

Tropical Update



8:00 AM EDT Monday, October 7, 2024 Major Hurricane Milton Storm Surge and Hurricane Watches Issued for Portions of Florida

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 <u>www.hurricanes.gov</u>.



Tropical Storm Helene 5:00 AM EDT Tuesday: Florida Threats & Changes Since Last Packet



Overview/Recent Changes: As of 6:00 AM EDT, Milton is located about 750 miles west-southwest of Tampa, Florida, and is moving east-southeastward at 8 mph. An eastward to east-southeastward motion is forecast through tonight, followed by a turn toward the east and northeast on Tuesday and Wednesday. On the forecast track Milton is forecast to move near or just north of the Yucatan Peninsula today and Tuesday, then cross the eastern Gulf of Mexico and approach the west coast of the Florida Peninsula by Wednesday. Maximum sustained winds are near 120 mph, making Milton a major Category 3 hurricane. Milton is forecast to intensify rapidly and become a major hurricane later today. There is an increasing risk of life-threatening storm surge and damaging winds for portions of the western Florida Peninsula beginning late Tuesday to early Wednesday and expanding eastward through the daytime hours. Tropical Storm and Hurricane Watches have been issued for portions of the Western Peninsula, Forgotten Coast, and Keys ahead of Hurricane Milton with Storm Surge Watches issued along the Florida West Coast from Flamingo northward to the Suwannee River.

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



- · Location: 750 miles WSW of Tampa, Florida
- · Maximum Sustained Winds: 120 mph, Category 3
- Current Movement: ESE at 8 mph

An eastward to east-southeastward motion is forecast through tonight, followed by a turn toward the east and northeast on Tuesday and Wednesday. On the forecast track Milton is forecast to move near or just north of the Yucatan Peninsula today and Tuesday, then cross the eastern Gulf of Mexico and approach the west coast of the Florida Peninsula by Wednesday. Milton is forecast to intensify rapidly and become a major hurricane later today.

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 late Tuesday to early Wednesday and expanding eastward through the daytime hours. Tropical Storm and Hurricane Watches have been issued for portions of the Western Peninsula, Forgotten Coast, and Keys ahead of Hurricane Milton with Storm Surge Watches issued along the Florida West Coast.

Current satellite imagery continues to show very concentrated thunderstorm activity in the eyewall. A small ragged eye is now also been present.



Forecast Computer Models – Next 5 Days Major Hurricane Milton



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Computer forecast models remain in decent agreement that a mid to upper-level disturbance and surface area of low pressure moving eastward into the Atlantic and another mid to upper-level trough digging into the Gulf of Mexico should cause Milton to move east-southeastward to eastward for the next 36 hours or so, followed by a turn to the northeast at a faster forward speed. There remains significant disagreements as to the location and timing of landfall as the forward speed and amount of latitude the system is able to gain will be highly dependent on the placement of a frontal boundary dropping southward into Florida and the Gulf of Mexico.

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.



Current Tropical Wind Watches/Warnings As of 5:00 AM EDT Monday



• Hurricane Watch: Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Sumter, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Sarasota, DeSoto, Charlotte, Lee, Coastal Collier, Dry Tortugas

• Tropical Storm Watch: Coastal Franklin, Coastal Wakulla, Coastal Jefferson, Taylor, Dixie, Lafayette, Glades, Hendry, Inland Collier, Mainland Monroe, Florida Keys.

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 <u>as early as</u> Tuesday night 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!

Probability
46% (-2%)
74% <mark>(+2%)</mark>
62% <mark>(+2%)</mark>
23% (-3%)
53% (-3%)
87% <mark>(+3%)</mark>
81% <mark>(+1%)</mark>
57% (-2%)
71% (-1%)
58% (±0%)
46% (-5%)
35% (-3%)
23% (-5%)

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)

Key Messages for Hurricane Milton Advisory 8: 4:00 AM CDT Mon Oct 07, 2024



2. There is an increasing risk of life-threatening storm surge and damaging winds for portions of the west coast of the Florida Peninsula beginning Tuesday night or early Wednesday. Storm Surge and Hurricane Watches are now in effect for portions of the west coast of the Florida Peninsula and residents in that area should follow any advice given by local officials and evacuate if told to do so.

3. Areas of heavy rainfall will impact portions of Florida today well ahead of Milton, with heavy rainfall more directly related to the system expected later 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.



For more information go to hurricanes.gov



- flooding greatly accentuated by powerful battering waves. Structural damage to buildings, with many washing away. Damage greatly compounded from considerable floating debris. Locations may be uninhabitable for an extended period.
- Near-shore escape routes and secondary roads washed out or severely flooded. Flood control systems and barriers may become stressed.
- Extreme beach erosion. New shoreline cuts possible.
- Massive damage to marinas, docks, boardwalks, and piers. Numerous small craft broken away from moorings with many lifted onshore and stranded.
- Structural damage to sturdy buildings, some with complete roof and wall failures. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Damage greatly accentuated by large airborne projectiles. Locations may be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
- Numerous large trees snapped or uprooted along with fences and roadway signs blown over.
- Many roads impassable from large debris, and more within urban or heavily wooded places. Many bridges, causeways, and access routes impassable.
- Widespread power and communications outages.

- evacuations and rescues.
- Rivers and tributaries may rapidly overflow their banks in multiple places. Small streams, creeks, canals, and ditches may become dangerous rivers. Flood control systems and barriers may become stressed.
- Flood waters can enter many structures within multiple communities, some structures becoming uninhabitable or washed away. Many places where flood waters may cover escape routes. Streets and parking lots become rivers of moving water with underpasses submerged. Driving conditions become dangerous. Many road and bridge closures with some weakened or washed out.

- The occurrence of isolated tornadoes can hinder the execution of emergency plans during tropical
- events. A few places may experience tornado damage,
- along with power and communications disruptions.
- Locations could realize roofs peeled off buildings, chimneys toppled, mobile homes pushed off foundations or overturned, large tree tops and branches snapped off, shallow-rooted trees knocked over, moving vehicles blown off roads, and boats pulled from moorings.

As of 5:00 AM EDT Monday



Hurricane Milton Monday October 07, 2024 04 AM CDT Advisory 8 NWS National Hurricane Center User Notes: Water levels along the immediate coast could reach the following heights above ground level within the indicated areas. Elevated water levels will likely be accompanied by large and destructive waves. Colors are determined by the highest values in the associated forecast peak surge range. Values shown on this graphic are inclusive of tide. **Storm Surge Watches** have been issued from Flamingo (Mainland Monroe County) northward to the Suwannee River (Dixie/Levy County Line), including Charlotte Harbor and Tampa Bay.

- **8-12' peak storm surge** is forecast from the Anclote River (Pasco/Pinellas County line) southward to Englewood (Sarasota/Charlotte County line), including Tampa Bay.
- **5-10' peak storm surge** is forecast from Yankeetown (Levy/Citrus County) southward to the Anclote River and from Englewood southward to Bonita Beach (Lee/Collier County line), including Charlotte Harbor.
- **4-7' of storm surge** is anticipated from Bonita Beach southward to Chokoloskee (Collier/Monroe County line).
- **2-5' of storm surge** is anticipated from the Suwannee River (Dixie/Levy County Line) southward to Yankeetown and from Chokoloskee southward to Flamingo (Mainland Monroe County)

Surge values will be dependent on the future path of Milton, and updates to the forecast can be expected.

Rainfall Totals – Next 7 Days From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

7-Day Precipitation (in) Ending Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024 at 8 p.m. EDT



- Abundant tropical moisture streaming across the state and an incoming frontal boundary will maintain a wet and active weather pattern across the Peninsula to start the week, 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 <u>where</u> the heaviest rainfall can be expected.
- Widespread rainfall totals near 5-10" with **locally higher totals in** excess of 15" are possible across portions of the Peninsula.
 - 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.
 - Computer models are indicating the heaviest rainfall totals may occur along and north of the I-4 corridor across Central Florida and into Northeast Florida and along South Florida coastlines; 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.

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)



Widespread heavy rainfall can be expected to continue today and into Tuesday ahead of the outer bands of Milton, and the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across the Southeast Metro, including the southern I-95 corridor, with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** extending from the Space Coast and through Southwest Florida and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** from Northeast Florida through the I-4 corridor Monday. A **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** is maintained throughout most of the Peninsula and towards Northeast Florida on Tuesday with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending into southern portions of the Suwannee Valley. 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 much of North and Central Florida, including the entire I-4 corridor, Wednesday with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4**) extending into portions of the Big Bend to Lake Okeechobee into Southwest Florida. Additional **Flood Watches** will likely be issued as details become clearer.



Flood Watches

From the National Weather Service (NWS)



Flood Watches remain in effect for the Florida Peninsula, spanning from the Nature Coast to along and south of the I-4 corridor and remain in effect 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	

TOTO THE COLUMN

Current & Forecast River Conditions

From the National Weather Service



A River Flood Warning remains in effect along the <u>St. Johns River at Astor</u> as water levels will remain within <u>Minor Flood Stage</u> over the next several days, rising into **Moderate Flood Stage** later this week as heavy rainfall occurs over trapped water levels within the basin.

The <u>Withlacochee River near Pinetta (CR-150)</u> has crested and water levels continue to gradually decline through <u>Minor Flood Stage</u>. The flood wave will progress down the Suwannee River well into next week and water levels will slowly decline. As flood waters from the Georgie headwaters continue to travel down the basins, additional minor riverine flooding will be possible along lower portions of the Suwannee River by late this week or this weekend. Backwater flooding is forecast along lower portions of the Santa Fe with the <u>Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates</u> already experiencing minor flooding and expected to reach Moderate Flood Stage by next weekend.

The <u>Aucilla River at Lamont</u> has risen into **minor flood stage** over the next couple of days with widespread rainfall; however, water levels are forecast to fall back below flood stage in the next day or so.

River Flood Warnings have been issued for **minor to moderate flooding** along numerous West-Central Florida rivers, creeks, and waterways (including portions of the <u>Manatee River</u>, <u>Myakka River</u>, <u>Peace River at Zolfo Springs</u> and <u>at SR-70</u> <u>Arcadia, Horse Creek</u>, and <u>Cypress Creek</u>) with widespread rainfall anticipated over the next few days. The <u>Little Manatee River near Wimauma at US-301</u> is forecast to reach <u>Major Flood Stage</u> by mid-to-late this week.

For more details, please visit the River Forecast Center.



River Flood Warnings

From the National Weather Service

River Gauge	County(ies) Affected 🔽	Current Level	Crest Level	Record Level 🔻	Status 💌	Crest Day 🔻	Warning Expires 💌
Aucilla River at Lamont	Jefferson, Madison, Taylor	Minor: 53.02 ft	Minor: 53.10 ft	58.80 ft	Cresting	6-Oct	2000 EDT 8-Oct
Cypress Creek at SR-54	Pasco	Minor: 8.27 ft	Moderate: 11.70 ft	13.80 ft	Rising	11-Oct	Until Further Notice
Horse Creek near Arcadia at SR-72	DeSoto	Below: 9.49 ft	Moderate: 14.50 ft	21.20 ft	Rising	11-Oct	Until Further Notice
Little Manatee River near Wimauma at US-301	Hillsborough	Below: 8.27 ft	Major: 17.00 ft	20.10 ft	Steady	10-Oct	Until Further Notice
Manatee River near Myakka Head at SR-64	Manatee	Below: 7.98 ft	Moderate: 15.40 ft	20.90 ft	Steady	10-Oct	Until Further Notice
Myakka River at Myakka River State Park	Sarasota	Action: 6.87 ft	Moderate: 9.30 ft	12.80 ft	Rising	11-Oct	Until Further Notice
Peace River at Zolfo Springs	Hardee	Below: 12.05 ft	Moderate: 20.40 ft	27.20 ft	Rising	11-Oct	Until Further Notice
Peace River at SR-70 Arcadia	DeSoto	Action: 10.13 ft	Moderate: 14.00 ft	23.70 ft	Rising	11-Oct	Until Further Notice
Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates	Columbia, Gilchrist, Suwannee	Minor: 17.36 ft	Moderate: 22.10 ft	33.40 ft	Rising	13-Oct	Until Further Notice
St. Johns River at Astor	Volusia, Lake	Minor: 2.77 ft	Moderate: 3.70 ft	4.70 ft	Rising	11-Oct	Until Further Notice
Withlacoochee River near Pinetta	Hamilton, Madison	Minor: 75.12 ft	Minor: 77.10 ft	87.80 ft	Falling	Crested	1400 EDT 8-Oct

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 & Helene. **River Flood Warnings** remain in effect along portions of the Withlacoochee, Aucilla, 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 discharges through the basin from the Georgia headwaters with **minor to moderate backwater flooding** possible along the Santa Fe River. The Alapaha River near Jennings has risen into **Minor Flood Stage** and may continue to rise over the next week or so as the Alapaha River at Statenville, Georgia is cresting in major flood stage and the crest wave will move further downstream into Florida in the coming days.

Additional heavy rainfall near-term and in association with Hurricane Milton will likely lead to instances of potential rapid onset flooding across North and Central Florida waterways. Widespread minor to moderate flooding is likely, with major flooding possible near maximum rainfall totals.

From the Storm Prediction Center (SPC)



The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** along much of the western Florida Peninsula and across South Florida and the Keys Tuesday night into Wednesday and a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Severe** Weather along and south of the I-4 corridor with a **Marginal Risk** extending northward towards Gainesville Wednesday as isolated tropical tornadoes will be possible within Hurricane Milton's outer rainbands.

Tornado Watches and Warnings will be issued as conditions warrant.

THUNDERSTORMS	1 - MARGINAL	2 - SLIGHT	3 - ENHANCED	4 - MODERATE	5 - HIGH
(no label)	(MRGL)	(SLGT)	(ENH)	(MDT)	(HIGH)
No severe*	Isolated severe	Scattered	Numerous	Widespread	Widespread
thunderstorms	thunderstorms	severe storms	severe storms	severe storms	severe storms
expected	possible	possible	possible	likely	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	



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Major Hurricane Milton:

- As of 7:00 AM EDT, Milton is located about 750 miles west-southwest of Tampa, Florida, and is moving east-southeastward at 8 mph.
- An eastward to east-southeastward motion is forecast through tonight, followed by a turn toward the east and northeast on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- On the forecast track Milton is forecast to move near or just north of the Yucatan Peninsula today and Tuesday, then cross the eastern Gulf of Mexico and approach the west coast of the Florida Peninsula by Wednesday.
- Maximum sustained winds are near 120 mph, making Milton a major Category 3 hurricane.
- Milton is forecast to intensify rapidly.
- There is an increasing risk of life-threatening storm surge and damaging winds for portions of the western Florida Peninsula beginning late Tuesday to early Wednesday and expanding eastward through the daytime hours.
- Changes to the eventual track and timeline can be expected, it is important not to focus on single model runs or solutions!
- Hurricane Watches have been issued for the following counties: Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Sumter, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Sarasota, DeSoto, Charlotte, Lee, Coastal Collier, and the Dry Tortugas.
- Tropical Storm Watches have been issued for the following counties: Coastal Franklin, Coastal Wakulla, Coastal Jefferson, Taylor, Dixie, Lafayette, Glades, Hendry, Inland Collier, Mainland Monroe, Florida Keys.
- There is a danger of life-threatening storm surge along portions of the West Coast of Florida.
 - Storm Surge Warnings have been issued from Flamingo (Mainland Monroe County) northward to the Suwannee River (Dixie/Levy County Line), including Charlotte Harbor and Tampa Bay.
 - 8-12' peak storm surge is forecast from the Anclote River (Pasco/Pinellas County line) southward to Englewood (Sarasota/Charlotte County line), including Tampa Bay.
 - 5-10' peak storm surge is forecast from Yankeetown (Levy/Citrus County) southward to the Anclote River and from Englewood southward to Bonita Beach (Lee/Collier County line), including Charlotte Harbor.
 - 4-7' of storm surge is anticipated from Bonita Beach southward to Chokoloskee (Collier/Monroe County line).
 - 2-5' of storm surge is anticipated from the Suwannee River (Dixie/Levy County Line) southward to Yankeetown and from Chokoloskee southward to Flamingo (Mainland Monroe County)
 - Surge values will be dependent on the future path of Milton, and updates to the forecast can be expected.

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



Florida Outlook:

- Areas of heavy rainfall will impact portions of Florida today and Tuesday, well ahead of Milton, with rainfall more directly tied to Milton expected late Tuesday and Wednesday.
 - 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 <u>where</u> the heaviest rainfall can be expected.
 - Widespread heavy rainfall can be expected to continue today and into Tuesday ahead of the outer bands of Milton, and the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4) for Flash Flooding across the Southeast Metro, including the southern I-95 corridor, with a Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) extending from the Space Coast and through Southwest Florida and a Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) from Northeast Florida through the I-4 corridor Monday.
 - A Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) is maintained throughout most of the Peninsula and towards Northeast Florida on Tuesday with a Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) extending into southern portions of the Suwannee Valley.
 - The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4) for Flash Flooding across much of North and Central Florida, including the entire I-4 corridor, Wednesday with a Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) extending into portions of the Big Bend to Lake Okeechobee into Southwest Florida.
 - A Flood Watches are in effect across much of the Peninsula as flash, urban, and areal flooding will be possible. Additional Flood Watches may be issued further northward as warranted.
- Rivers, creeks/streams, and waterways across North and 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, Aucilla, St. Johns, and several West-Central Florida rivers, creeks, and waterways for ongoing minor flooding.
 - Heavy rainfall is anticipated this 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** across West-Central Florida waterways, with instances of **major flooding** possible near the maximum rainfall totals.
- Outer bands moving onshore may bring isolated tropical tornadoes along the Florida West Coast late Tuesday into early Wednesday morning (Marginal Risk for Severe Weather level 1 of 5) and along much of the Peninsula throughout the day Wednesday (Marginal to Slight Risk for Severe Weather level 1 -2 of 5).
 - Tornado Watches and Warnings will be issued as conditions warrant.
- 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.
- The next name on the list is Nadine (nay-DEEN).

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



Tropical Update



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