



Tropical Update



6:00 PM EDT

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Major Hurricane Milton

Milton Back to Category 5 Strength;

**Preparations to Protect Life and Property, Should be
Complete by Tonight**

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.

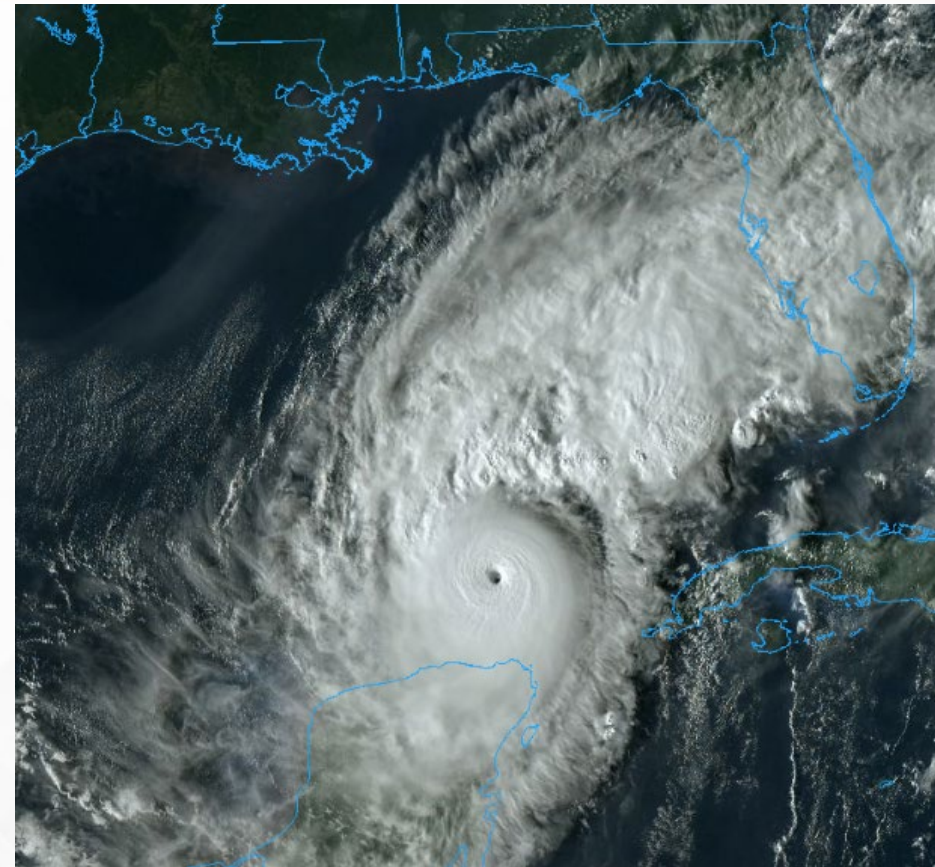


Major Hurricane Milton

5:00 PM EDT Tuesday: Florida Threats & Changes Since Last Packet

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



Satellite imagery as of 5:00 PM EDT

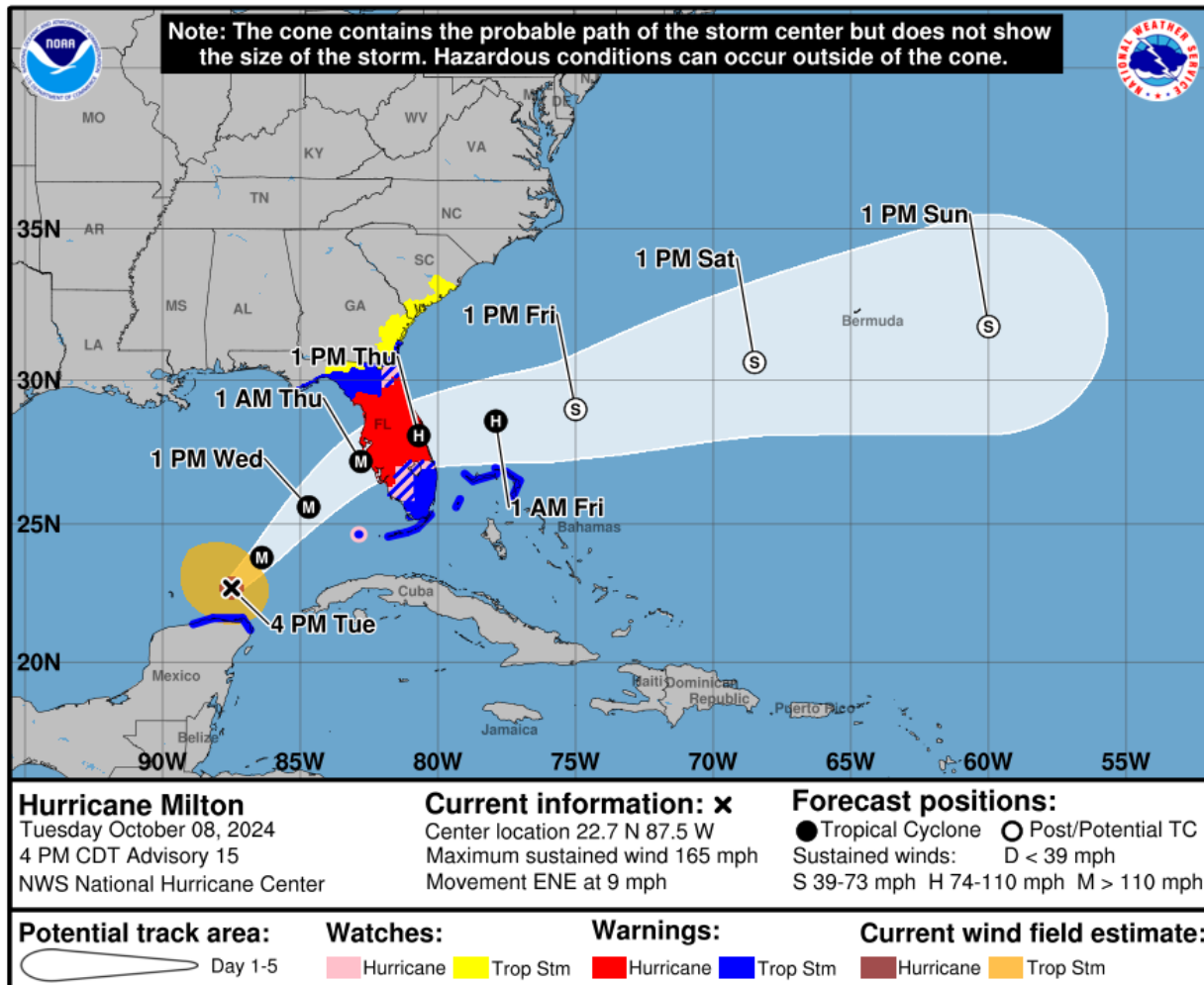
Overview/Recent Changes: As of 5:00 PM EDT, Milton has returned to Category 5 hurricane intensity, and recent observations from an Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft measures very low pressure in the eye of Milton. The aircraft observations also indicate that the maximum sustained winds are now near 165 mph. With the 5:00 PM EDT Advisory, Storm Surge Warnings have been extended southward to Sebastian Inlet, Florida (Brevard/St. Lucie County Line) and Hurricane Warnings have now been issued along the Florida East Coast to the St. Lucie/Martin County Line. A Hurricane Watch has now been issued for the Florida East Coast from the St. Lucie/Martin County Line to the Palm Beach/Martin County Line.

Damaging winds, life-threatening storm surge, and heavy rainfall will extend well outside the forecast cone. This is a **very serious situation** and residents in Florida should closely follow orders from their local emergency management officials. Evacuations and other preparations should be completed today. Milton has the potential to be one of the most destructive hurricanes on record for west-central Florida.



Major Hurricane Milton

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



- **Location:** 480 miles SW of Tampa, Florida
- **Maximum Sustained Winds:** 165 mph, Category 5
- **Current Movement:** ENE at 9 mph

A turn toward the northeast with an increase in forward speed is expected to begin tonight and continue through early Thursday. A turn toward the east-northeast and east is expected on Thursday and Friday. On the forecast track, the center of Milton will move across the eastern Gulf of Mexico through Wednesday, make landfall along the West-Central Florida Coast Wednesday night, and move off the east coast of Florida over the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday. Fluctuations in intensity are likely while Milton is expected to become a dangerous major hurricane when it reaches the West-Central Coast of Florida Wednesday.

This is a very serious situation and residents in Florida should closely follow orders from their local emergency management officials. Evacuations and other preparations should be completed today. Milton has the potential to be one of the most destructive hurricanes on record for West-Central Florida.



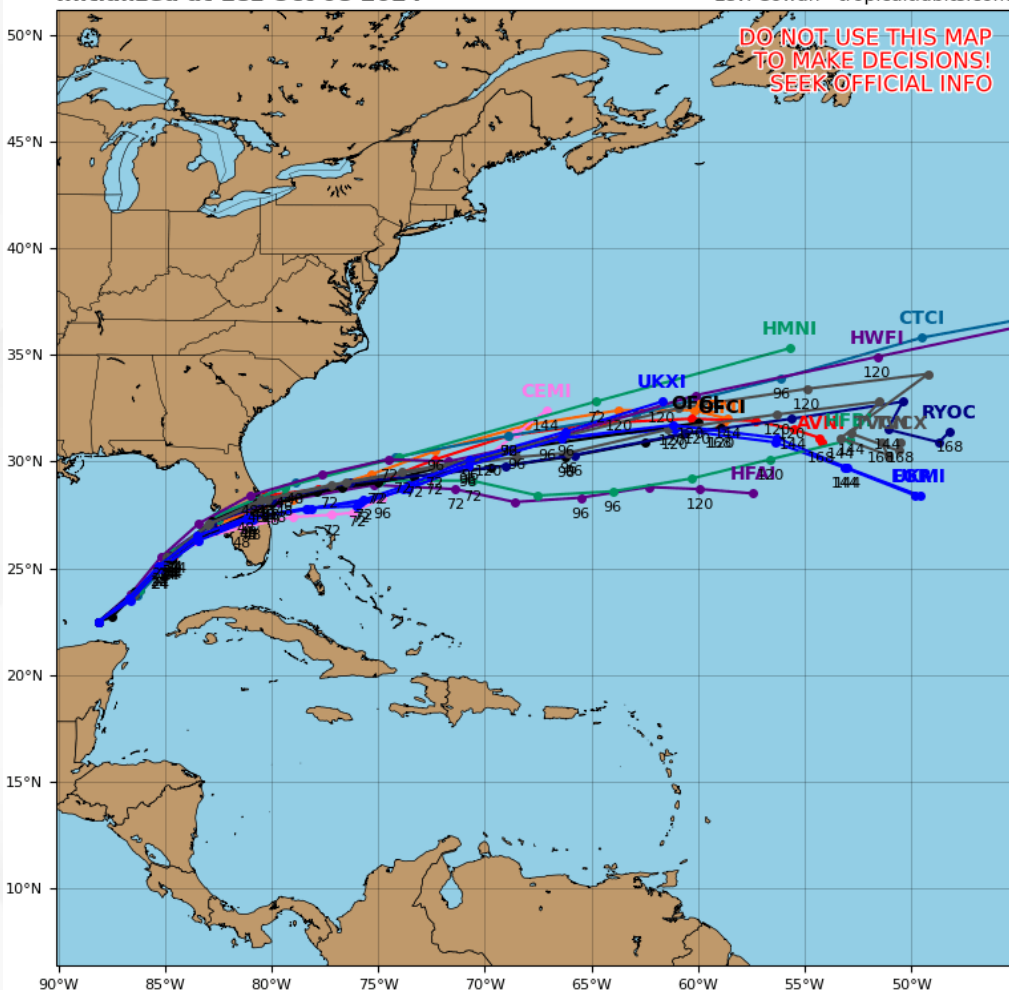
Forecast Computer Models – Next 5 Days

Major Hurricane Milton

Hurricane MILTON Model Track Guidance

Initialized at 18z Oct 08 2024

Levi Cowan - tropicaltidbits.com



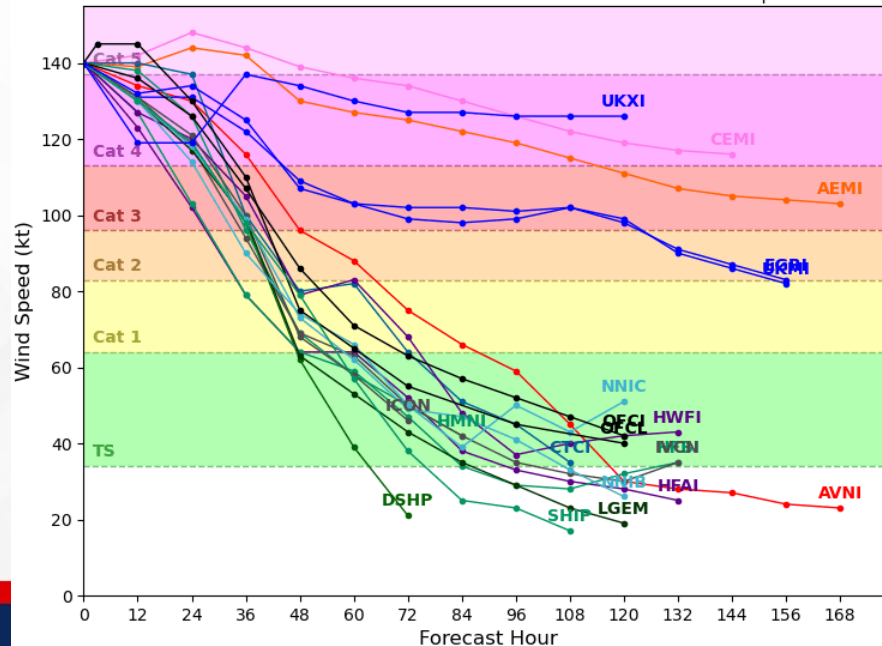
Milton wobbled a bit to the southeast today, but the longer-term 12-hour motion is east-northeast. Milton is forecast to turn northeastward and begin accelerating later today as it moves between an upper-level disturbance dipping into the Gulf of Mexico and an area of high pressure near the Greater Antilles. Computer forecast models continue to centralize its focus for West-Central Florida landfall; however, it is important to note that additional wobbles will likely occur in the short-term forecast through landfall.

Milton is forecast to maintain at major hurricane strength while it moves across the Gulf of Mexico and approaches the west coast of Florida. While stronger upper-level winds are forecast to cause some weakening, it will not be enough to keep Milton from being an extremely dangerous hurricane when it reaches shore. Milton's wind field is expected to expand as it approaches Florida. In fact, the official forecast shows the hurricane and tropical-storm-force winds roughly doubling in size by the time it makes landfall. In addition, the stronger-than-normal winds could occur on the northwest/back side of the storm since Milton will be interacting with a frontal boundary and beginning extratropical transition. Damaging winds, life-threatening storm surge, and heavy rainfall will extend **well outside the forecast cone**.

Hurricane MILTON Model Intensity Guidance

Initialized at 18z Oct 08 2024

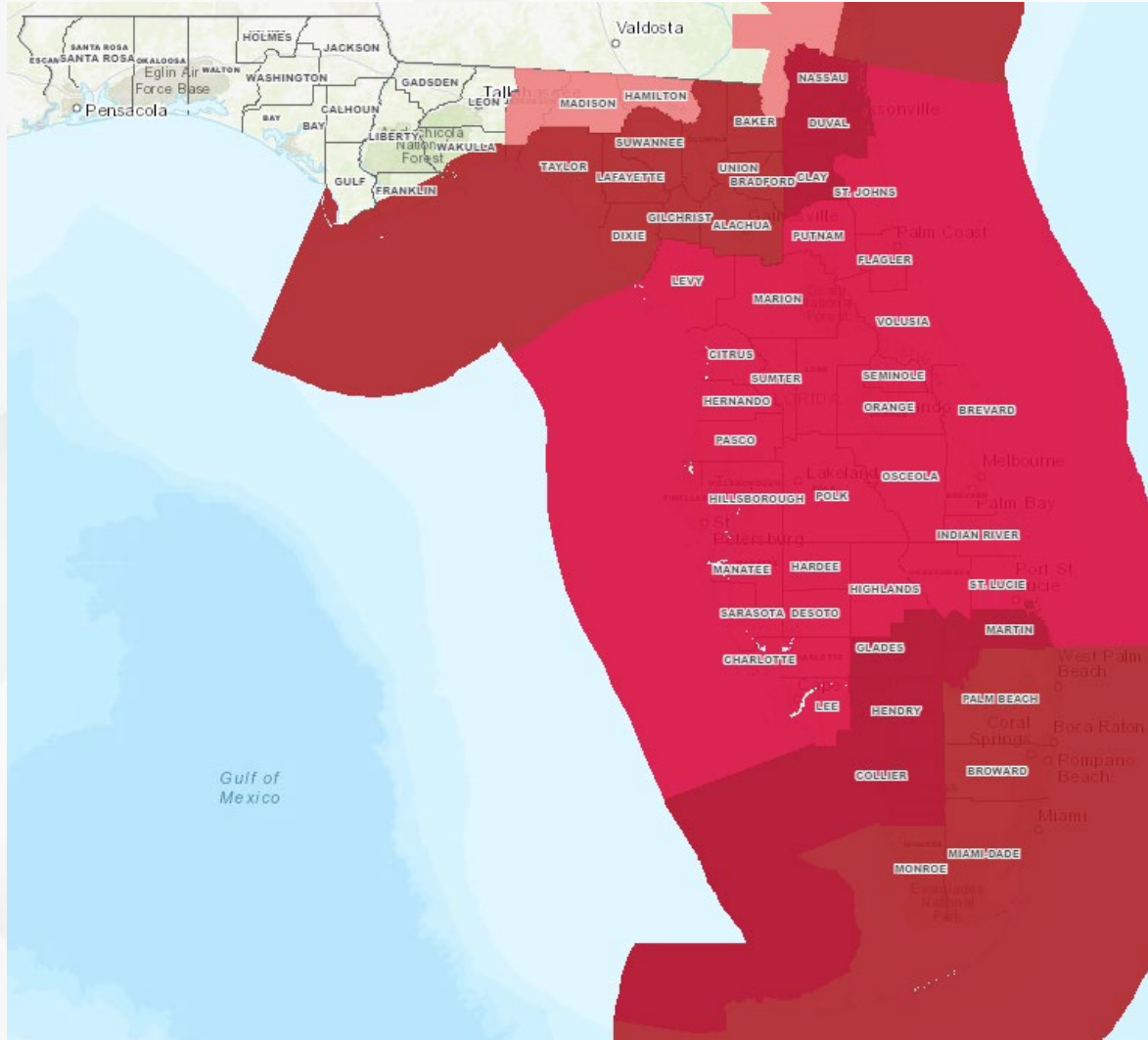
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Current Tropical Wind Watches/Warnings

As of 5:00 PM EDT Tuesday



Hurricane Warning: St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler, Marion, Levy, Citrus, Sumter, Lake, Volusia, Hernando, Seminole, Orange, Brevard, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Osceola, Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Highlands, Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, Charlotte, Lee

Tropical Storm Warning: Coastal Franklin, Coastal Wakulla, Coastal Jefferson, Taylor, Suwannee, Dixie, Lafayette, Columbia, Gilchrist, Baker, Union, Bradford, Alachua, Clay, Nassau, Duval, Margin, Glades, Hendry, Palm Beach, Collier, Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe (Mainland & Keys)

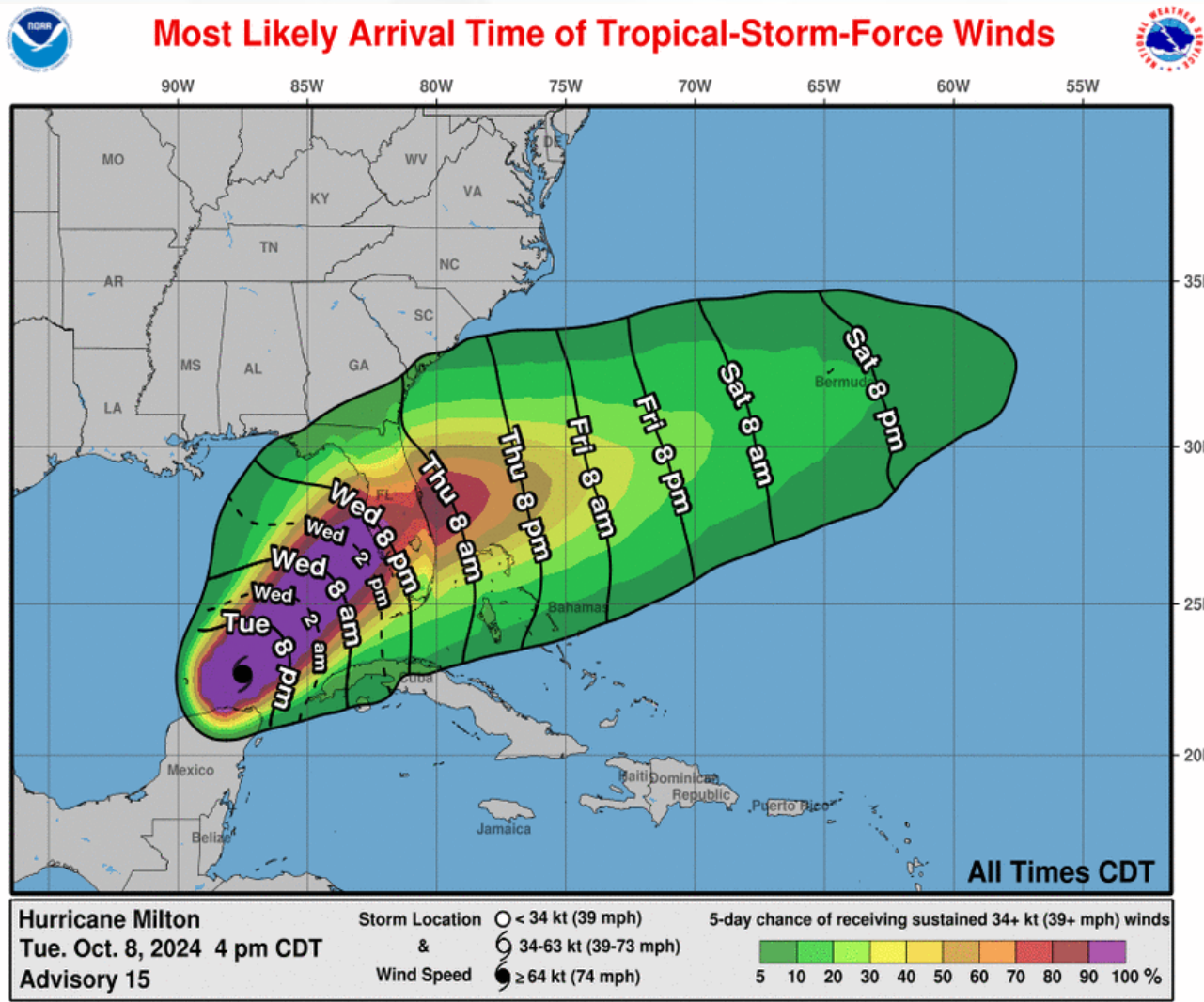
Hurricane Watch: Nassau, Duval, Clay, Martin, Glades, Hendry, Collier, Dry Tortugas, Lake Okeechobee

Tropical Storm Watch: Inland Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton



Timing of Arrival – Tropical Storm-Force Conditions

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



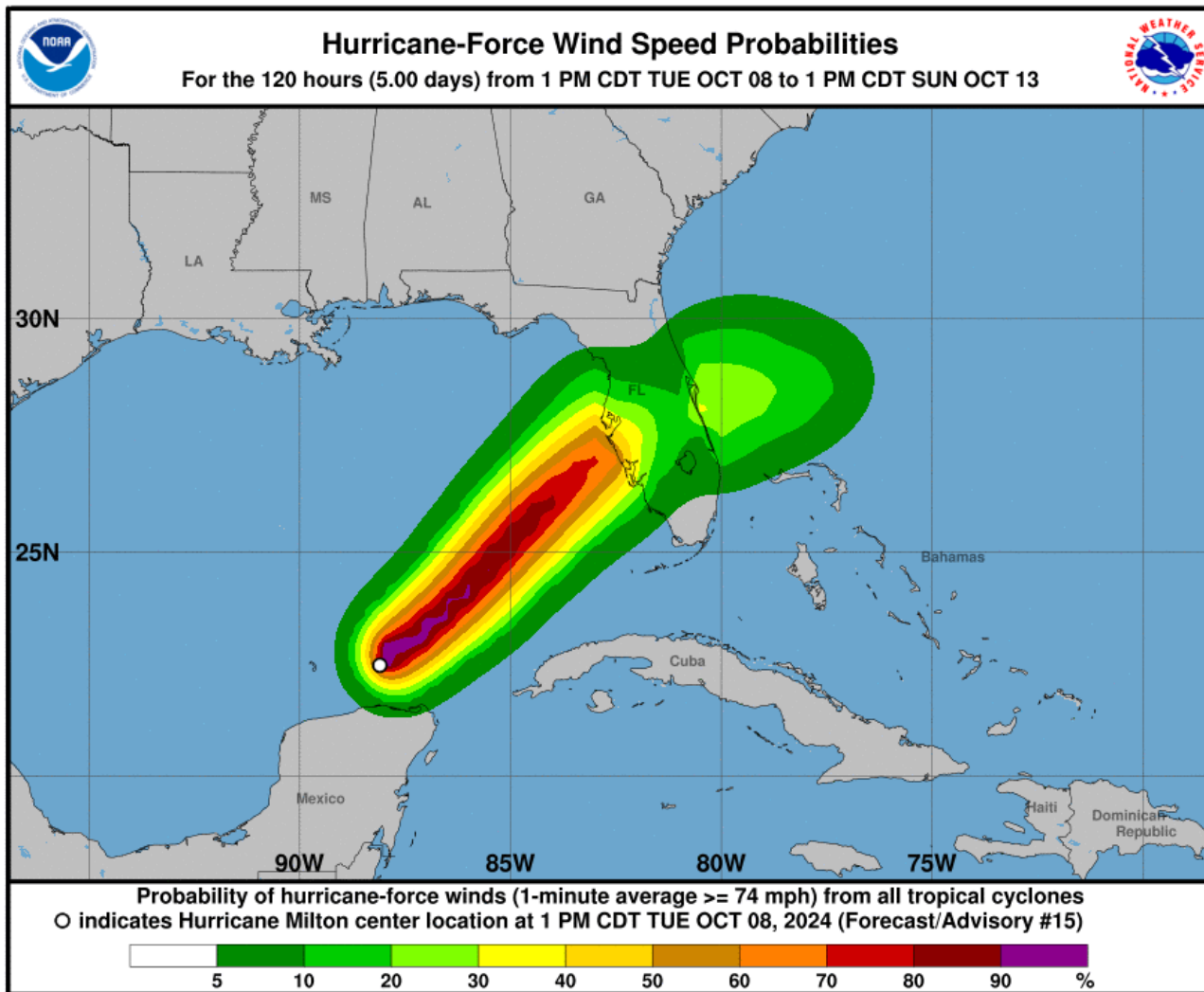
- Tropical storm-force conditions will most likely arrive along the West Florida coastline Wednesday evening and spread eastward across the Florida Peninsula through the overnight and early mornings hours on Thursday.
- Tropical storm-force winds could arrive as early as midday Wednesday along the western Florida Peninsula.
- Probabilities (*shaded*) will continue to increase as Milton's landfall is closer in the forecast period.

Location	Probability
Key West	33% (+5%)
Naples	82% (+2%)
Fort Myers	80% (+11%)
Miami	11% (+5%)
West Palm	69% (+8%)
Venice	97% (+1%)
Tampa	93% (+/-0%)
Orlando	75% (-2%)
Cocoa Beach	90% (+1%)
Cedar Key	56% (-5%)
Daytona Beach	51% (-5%)
Gainesville	25% (-7%)
Jacksonville	13% (-9%)



Hurricane-Force Wind Conditions

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



Hurricane-force wind speed probabilities continue to increase along the Florida West Coast, and will further increase along the coast and inland along the I-4 corridor as Milton's nears the coastline.

Location	Probability
Naples	15%
Fort Myers	18%
West Palm	8%
Venice	63%
Tampa	47%
Orlando	11%
Cocoa Beach	34%
Cedar Key	8%
Daytona Beach	4%



Key Messages

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)

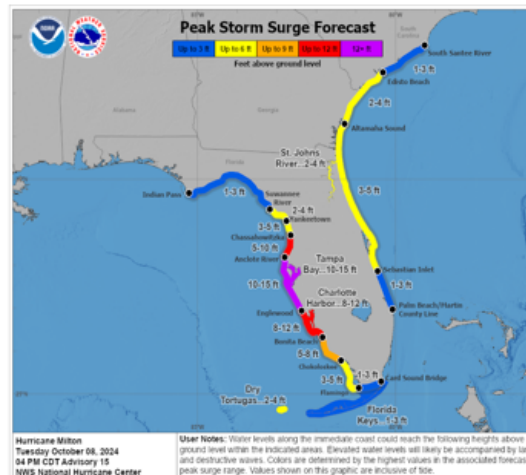
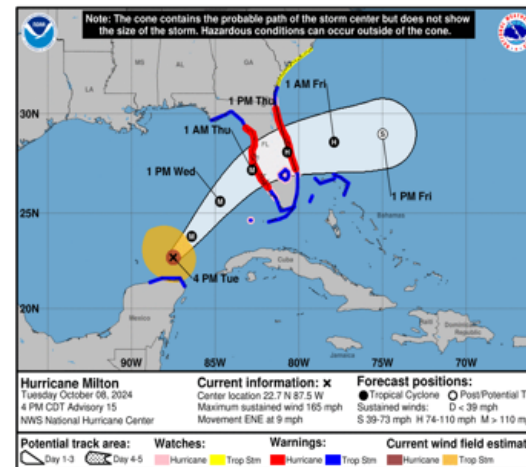


Key Messages for Hurricane Milton

Advisory 15: 4:00 PM CDT Tue Oct 08, 2024



1. A large area of destructive storm surge, with highest inundations of 10 ft or greater, is expected along a portion of the west-central coast of the Florida Peninsula. If you are in the Storm Surge Warning area, this is an extremely life-threatening situation, and you should evacuate today if ordered by local officials. There will likely not be enough time to wait to leave on Wednesday.
2. Devastating hurricane-force winds are expected along portions of the west coast of Florida, where a Hurricane Warning is in effect. Milton is forecast to remain a hurricane as it crosses the Florida Peninsula and life-threatening hurricane-force winds, especially in gusts, are expected to spread inland across the peninsula. Preparations to protect life and property, including being ready for long-duration power outages, should be complete by tonight.
3. Heavy rainfall across the Florida Peninsula through Thursday brings the risk of catastrophic and life-threatening flash and urban flooding along with moderate to major river flooding, especially in areas where coastal and inland flooding combine to increase the overall flood threat.
4. Tropical storm conditions and a dangerous storm surge with destructive waves will continue across portions of the northern coast of the Yucatan Peninsula this evening.



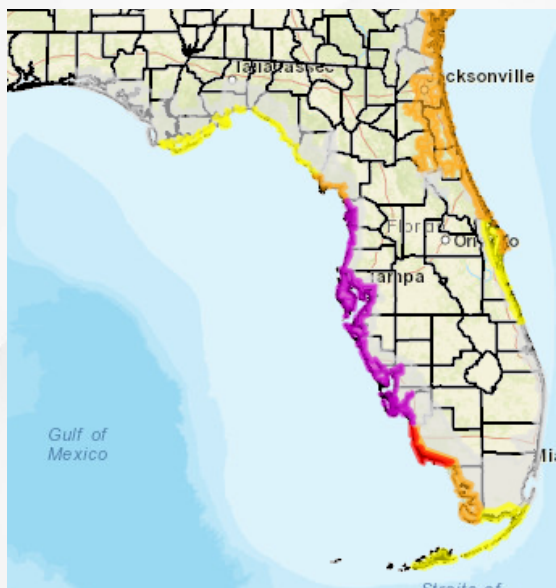


Threats & Impacts

From the National Weather Service

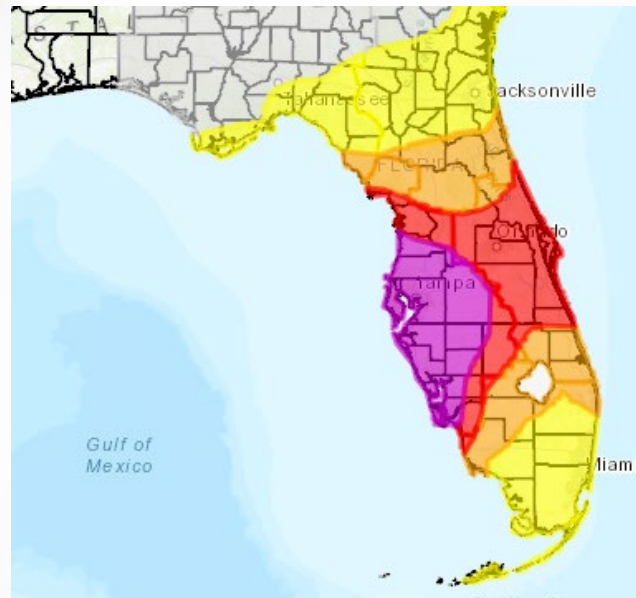
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Storm Surge



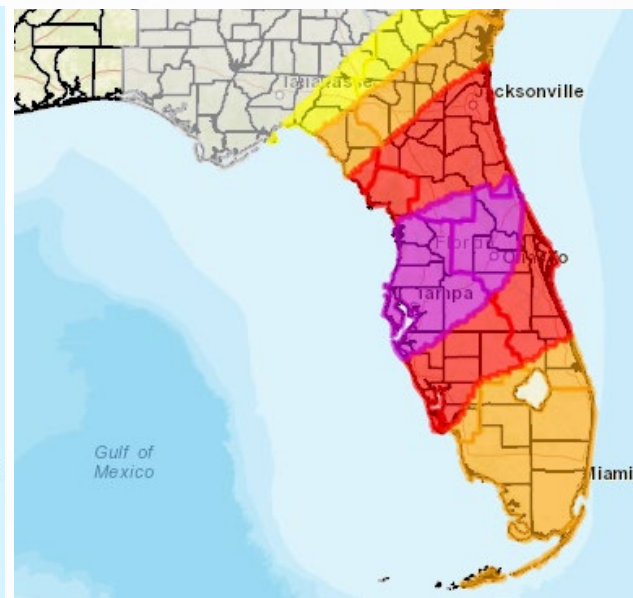
- Widespread deep inundation, with storm surge flooding greatly accentuated by powerful battering waves. Structural damage to buildings, with many washing away. Damage greatly compounded from considerable floating debris. Locations may be uninhabitable for an extended period.
- Near-shore escape routes 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.

Wind



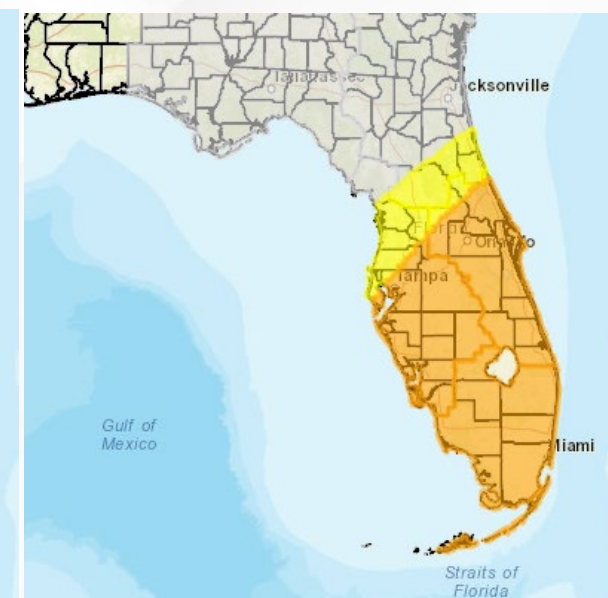
- Structural damage to sturdy buildings, some with complete roof and wall failures. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Damage greatly accentuated by large airborne projectiles. Locations may be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
- Numerous large trees snapped or uprooted along with fences and roadway 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.

Flooding



- Major rainfall flooding may prompt many 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.

Tornadoes

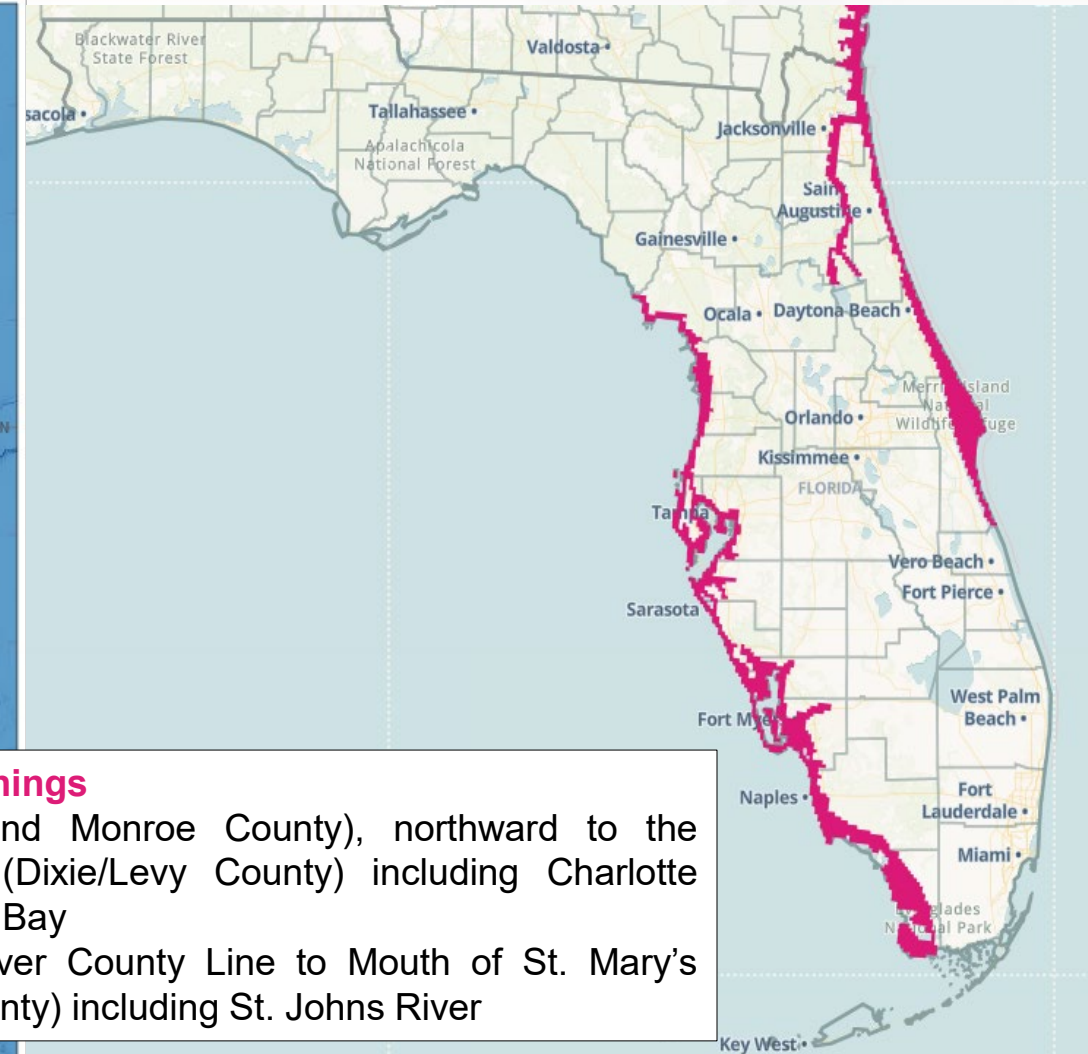
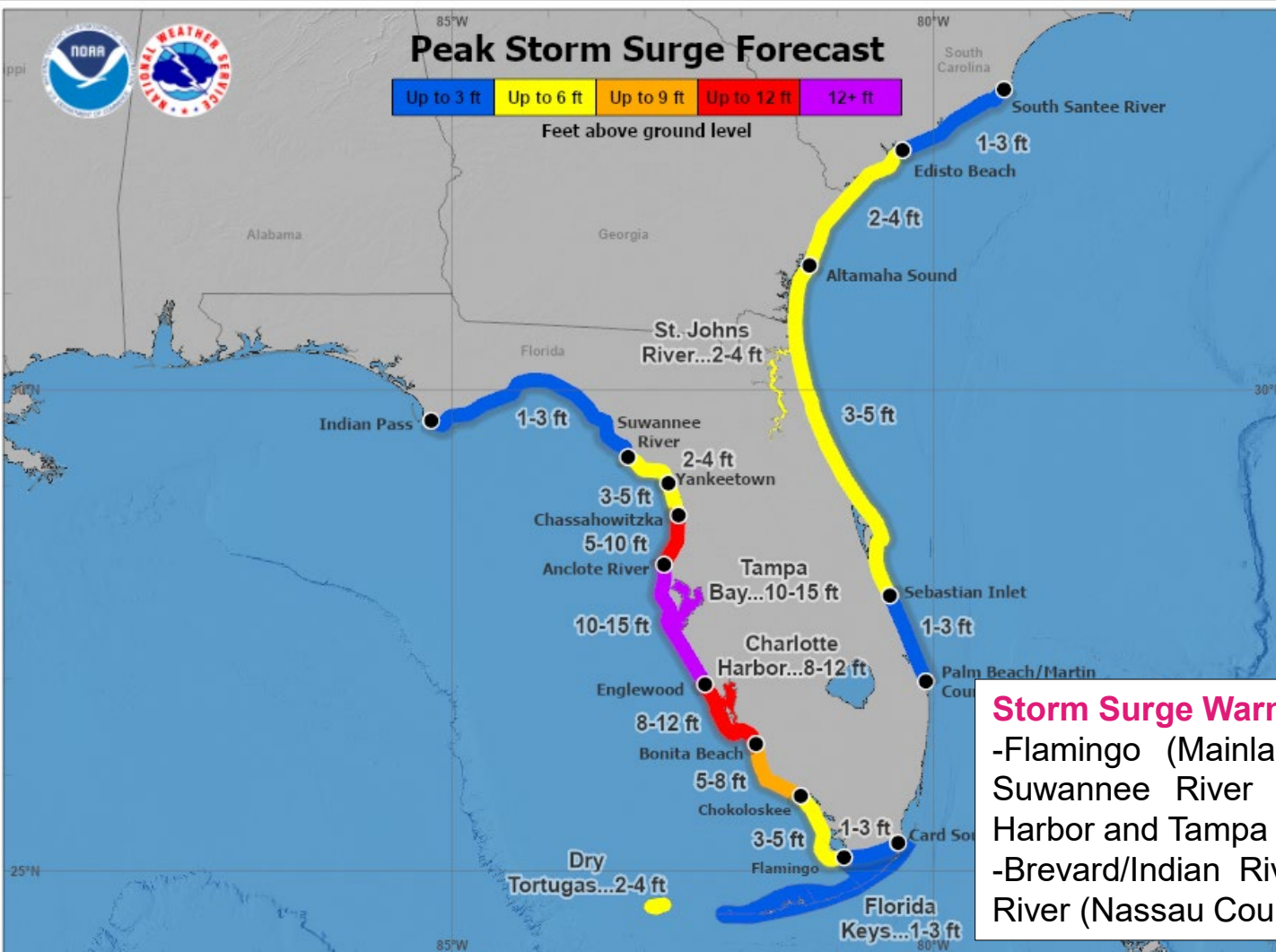


- The occurrence of scattered tornadoes can hinder the execution of emergency plans during tropical events.
- Several places may experience tornado damage with a few spots of considerable damage, power loss, and communications failures.
- Locations could realize roofs torn off frame houses, mobile homes demolished, boxcars overturned, large trees snapped or uprooted, vehicles tumbled, and small boats tossed about. Dangerous projectiles can add to the toll.



Current Storm Surge Watches & Warnings

As of 5:00 PM EDT Tuesday



Storm Surge Warnings

- Flamingo (Mainland Monroe County), northward to the Suwannee River (Dixie/Levy County) including Charlotte Harbor and Tampa Bay
- Brevard/Indian River County Line to Mouth of St. Mary's River (Nassau County) including St. Johns River

Hurricane Milton
Tuesday October 08, 2024
04 PM CDT Advisory 15
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.

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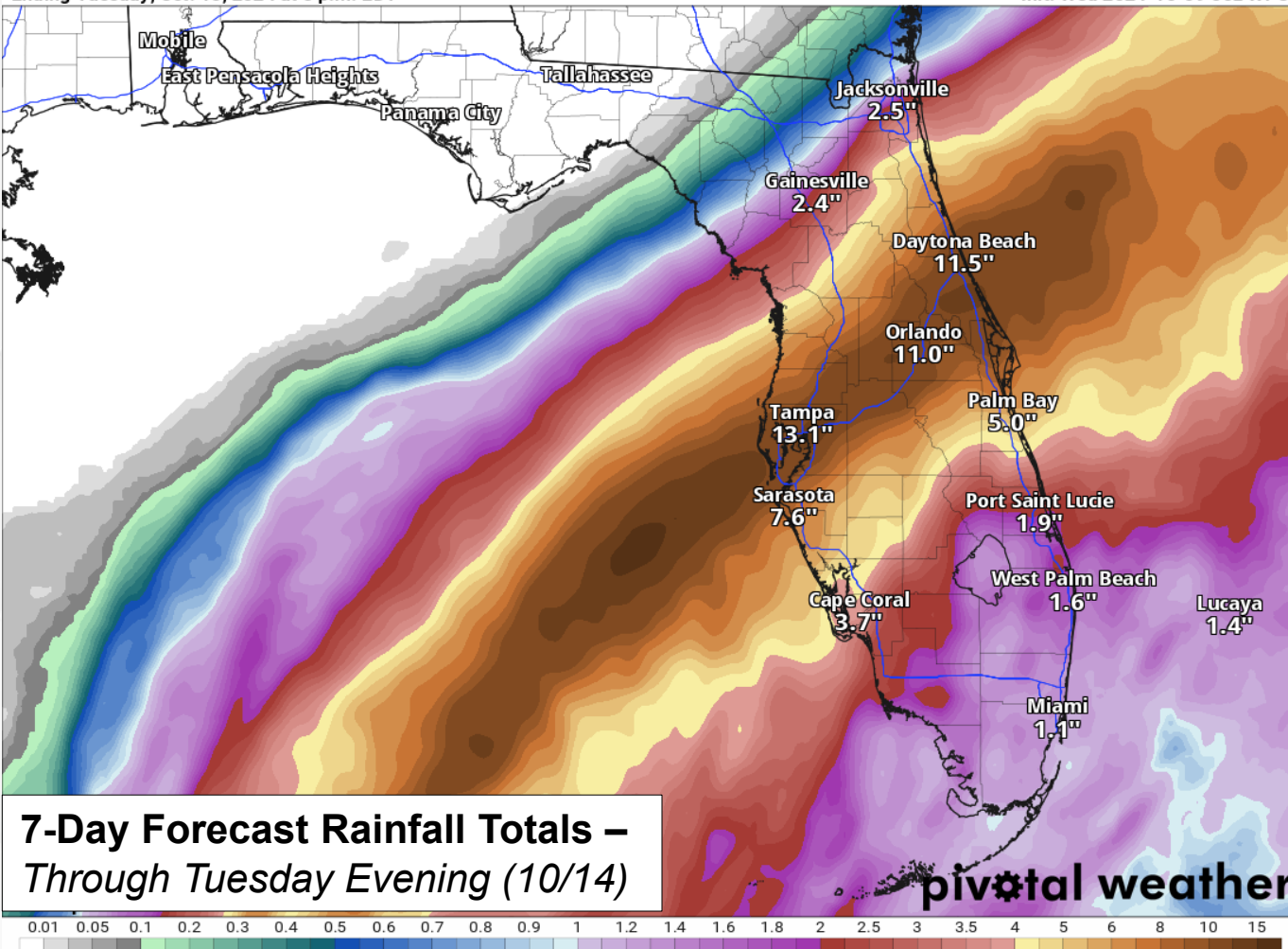
Rainfall Totals – Next 7 Days

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

7-Day Precipitation (in)

Ending Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024 at 8 p.m. EDT

Init: Wed 2024-10-09 00z WPC

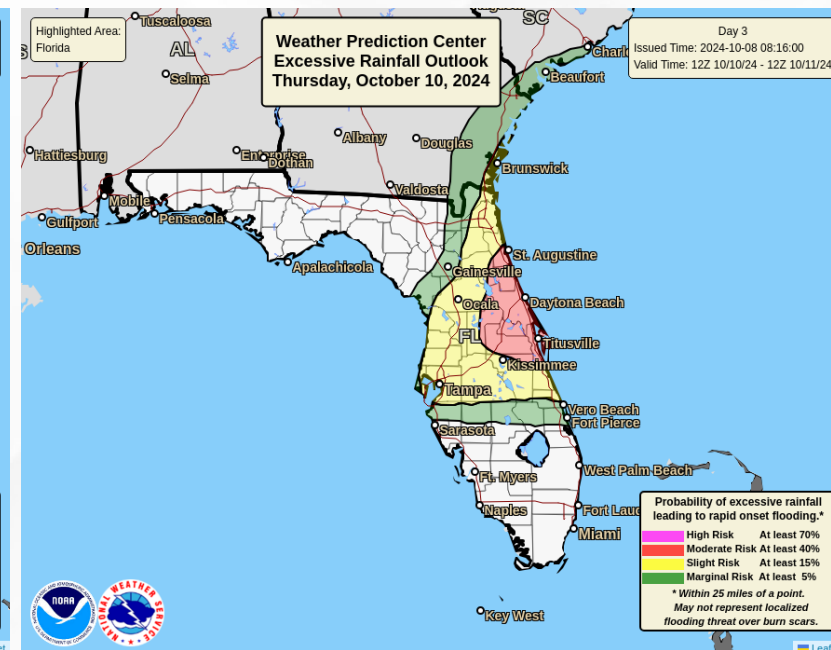
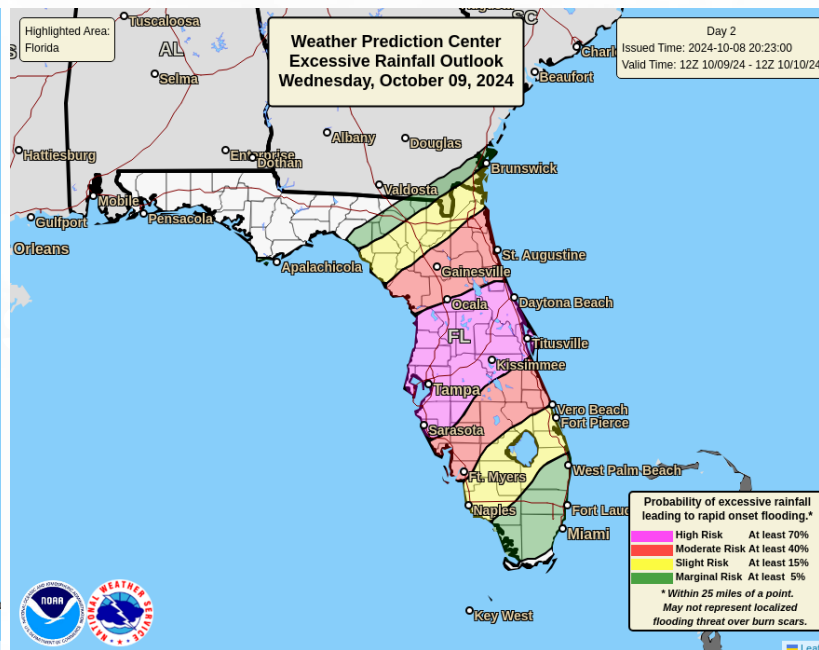
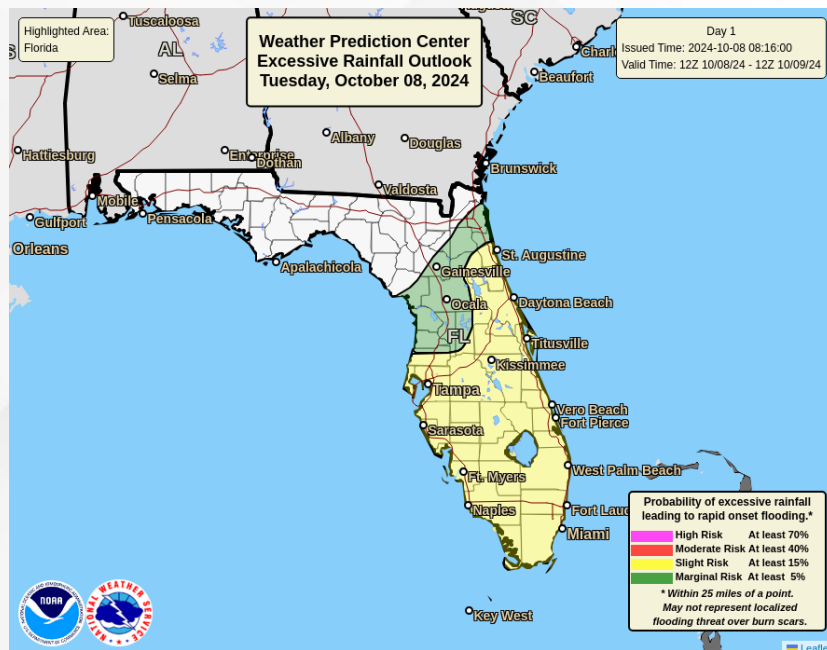


- Heavy rainfall across the Florida Peninsula through Thursday brings the risk of **catastrophic and life-threatening** flash and urban flooding, along with **moderate to major riverine flooding**.
- Widespread rainfall totals near 6-12" with **locally higher totals in excess of 18"** are possible across portions of the Peninsula, mainly along the I-4 corridor.
 - 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.*



Flash Flood Outlooks – Next 5 Days

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

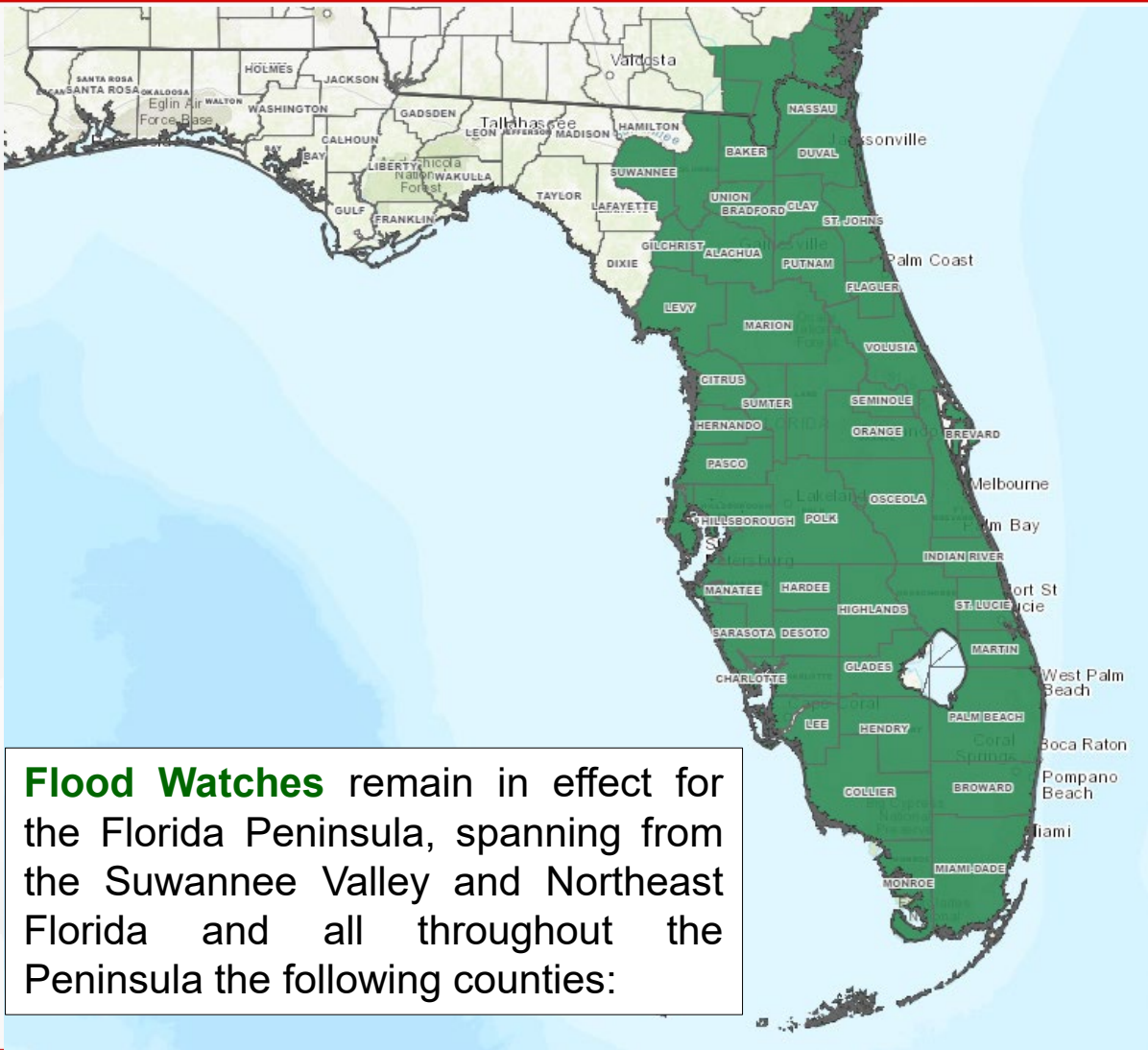


Widespread heavy rainfall can be expected to continue today ahead of the outer bands of Milton, and the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** throughout much of the Peninsula and Keys and into Northeast Florida today with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending into Nature Coast and farther into Northeast Florida. 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. WPC has issued a rare **High Risk (level 4 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the I-4 corridor and northward through the Nature Coast for Wednesday as Milton approaches the west coast of Florida and moves onshore. A **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** spreads across much of North and Central Florida Wednesday with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** extending into portions of the Northwestern Peninsula and into South Florida. A **Slight to Moderate Risk (level 2-3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is maintained north of Lake Okeechobee through Central Florida and into Northeast Florida Thursday as Milton makes its way off the Florida East Coast.



Flood Watches

From the National Weather Service (NWS)

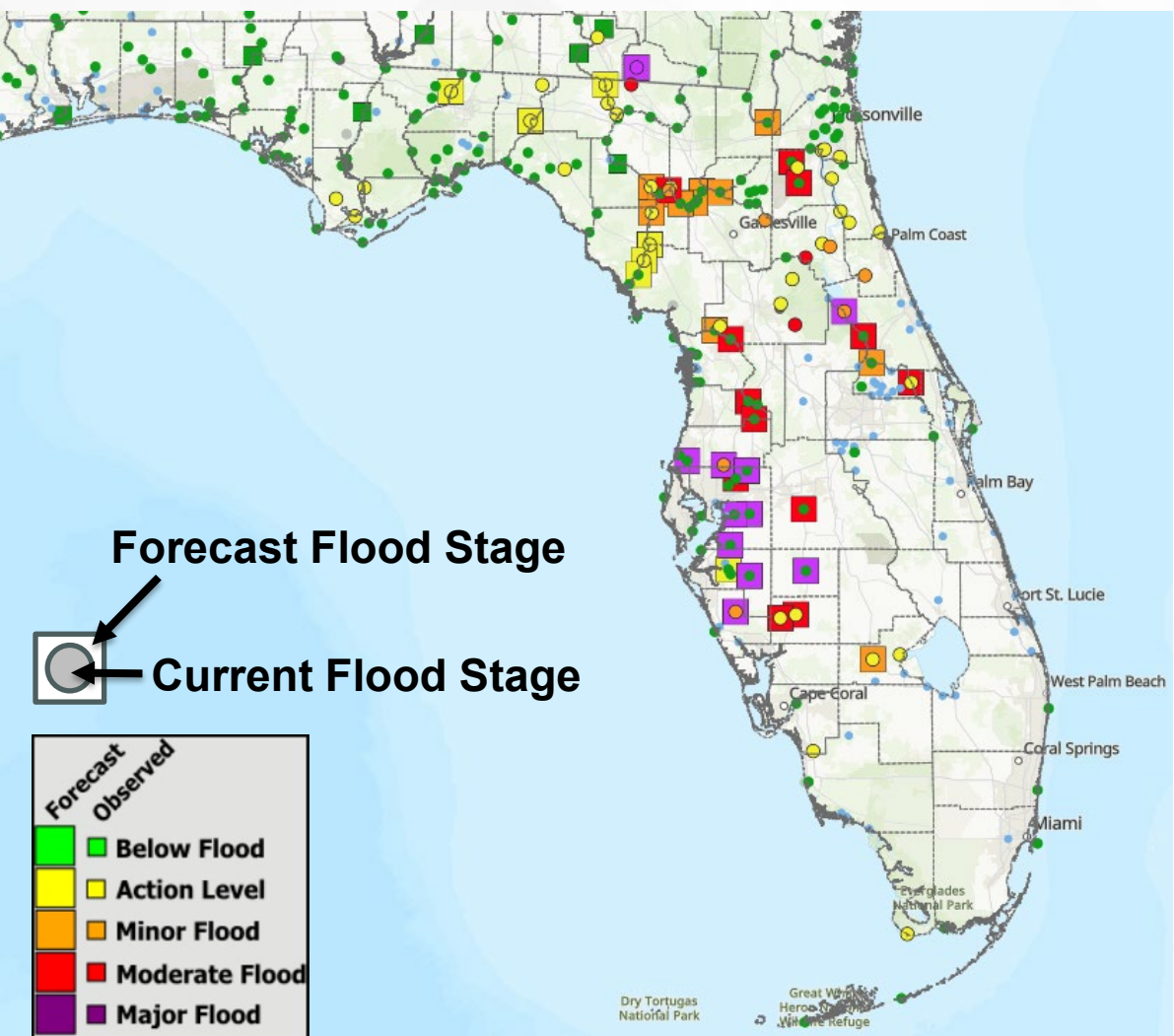


Levy	Volusia	Citrus	Hernando
Pasco	Pinellas	Hillsborough	Manatee
Sarasota	Charlotte	Lee	Collier
Monroe	Hendry	Glades	Highlands
Hardee	DeSoto	Polk	Sumter
Lake	Seminole	Orange	Osceola
Brevard	Okeechobee	Indian River	St. Lucie
Martin	Palm Beach	Broward	Marion
Flagler	Putnam	Alachua	Gilchrist
St. Johns	Clay	Bradford	Union
Columbia	Suwannee	Baker	Duval
Nassau			



Current & Forecast River Conditions

From the National Weather Service



A potentially significant riverine flood event looks to unfold along several West-Florida, Central Florida, and Northeast Florida rivers, creeks/streams, and waterways as widespread moderate to major flooding is forecast. Some historic riverine crests are possible for West-Central Florida rivers.

Major Flood Stage is forecast for the following rivers: Myakka River, Manatee River, Peace River (Zolfo Springs), Alafia River (Pinecrest & Lithia), Hillsborough River (Zephyrhills), Cypress Creek (Worthington Gardens), Anclote River (Elfers), St. Johns River (Astor)

Moderate Flood Stage is forecast for the following rivers: North Fork & South Fork of Black Creek, St. Johns River (Deland & Lake Harney), Withlacoochee River (Holder, Croom, and US-301), Peace River (Bartow & Arcadia), Horse Creek (Arcadia)

Minor Flood Stage is forecast for the following rivers: Fisheating Creek (Palmdale), St. Johns (Sanford), St. Mary's (Macclenny), portions of the Santa Fe & Lower Suwannee

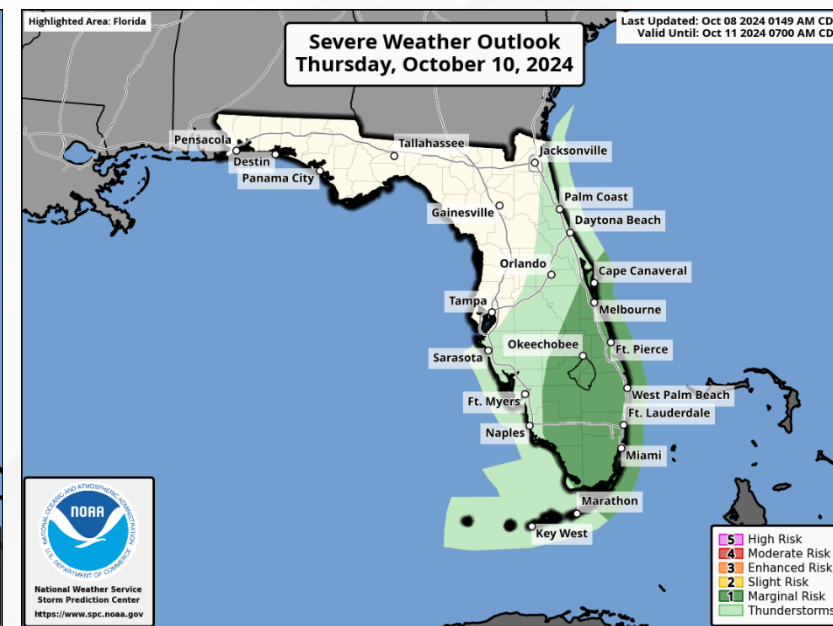
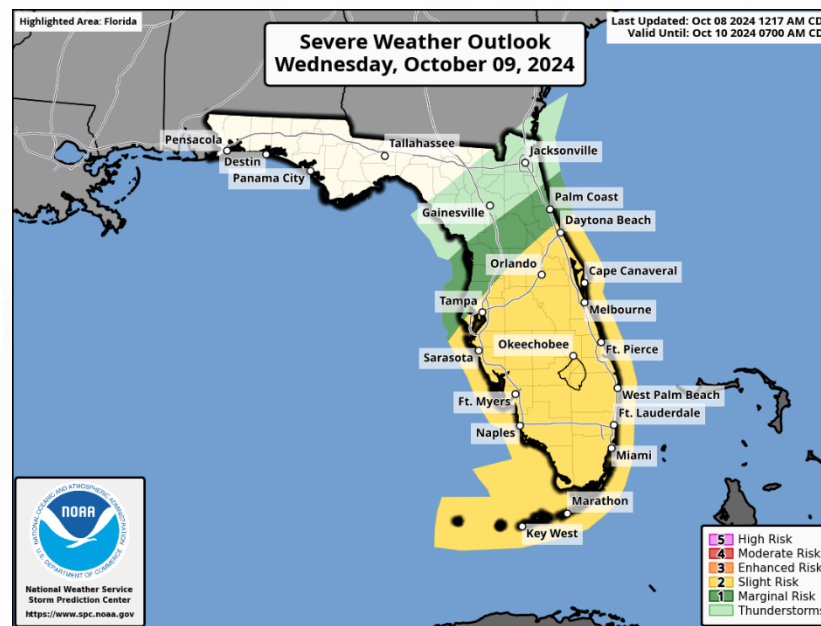
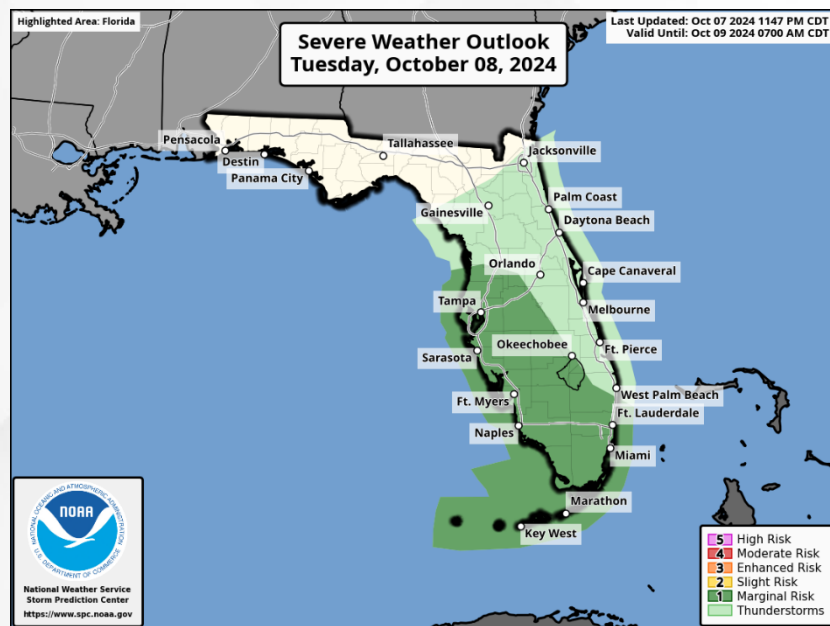
Heavy rainfall across the Florida Peninsula through Thursday brings the risk of catastrophic and life-threatening flash and urban flooding along with moderate to major river flooding, especially in areas where coastal and inland flooding combine to increase the overall flood threat.

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



Isolated Tropical Tornadoes

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 tonight 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 (level 1 of 5)** extending northward towards Gainesville Wednesday as isolated tropical tornadoes will be possible within Hurricane Milton's outer rainbands. A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** is maintained across South Florida and along lower portions of the Central-East Coast Thursday as trailing outer bands may continue to move through as Milton moves off the East Coast of Florida.

Tornado Watches and Warnings will be issued as conditions warrant.



Summary

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Major Hurricane Milton:

- As of 5:00 PM EDT, Milton has become a Category 5 hurricane once again with maximum sustained winds of 165 mph.
- Milton is currently located about 480 miles southwest of Tampa, Florida and is moving east-northeast at 9 mph.
- A turn toward the east-northeast and east is expected on Thursday and Friday.
- On the forecast track, the center of Milton will move across the eastern Gulf of Mexico through Wednesday, make landfall along the West-Central Florida Coast Wednesday night, and move off the east coast of Florida over the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday.
- Fluctuations in intensity are likely while Milton is expected to become a dangerous major hurricane when it reaches the West-Central Coast of Florida Wednesday.
- This is a very serious situation and residents in Florida should closely follow orders from their local emergency management officials.
- Evacuations and other preparations should be completed today; **Milton has the potential to be one of the most destructive hurricanes on record for West-Central Florida.**
- The official forecast shows the hurricane and tropical-storm-force winds roughly doubling in size by the time it makes landfall. In addition, the stronger-than-normal winds could occur on the northwest/back side of the storm since Milton will be interacting with a frontal boundary and beginning extratropical transition. **Damaging winds, life-threatening storm surge, and heavy rainfall will extend well outside the forecast cone.**

Florida Outlook:

- **Hurricane Warning:** St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler, Marion, Levy, Citrus, Sumter, Lake, Volusia, Hernando, Seminole, Orange, Brevard, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Osceola, Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Highlands, Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, Charlotte, Lee
- **Hurricane Watch:** Nassau, Duval, Clay, Martin, Glades, Hendry, Collier, Dry Tortugas, Lake Okeechobee
- **Tropical Storm Warning:** Coastal Franklin, Coastal Wakulla, Coastal Jefferson, Taylor, Suwannee, Dixie, Lafayette, Columbia, Gilchrist, Baker, Union, Bradford, Alachua, Clay, Nassau, Duval, Margin, Glades, Hendry, Palm Beach, Collier, Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe (Mainland & Keys)
- **Tropical Storm Watch:** Inland Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton
- **Storm Surge Warning:** Dixie/Levy County Line through Mainland Monroe; East Coast through Brevard County
- **Storm Surge Values (Peak Forecast):**
 - Anclote River (Pasco/Pinellas County Line) to Englewood (Sarasota/Charlotte County Line), including Tampa Bay: **10-15'**
 - Englewood (Sarasota/Charlotte County Line) to Bonita Beach (Lee/Collier County Line), including Charlotte Harbor: **6-12'**
 - Yankeetown (Levy/Citrus County Line) to Anclote River (Pasco/Pinellas County Line): **5-10'**
 - Bonita Beach (Lee/Collier County Line) to Chokoloskee (Collier/Monroe County Line): **5-8'**
 - Suwannee River to Yankeetown and Chokoloskee to Flamingo: **3-5'**
 - Flagler/Volusia County Line to Florida-Georgia state line: **3-5'**
 - Sebastian Inlet to Flagler/Volusia County Line: **2-4'**
 - Dry Tortugas: **2-4'**
 - St. Johns River: **2-4'**

The next briefing packet will be issued on Tuesday Night. For the latest information, please visit the [National Hurricane Center website](#).



Summary

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Florida Outlook:

- Areas of heavy rainfall will impact portions of Florida this evening, well ahead of Milton, with rainfall more directly tied to Milton expected late tonight and Wednesday. **Widespread rainfall totals near 6-12”** with locally higher totals **in excess of 18”** are possible across portions of the Peninsula.
- Heavy rainfall across the Florida Peninsula through Thursday brings the risk of catastrophic and life-threatening flash and urban flooding, along with moderate to major riverine flooding.
 - **A rare High Risk (level 4 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked along the I-4 corridor and northward through the Nature Coast for Wednesday as Milton approaches the west coast of Florida and moves onshore. A **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4)** spreads across much of North and Central Florida Wednesday with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** extending into portions of the Northwestern Peninsula and into South Florida.
 - A **Slight to Moderate Risk (level 2-3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is maintained north of Lake Okeechobee through Central Florida and into Northeast Florida Thursday as Milton makes its way off the Florida East Coast.
 - **Flood Watches** extend from the Suwannee Valley, Northeast Florida and throughout the entire Peninsula.
- 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** have been issued for many Northeast, Central, and West Florida rivers as a potentially significant riverine flood event may unfold with Milton's forecast heavy rainfall.
 - Computer models are currently suggesting there is potential for **widespread moderate to major flooding** across West-Central Florida waterways, as well as portions of the St. Johns and inland quicker-response river/stream systems across Central Florida.
 - Heavy rainfall across the Florida Peninsula through Thursday brings the risk for life-threatening flash and urban flooding along with moderate to major riverine flooding, especially in areas where coastal and inland combine to increase the overall flood threat.
- 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.*
 - A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** is maintained across South Florida and along lower portions of the Central-East Coast Thursday as trailing outer bands may continue to move through as Milton moves off the East Coast of Florida.

The next briefing packet will be issued on Tuesday evening. For the latest information, please visit the [National Hurricane Center website](#).



Tropical Update

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State Meteorological Support Unit

Florida Division of Emergency Management

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