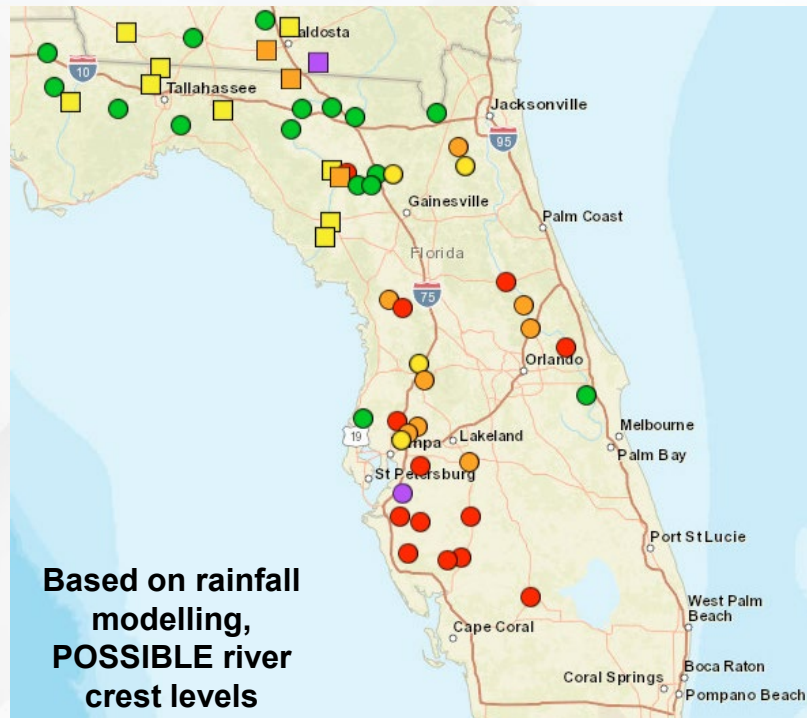
For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

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
Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates	Columbia, Gilchrist, Suwannee	Minor: 17.07 ft	Moderate: 21.90 ft	33.40 ft	Rising	13-Oct	Until Further Notice
Aucilla River at Lamont	Jefferson, Madison, Taylor	Action: 52.96 ft	Minor: 53.00 ft	58.8 ft	Rising	6-Oct	2230 EDT 6-Oct



Riverine Flooding

Chance of River Flooding Based on Range of Forecast Rainfall

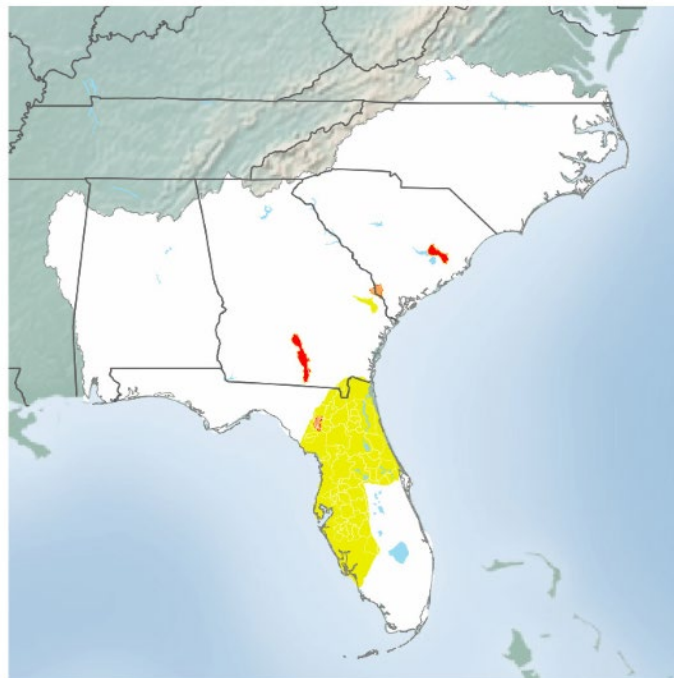


Based on rainfall
modelling,
POSSIBLE river
crest levels

Chance of Exceedance

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

5-Day Significant River Flood Outlook Valid: 10/06/2024 08:00 AM - 10/11/2024 08:00 AM EDT



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

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 & Helene. **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**.

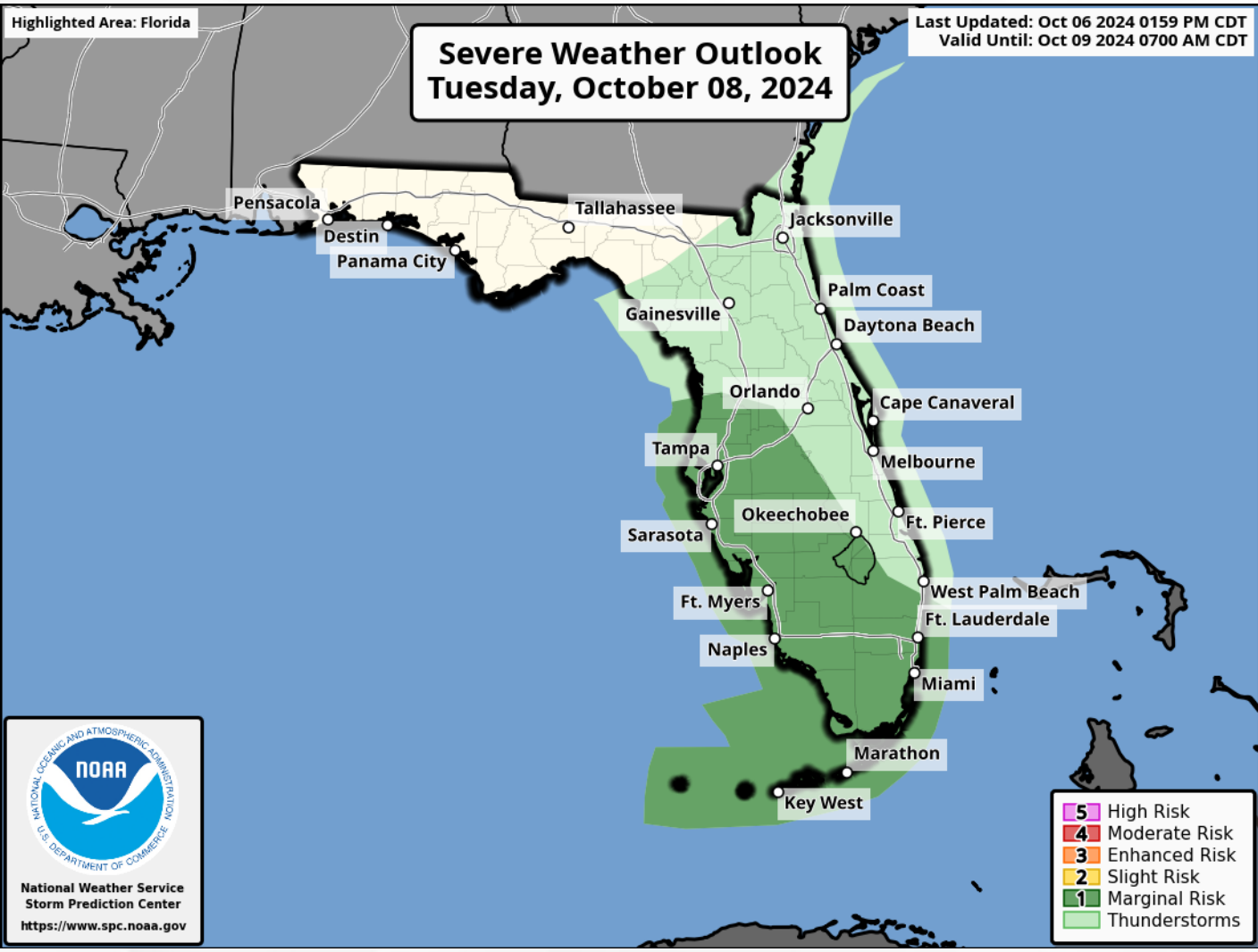
Water will continue to filter through the river basins and further downstream from heavy rainfall across the Southeast U.S. from Hurricane Helene over the next few weeks. Computer models are suggesting the potential for **minor flooding** along portions of the Suwannee River as excess heavy rainfall 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.

Additional heavy rainfall near-term and in association with Hurricane Milton will likely lead to instances of potential rapid onset flooding across Northeast and West Florida waterways, with higher probabilities located in the southern Peninsula. Widespread **minor to moderate flooding** is likely, with **major flooding** possible near maximum rainfall totals.



Isolated Tropical Tornadoes

From the Storm Prediction Center (SPC)



The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) has introduced a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** along much of the western Florida Peninsula and across South Florida Tuesday night into Wednesday as isolated tropical tornadoes will be possible within Hurricane Milton's outer rainbands. The severe weather risk will likely be extended into Wednesday, with additional upgrades or forecast refinements possible in subsequent outlooks.

Tornado Watches and Warnings will be issued as conditions warrant.

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with <u>all</u> thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense





Summary

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Hurricane Milton:

- Milton was upgraded to a hurricane at 2:00 PM EDT this afternoon (10/6).
- As of 5:00 PM EDT, Milton is located about 805 miles west-southwest of Tampa, Florida, and is moving eastward at 7 mph.
- An eastward to east-northeastward motion is forecast on Monday, followed by a faster northeastward motion on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- On the forecast track, Milton is forecast to move just north of the Yucatan Peninsula and across the southern Gulf of Mexico Monday and Tuesday, and approach the west coast of the Florida Peninsula by Wednesday.
- Maximum sustained winds are near 85 mph, making Milton a stronger Category 1 hurricane.
- Milton is forecast to rapidly intensify during the next couple of days and become a major hurricane on Monday.
- There is an increasing risk of life-threatening storm surge and damaging winds for portions of the western Florida Peninsula beginning early Wednesday and expanding eastward through the daytime hours. Storm Surge and Hurricane Watches will likely be issued by early Monday.
- Changes to the eventual track and timeline can be expected, it is important not to focus on single model runs or solutions!

Florida Outlook:

- Areas of heavy rainfall will impact portions of Florida through Monday, well ahead of Milton, with rainfall more directly tied to Milton expected on Tuesday through Wednesday night.
 - Widespread rainfall totals near 5-10" with **locally higher totals in excess of 10-15"** 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 **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across the Southeast Florida Metro and I-95 corridor on Sunday with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** extending along the Peninsula coastlines due to tropical moisture and an upper-level disturbance will bring widespread and heavy rainfall that could bring localized flash and areal flooding at times over already saturated grounds and soils.
 - A **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** has been introduced on Wednesday across the Nature Coast and extending toward the northern I-95 corridor including lower portions of the Suwannee Valley, the northern I-75 corridor and the I-4 corridor on Wednesday. The **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** extends from the Suwannee Valley and through Central Florida.
 - A **Flood Watches** will remain in effect through Thursday across the Peninsula as **flash, urban, and areal flooding** will be possible, and additional **Flood Watches** will likely be issued further north as warranted.
- 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**.
 - Heavy rainfall is anticipated next week likely leading to water level rises in the Florida Peninsula. Computer models are currently suggesting there is potential for widespread **minor to moderate flooding** will be possible across West Florida waterways, with instances of **major flooding** possible near the maximum rainfall totals.
- There is an increasing risk of life-threatening impacts for portions of the west coast of Florida Peninsula beginning late Tuesday or Wednesday; *however, the extent and locations of these impacts remain uncertain as it will be heavily tied to the eventual track and forward speed of the system.*
- Outer bands moving onshore along the Florida West Coast on Tuesday may bring **isolated tropical tornadoes** later Tuesday into Wednesday, and the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather**.
 - Additional expansions or upgrades to the Severe Weather Outlook can be anticipated as details become clearer. Additional watches and warnings can be expected closer to the outer bands moving onshore.
- The next name on the list is Nadine (*nay-DEEN*).

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



Tropical Update

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State Meteorological Support Unit

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