



Tropical Update



8:30 AM EDT

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Major Hurricane Milton

**Winds Will Begin to Increase Along the West Coast of Florida by This Afternoon
Preparations, Including Evacuation If Told to Do So, Should Be Rushed to
Completion This Morning**

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.

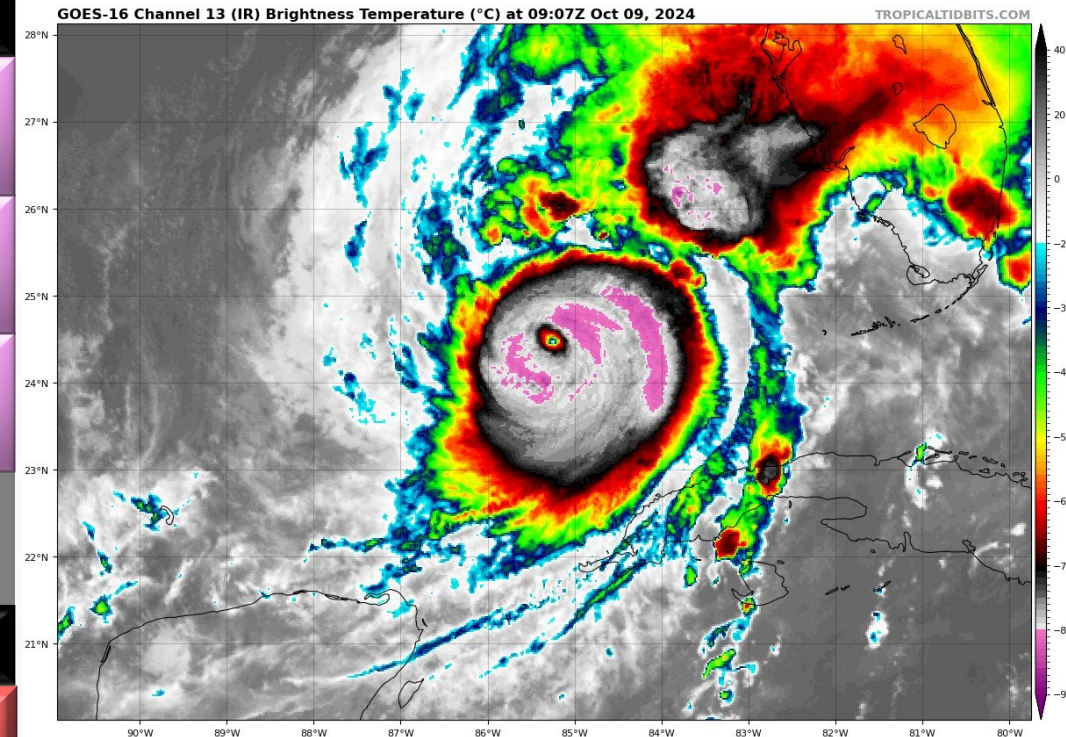


Major Hurricane Milton

8:00 AM EDT Wednesday: 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 AM EDT

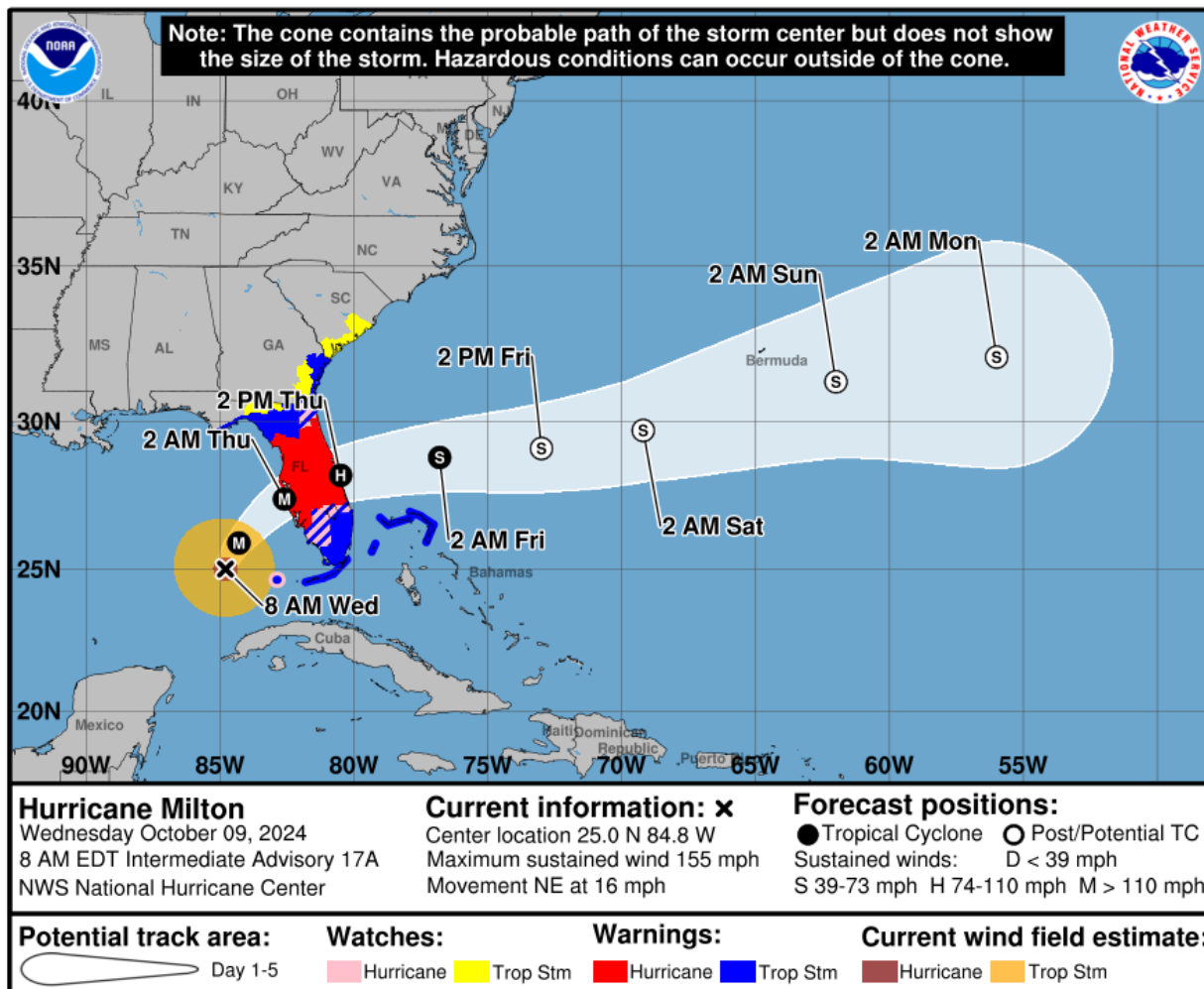
Overview/Recent Changes: As of 8:00 AM EDT, Milton remains an extremely dangerous Category 4 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 155 mph. Milton is approximately 250 miles southwest of Tampa, Florida and is moving northeast at 16 mph. Milton is forecast to make landfall late tonight/early Thursday morning as an extremely dangerous Category 4 hurricane along the West-Central Florida coastline.

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 rushed to completion. Milton has the potential to be one of the most destructive hurricanes on record for West-Central Florida. Damaging winds, life-threatening storm surge, and heavy rainfall will extend well outside the forecast cone.



Major Hurricane Milton

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



- **Location:** 250 miles SW of Tampa, Florida
- **Maximum Sustained Winds:** 155 mph, Category 4
- **Current Movement:** NE at 16 mph

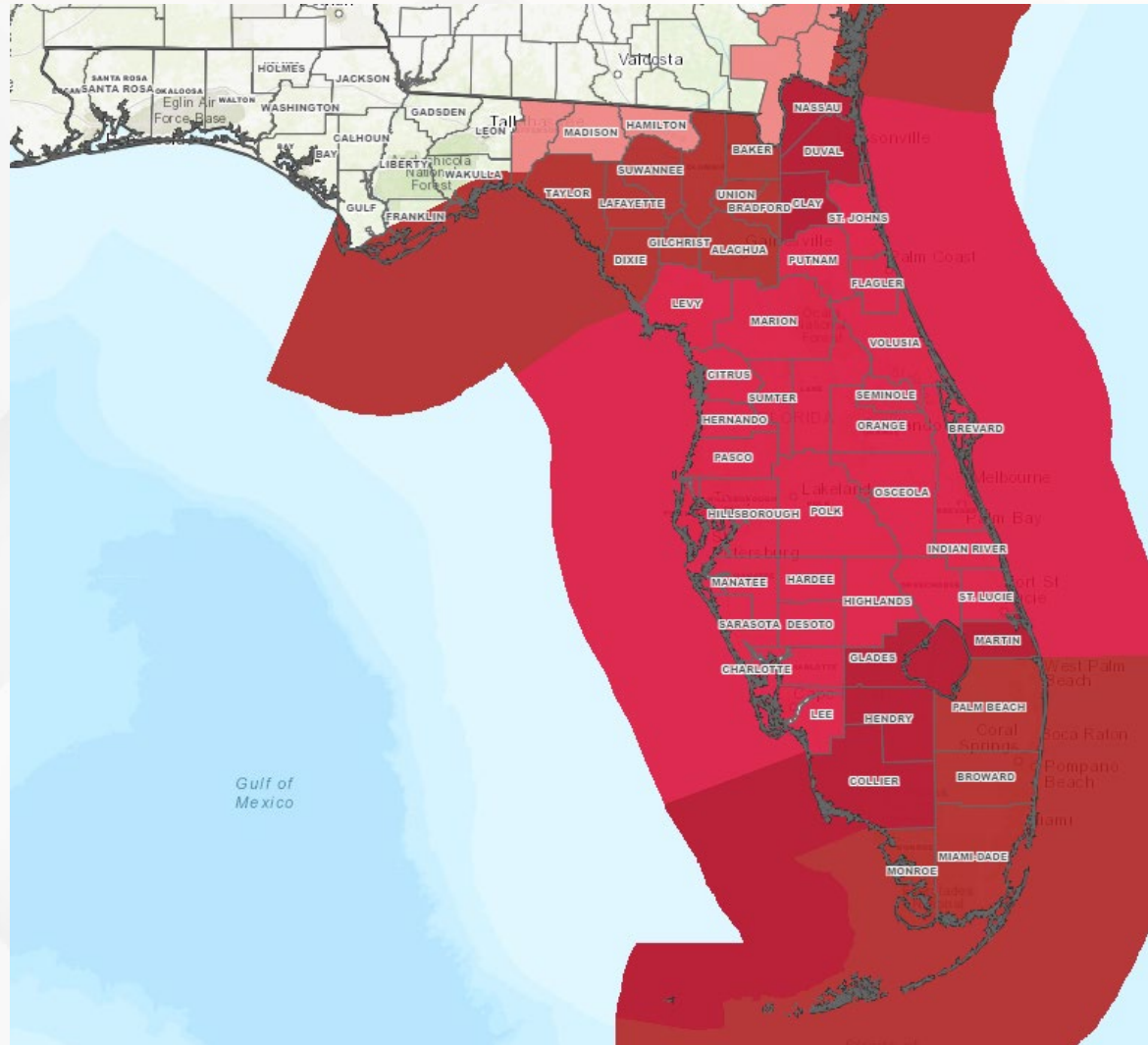
A northeastward motion is expected through today. A turn toward the east-northeast and east is expected on Thursday and Friday. On the forecast track, the center of Milton will move across the eastern Gulf of Mexico today, make landfall along the West-Central Florida Coast late tonight or early Thursday morning, and move off the Florida East Coast over the western Atlantic Ocean Thursday afternoon. Milton is expected to remain an extremely dangerous major hurricane when it reaches the west-central coast of Florida tonight.

- 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 rushed to completion.
- Milton has the potential to be one of the most destructive hurricanes on record for West-Central Florida.
- Damaging winds, life-threatening storm surge, and heavy rainfall will extend well outside the forecast cone.



Current Tropical Wind Watches/Warnings

As of 8:00 AM EDT Wednesday



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, Martin, Glades, Hendry, Palm Beach, Collier, Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe (Mainland & Keys), Dry Tortugas, Lake Okeechobee

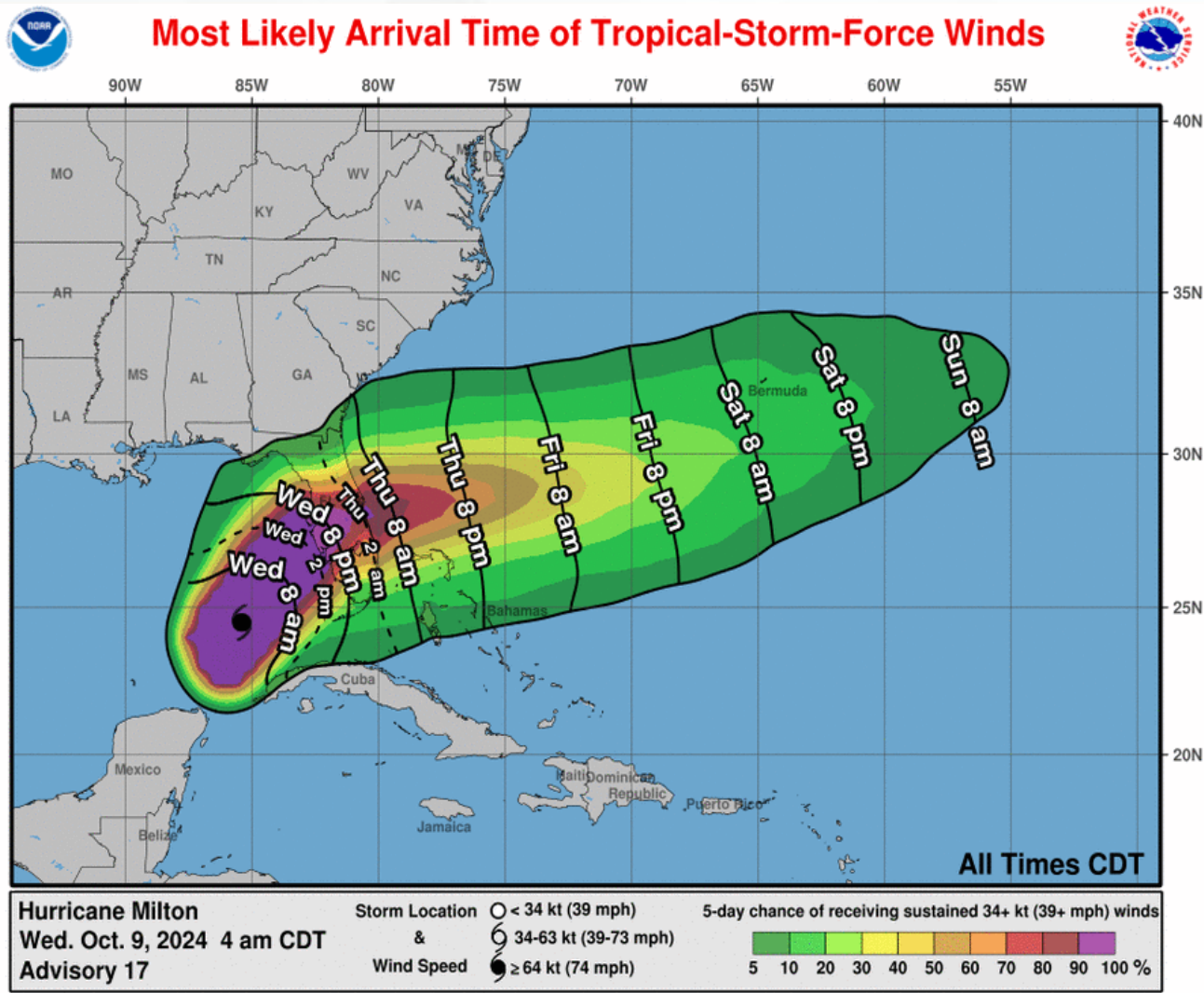
Hurricane Watch: Nassau, Duval, Clay, Martin, Glades, Hendry, Collier, Dry Tortugas, Lake Okeechobee

Tropical Storm Watch: Inland Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton



Timing of Arrival – Tropical Storm-Force Conditions

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



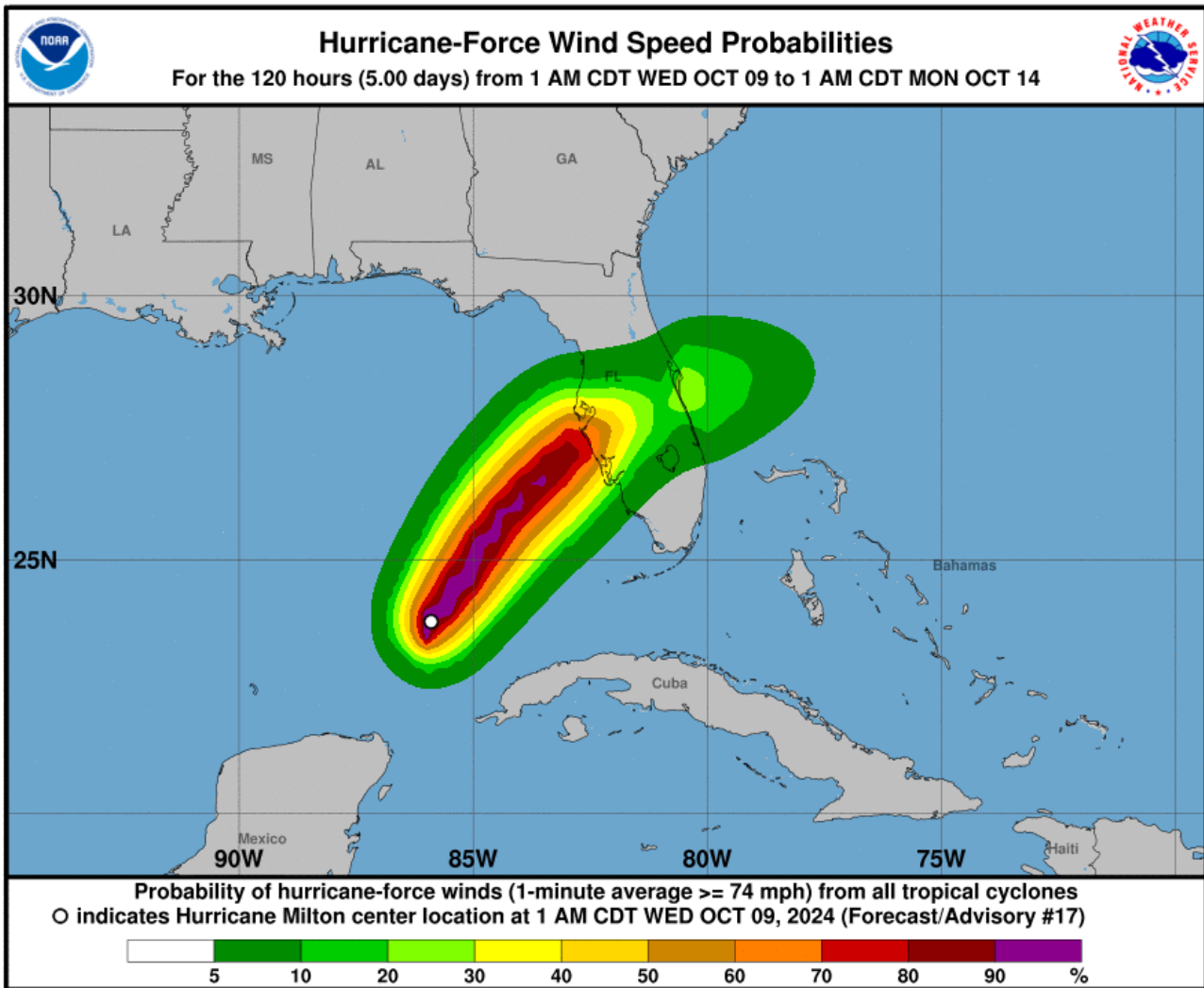
- Tropical storm-force conditions will most likely arrive along the West Florida coastline Wednesday afternoon and evening and spread eastward across the Florida Peninsula through the overnight and early mornings hours on Thursday.
- Tropical storm-force winds could arrive as early as midday Wednesday 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	17% (-9%)
Naples	82% (+2%)
Fort Myers	85% (+4%)
Miami	14% (-1%)
West Palm	65% (+4%)
Venice	100% (+2%)
Tampa	98% (+6%)
Orlando	87% (+11%)
Cocoa Beach	92% (+2%)
Cedar Key	60% (+14%)
Daytona Beach	55% (+5%)
Gainesville	23% (+6%)
Jacksonville	7% (-2%)



Hurricane-Force Wind Conditions

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



Devastating hurricane-force winds are expected along portions of the west coast of Florida. **Life-threatening hurricane-force winds**, especially in gusts, are expected to spread inland across the Peninsula as Milton cross the region.

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	6%
Fort Myers	11%
West Palm	4%
Venice	72%
Tampa	55%
Orlando	18%
Cocoa Beach	33%
Cedar Key	3%
Daytona Beach	2%



Key Messages

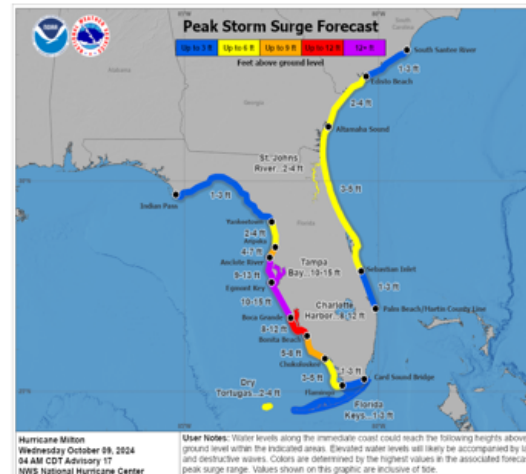
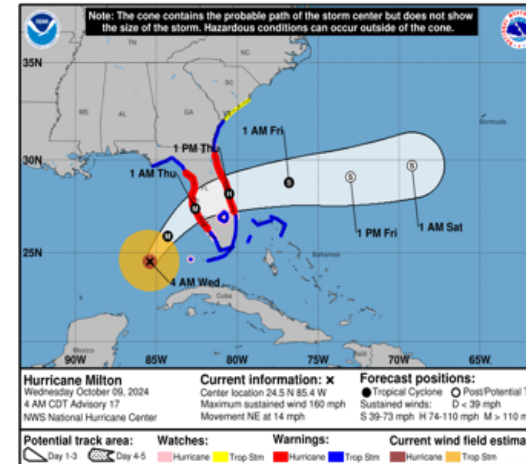
From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



Key Messages for Hurricane Milton Advisory 17: 4:00 AM CDT Wed Oct 09, 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 as soon as possible if ordered by local officials.
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 while 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 rushed to completion.
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.



For more information go to hurricanes.gov

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Threats & Impacts

From the National Weather Service

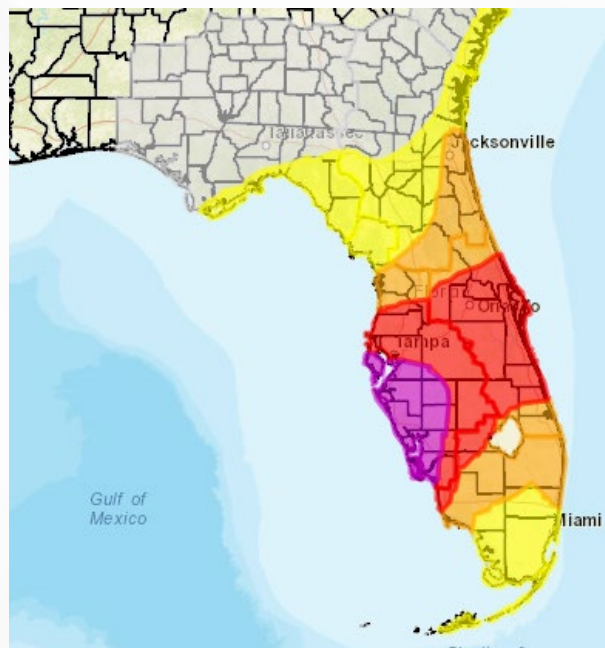
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Storm Surge



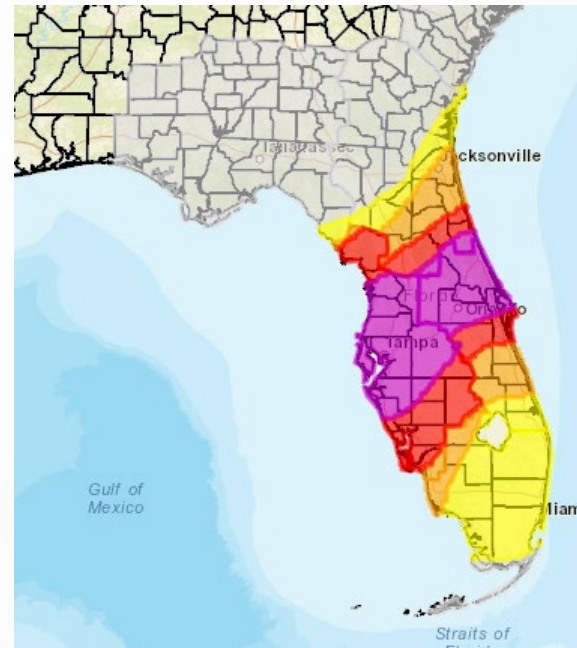
- Widespread deep inundation, with storm surge flooding greatly accentuated by powerful battering waves. Structural damage to buildings, with many washing away. Damage greatly compounded from considerable floating debris. Locations may be uninhabitable for an extended period.
- Near-shore escape routes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



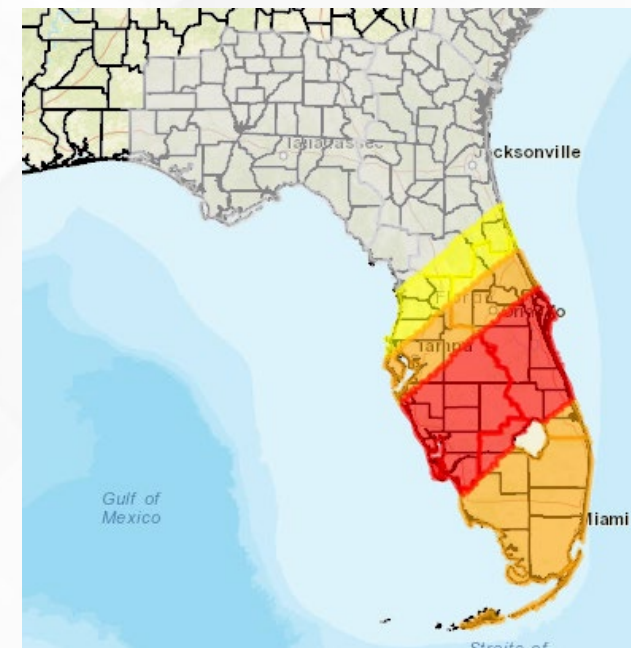
- Structural damage to sturdy buildings, some with complete roof and wall failures. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Damage greatly accentuated by large airborne projectiles. Locations may be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
- Numerous large trees snapped or uprooted along with fences and roadway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



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

Tornadoes

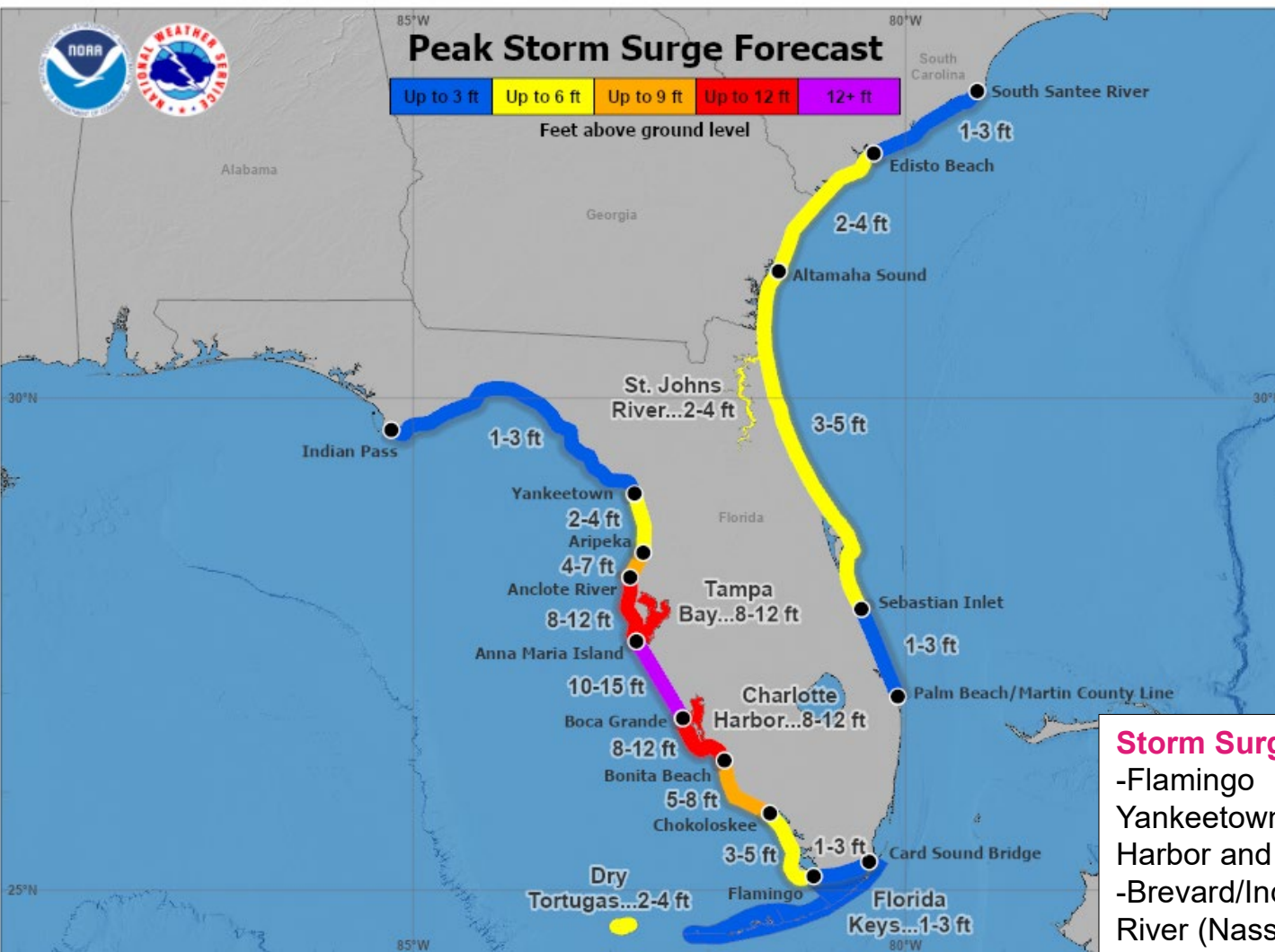


- The occurrence of numerous tornadoes can greatly hinder the execution of emergency plans during tropical events.
- Many places may experience tornado damage with a few spots of immense destruction, power loss, and communications failures.
- Locations could realize roof and wall failures of sturdy buildings with some being leveled, structures upon weak foundations blown away, mobile homes obliterated, large trees twisted and snapped with forested trees uprooted, vehicles lifted off the ground and thrown, and boats destroyed. Large and deadly projectiles can add to the toll.



Current Storm Surge Watches & Warnings

As of 8:00 AM EDT Wednesday



Storm Surge Warnings

- Flamingo (Mainland Monroe County), northward to Yankeetown (Levy/Citrus 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
Wednesday October 09, 2024
08 AM EDT Advisory 17A
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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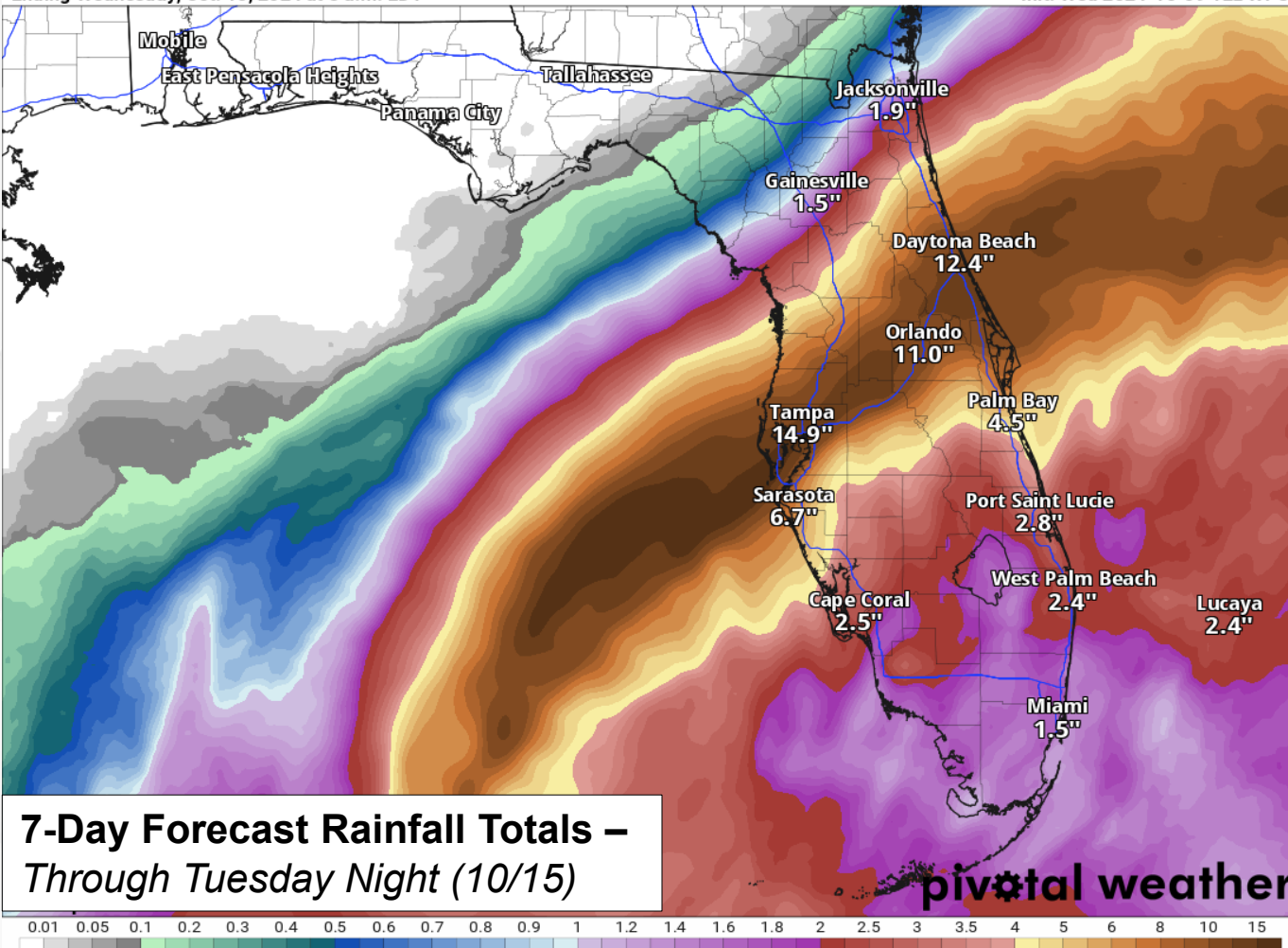
Rainfall Totals – Next 7 Days

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

7-Day Precipitation (in)

Ending Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024 at 8 a.m. EDT

Init: Wed 2024-10-09 12z WPC

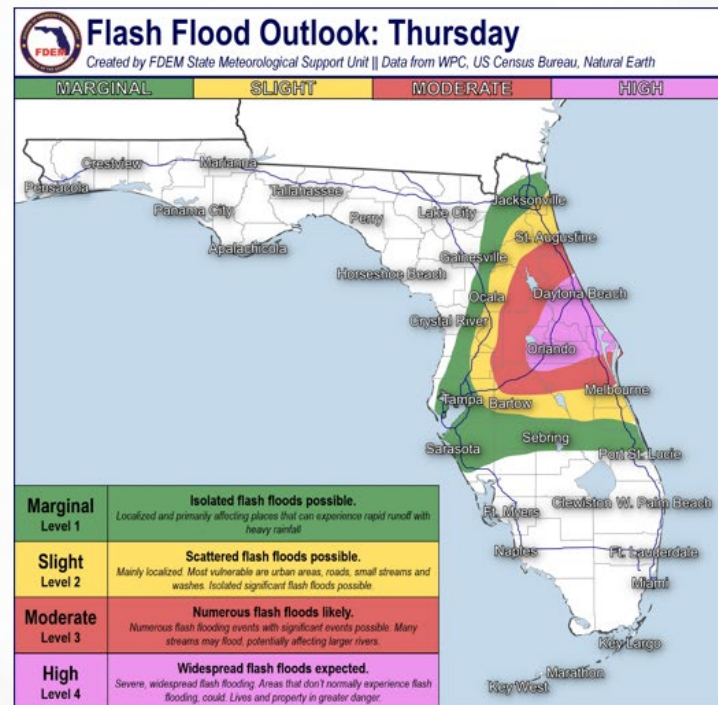
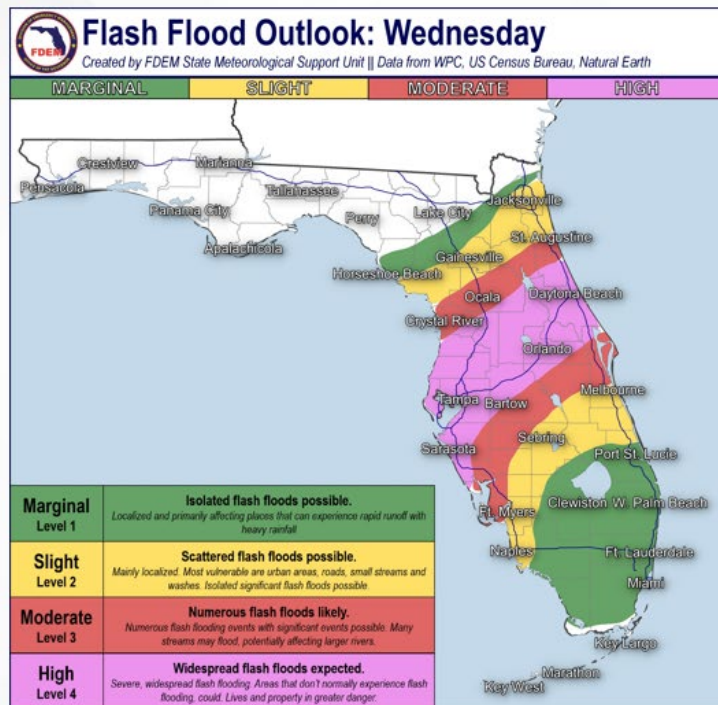


- Heavy rainfall across the Florida Peninsula through Thursday brings the risk of **catastrophic and life-threatening** flash and urban flooding, along with **moderate to major riverine flooding**.
- Widespread rainfall totals near 6-12" with **locally higher totals in excess of 18"** are possible across 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 3 Days

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

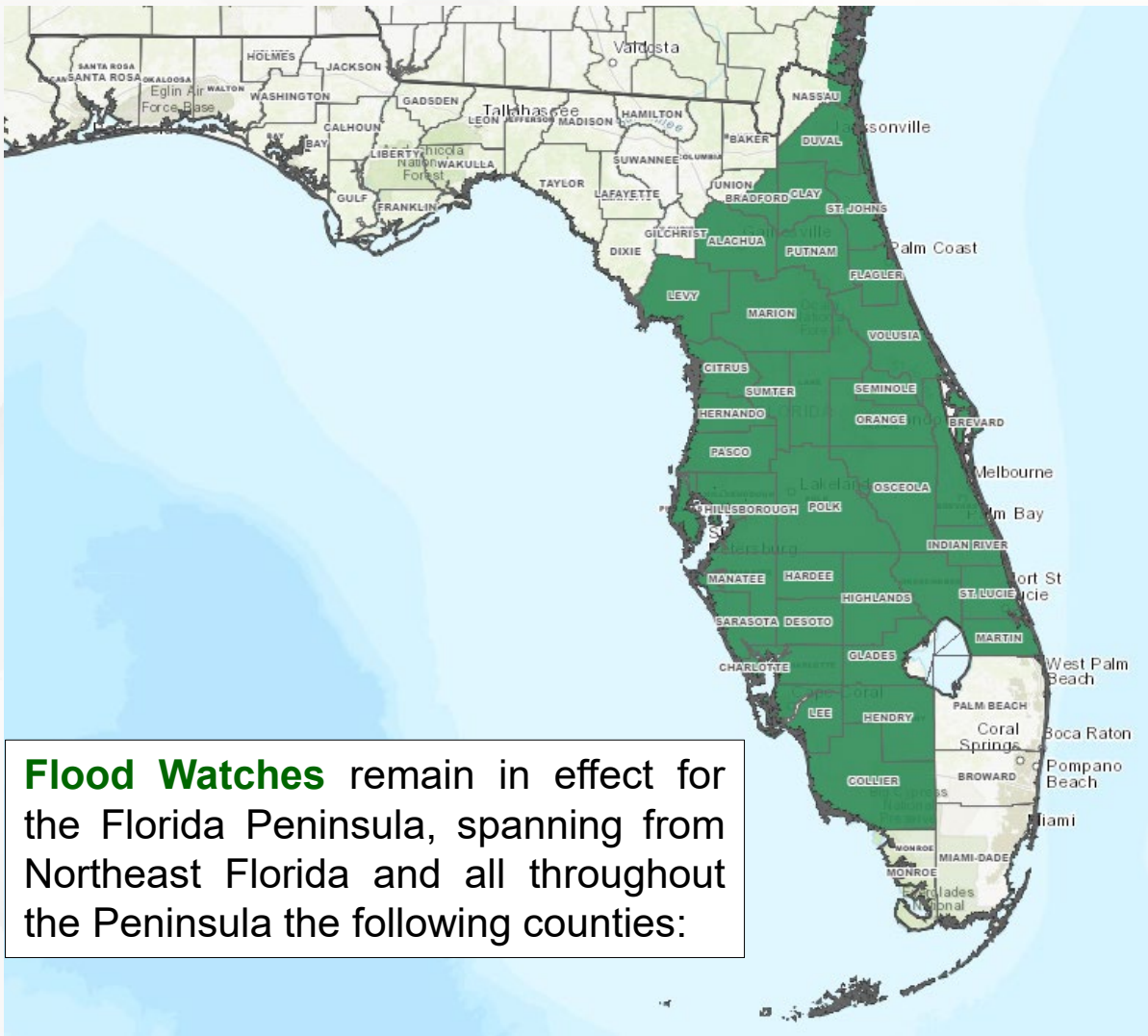


Heavy rainfall across the Florida Peninsula through Thursday with Milton brings the risk of **catastrophic and life-threatening flash and urban flooding**, especially in areas where coastal and inland flooding combine to increase the overall flood threat. There is an area of heavy rain beginning to spread across portions of southwestern and west-central Florida out ahead of Milton, and weather conditions will steadily deteriorate across portions of the Florida Gulf Coast throughout the day. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **rare High Risk (level 4 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the I-4 corridor and north towards Ocala and through the Tampa Bay Area today. A **Slight to Moderate Risk (level 2-3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** spreads across much of North and Central Florida and into Southwest Florida. A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extends through the Southern Peninsula. 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. A **rare High Risk (level 4 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is maintained along the eastern I-4 corridor and through the Space Coast Thursday with a **Slight to Moderate Risk (level 2-3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** extending along the I-4 corridor towards Tampa, northward into Northeast Florida, and southward through Melbourne as Milton makes its way off the Florida East Coast.



Flood Watches

From the National Weather Service (NWS)



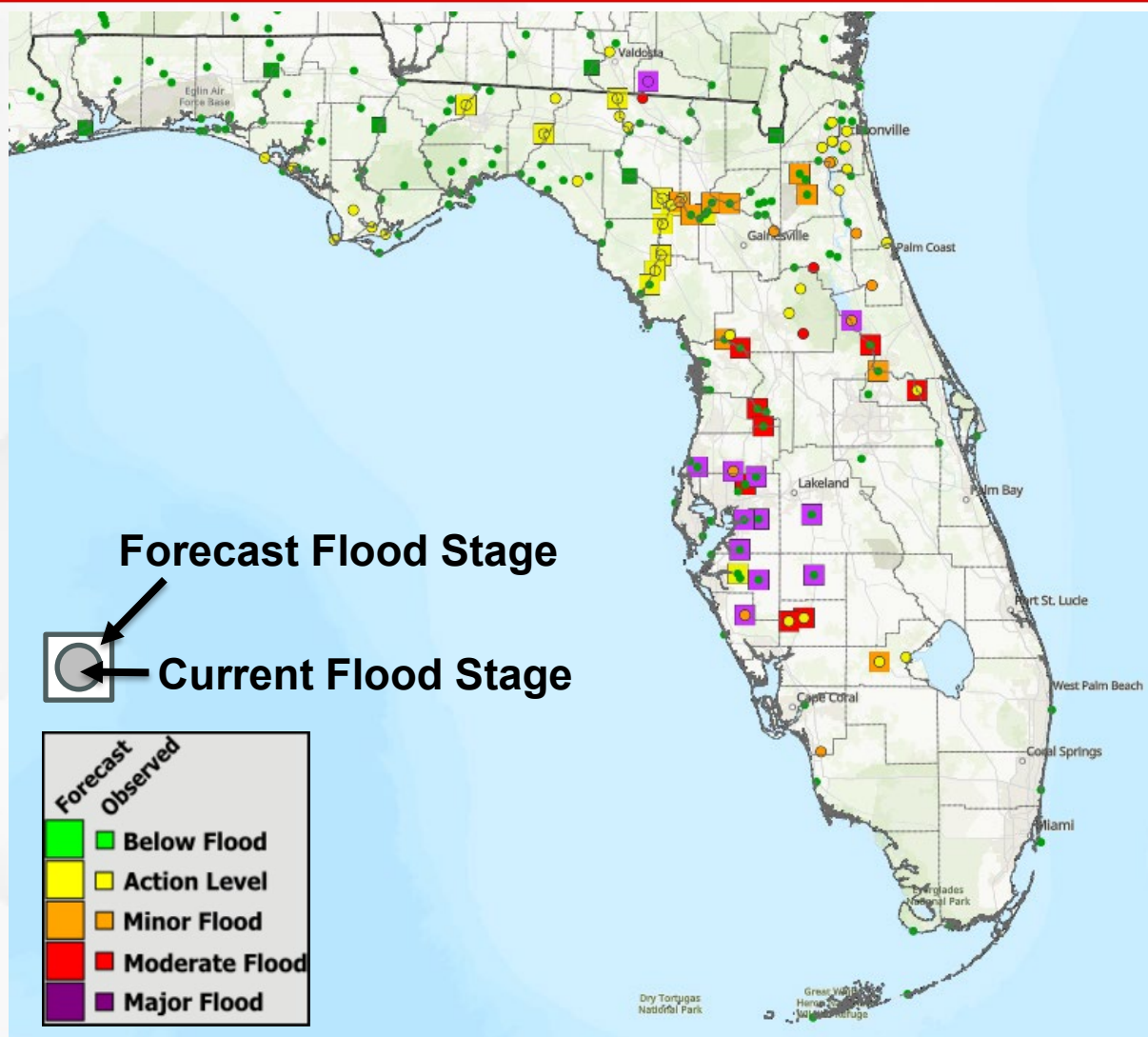
Flood Watches remain in effect for the Florida Peninsula, spanning from Northeast Florida and all throughout the Peninsula the following counties:

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



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 ([Myakka River State Park](#)), Manatee River ([Myakka Head](#)), Little Manatee River ([Wimauma](#)), Peace River ([SR-60 Bartow](#) & [Zolfo Springs](#)), Alafia River ([Lithia Pinecrest](#) & [Riverview](#)), Hillsborough River ([Zephyrhills](#)), Cypress Creek ([Worthington Gardens](#)), Anclote River ([Elfers](#)), St. Johns River ([Astor](#))

Moderate Flood Stage is forecast for the following rivers: St. Johns River ([Deland](#) & [Lake Harney](#)), Withlacoochee River ([Holder](#), [Croom](#), and [US-301 Trilby](#)), Hillsborough River ([Morris Bridge](#)), Peace River ([Arcadia](#)), Horse Creek ([Arcadia](#))

Minor Flood Stage is forecast for the following rivers: [North Fork](#) & [South Fork](#) of Black Creek, Fisheating Creek ([Palmdale](#)), St. Johns River ([Sanford](#)), Withlacoochee River ([US-41 Dunnellon](#)), Santa Fe River ([Three Rivers Estates](#), [Fort White](#), [O'leno State Park](#), & [Worthington Springs](#))

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](#).



River Flood Warnings

From the National Weather Service

River Gauge	County(ies) Affected	Current Level	Crest Level	Record Level	Status	Crest Day	Warning Expires
Alafia River at Riverview near US-301	Hillsborough	Below: 2.99 ft	Major: 11.30 ft	9.40 ft	Rising (Tidal)	10-Oct	1532 EDT 10-Oct
Alafia River at Lithia Pinecrest Road at Lithia	Hillsborough	Below: 8.44 ft	Major: 21.80 ft	28.50 ft	Steady	11-Oct	Until Further Notice
Anclote River near Elfers at Little Road	Pasco	Below: 12.87 ft	Major: 25.90 ft	27.70 ft	Steady	11-Oct	Until Further Notice
Cypress Creek at SR-54	Pasco	Minor: 8.61 ft	Major: 15.00 ft	13.80 ft	Rising	12-Oct	Until Further Notice
Fisheating Creek at Palmdale	Glades	Action: 6.21 ft	Minor: 7.60 ft	12.40 ft	Steady	12-Oct	Until Further Notice
Hillsborough River near Zephyrhills	Hillsborough	Below: 3.83 ft	Major: 16.50 ft	15.30 ft	Falling	11-Oct	Until Further Notice
Hillsborough River at Morris Bridge	Hillsborough	Below: 28.28 ft	Moderate: 35.70 ft	34.70 ft	Steady	12-Oct	Until Further Notice
Horse Creek near Arcadia at SR-72	DeSoto	Action: 10.73 ft	Moderate: 15.40 ft	21.20 ft	Steady	12-Oct	Until Further Notice
Little Manatee River near Wimauma at US-301	Hillsborough	Below: 7.43 ft	Major: 19.40 ft	20.10 ft	Falling	11-Oct	Until Further Notice
Manatee River near Myakka Head at SR-64	Manatee	Below: 7.34 ft	Major: 17.50 ft	20.90 ft	Steady	10-Oct	Until Further Notice
Myakka River at Myakka River State Park	Sarasota	Minor: 7.09 ft	Major: 10.60 ft	12.80 ft	Steady	13-Oct	Until Further Notice
North Fork Black Creek near Middleburg	Clay	Below: 5.35 ft	Minor: 16.30 ft	27.90 ft	Falling	11-Oct	0930 EDT 11-Oct
South Fork Black Creek near Penney Farms	Clay	Below: 4.88 ft	Minor: 14.70 ft	29.40 ft	Rising	11-Oct	2300 EDT 11-Oct
Peace River at SR-60 Bartow	Polk	Below: 7.00 ft	Major: 10.10 ft	11.10 ft	Rising	13-Oct	Until Further Notice
Peace River at Zolfo Springs	Hardee	Below: 12.32 ft	Major: 22.10 ft	27.20 ft	Rising	11-Oct	Until Further Notice
Peace River at SR-70 Arcadia	DeSoto	Action: 10.10 ft	Moderate: 15.80 ft	23.70 ft	Steady	13-Oct	Until Further Notice
Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates	Columbia, Gilchrist, Suwannee	Minor: 18.32 ft	Minor: 20.40 ft	33.40 ft	Rising	14-Oct	Until Further Notice
Santa Fe River at O'leno State Park	Alachua, Columbia	Below: 39.34 ft	Minor: 44.40 ft	57.10 ft	Steady	13-Oct	Until Further Notice
Santa Fe at Worthington Springs	Alachua, Bradford, Union	Below: 54.73 ft	Minor: 59.30 ft	71.20 ft	Steady	12-Oct	Until Further Notice
St. Johns River at Astor	Volusia, Lake	Minor: 2.92 ft	Major: 4.20 ft	4.70 ft	Rising	10-Oct	Until Further Notice
Withlacoochee River at US-41 Dunellon	Citrus, Levy	Below: 28.01 ft	Minor: 29.50 ft	33.00 ft	Steady	12-Oct	Until Further Notice
Withlacoochee River near Holder	Citrus	Below: 6.53 ft	Moderate: 9.90 ft	13.30 ft	Rising	TBD	Until Further Notice
Withlacoochee River at Croom	Pasco, Sumter	Below: 7.20 ft	Moderate: 10.80 ft	15.20 ft	Rising	TBD	Until Further Notice
Withlacoochee River at US-301 Trilby	Hernando, Pasco	Below: 9.10 ft	Moderate: 16.10 ft	20.40 ft	Steady	TBD	Until Further Notice



Additional Rivers to Monitor

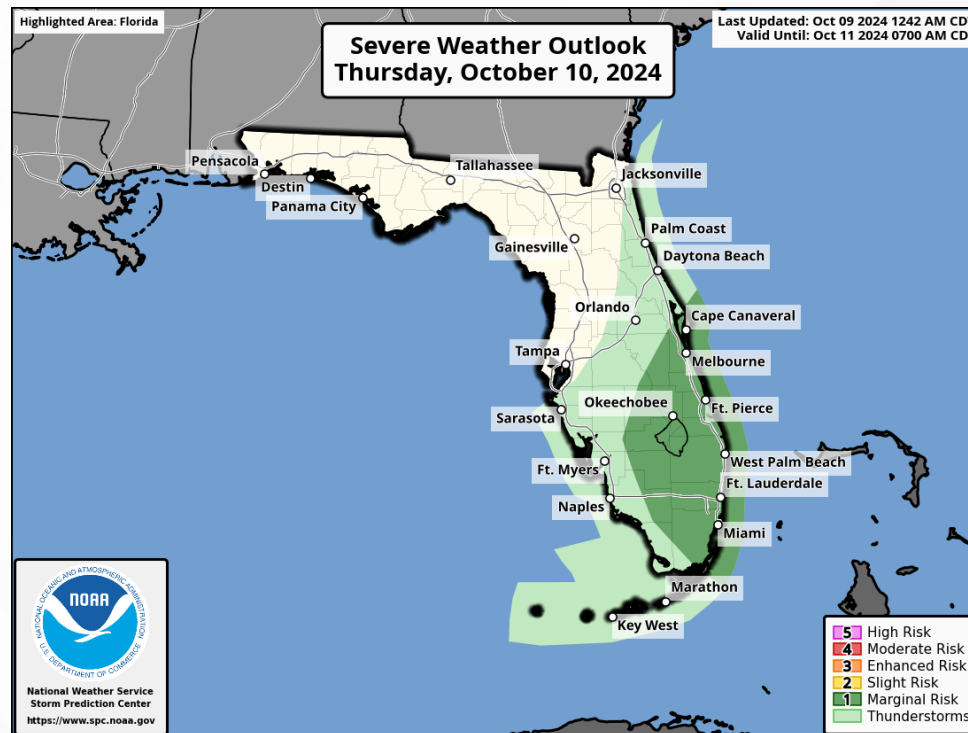
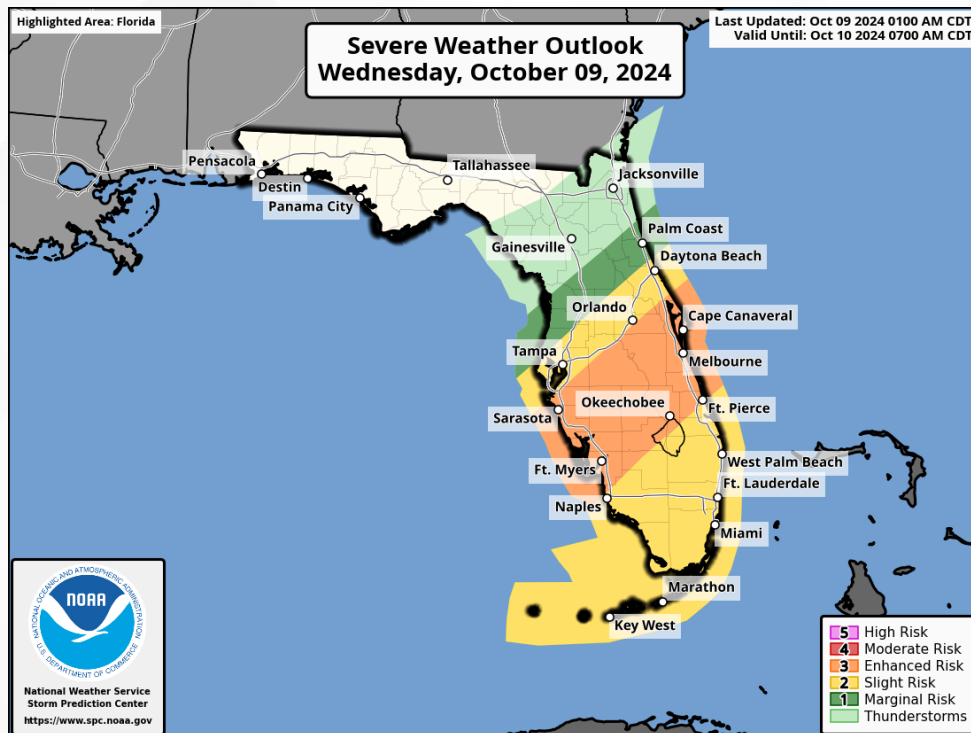
From the National Weather Service

River Gauge	County(ies) Affected	Current Level	Crest Level	Record Level	Status	Crest Day	Warning Expires
Alapaha River near Jennings	Columbia	Moderate: 87.75 ft	N/A	93.30 ft	Steady	N/A	No Warning Issued
Ocklawaha River at Rodman Dam	Putnam	Moderate: 6.51 ft	N/A	9.70 ft	Steady	N/A	No Warning Issued
Ocklawaha River at Moss Bluff	Marion	Moderate: 45.48 ft	N/A	N/A	Steady	N/A	No Warning Issued
Santa Fe River near Fort White	Columbia, Gilchrist	Below: 21.41 ft	Minor: 24.20 ft	35.40 ft	Steady	15-Oct	No Warning Issued
St. Johns River near Deland	Lake, Volusia	Below: 3.20 ft	Moderate: 5.10 ft	6.30 ft	Steady	TBD	No Warning Issued
St. Johns River near Sanford	Seminole, Volusia	Below: 3.78 ft	Minor: 6.20 ft	9.00 ft	Steady	TBD	No Warning Issued
St. Johns River above Lake Harney	Seminole, Volusia	Action: 6.09 ft	Moderate: 9.80 ft	12.70 ft	Rising	TBD	No Warning Issued



Isolated Tropical Tornadoes

From the Storm Prediction Center (SPC)



There is an area of heavy rain beginning to spread across portions of southwestern and west-central Florida out ahead of Milton, and weather conditions will steadily deteriorate across portions of the Florida Gulf Coast throughout the day. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking an **Enhanced Risk (level 3 of 5) for Severe Weather** between the I-4 corridor and Lake Okeechobee into Southwest Florida today with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Severe Weather** and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** extending northward towards Gainesville throughout the day as several tropical tornadoes will be possible within Milton's outer rain bands. **A strong tornado or two** could occur during the mid to late afternoon, during peak heating hours of the day, likely between the I-4 corridor and Lake Okeechobee. 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

FOUO – For Government Official Use Only

Major Hurricane Milton:

- As of 8:00 AM EDT, Milton is located about 250 miles southwest of Tampa, Florida, and is moving northeast at 16 mph.
- A northeastward motion is expected through tonight, followed by a turn toward the east-northeast and east on Thursday and Friday.
- On the forecast track, the center of Milton will move across the eastern Gulf of Mexico today, make landfall along the West-Central Florida Coast late tonight or early Thursday morning, and move off the East Coast of Florida into the western Atlantic Ocean Thursday afternoon.
- Milton is an extremely dangerous Category 4 hurricane, with maximum sustained winds of 155 mph.
- This storm is expected to remain an extremely dangerous major hurricane (Category 4 hurricane) when it reaches the West-Central Coast of Florida tonight.
- Milton's wind field is expected to grow considerably in size while it moves across Florida. Additionally, a large region of tropical storm and hurricane-force 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. 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 rushed to completion. Milton has the potential to be one of the most destructive hurricanes on record for west-central Florida.**

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, Martin, Glades, Hendry, Palm Beach, Collier, Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe (Mainland & Keys), Dry Tortugas, Lake Okeechobee
- **Tropical Storm Watch:** Inland Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton
- **Storm Surge Warning:** Levy/Citrus County Line through Mainland Monroe; East Coast through Brevard County
- **Storm Surge Values (Peak Forecast):**
 - Anna Marie Island (Manatee County) to Boca Grande (Charlotte): **10-15'**
 - Anclote River (Pasco/Pinellas County Line) through Tampa Bay: **8-12'**
 - Boca Grande (Charlotte/Lee County Line) to Bonita Beach (Lee/Collier County Line), including Charlotte Harbor: **8-12'**
 - Aripeka (Hernando/Pasco County Line) to the Anclote River (Pasco/Pinellas County Line) and Bonita Beach (Lee/Collier County Line) to Chokoloskee (Collier/Monroe County Line): **5-8'**
 - Chokoloskee to Flamingo – Mainland Monroe: **3-5'**
 - Yankeetwon (Levy/Citrus County Line) to Aripeka (Hernando/Pasco County Line) and Dry Tortugas: **2-4'**
 - Florida-Georgia state line to Sebastian Inlet (Brevard/Indian River County Line), including the St. Johns River: **3-5'**

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



Summary

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Florida Outlook:

- There is an area of heavy rain beginning to spread across portions of southwestern and west-central Florida out ahead of Milton, and weather conditions will steadily deteriorate across portions of the Florida Gulf Coast throughout the day.
- Tropical storm-force conditions will develop this afternoon and evening along the West Florida coastline and spread eastward across the Florida Peninsula through the overnight and early mornings hours on Thursday.
 - **Devastating hurricane-force winds** are expected along portions of the west coast of Florida.
 - **Life-threatening hurricane-force winds**, especially in gusts, are expected to spread inland across the Peninsula as Milton cross the region.
- 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 with Milton brings the risk of **catastrophic and life-threatening flash and urban flooding** along with moderate to major riverine flooding, especially in areas where coastal and inland flooding combine to increase the overall flood threat.
 - **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.
 - **High Risk (level 4 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is maintained along the eastern I-4 corridor and through the Space Coast Thursday with a **Slight to Moderate Risk (level 2-3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** extending along the I-4 corridor towards Tampa, northward into Northeast Florida, and southward through Melbourne as Milton makes its way off the Florida East Coast.
 - **Flood Watches** extend from Northeast Florida through Central Florida and into Southwest Florida.
 - 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 North, 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.
- Outer bands moving onshore may bring several tropical tornadoes across much of the Peninsula throughout the day today as Milton approaches the west coast of Florida and makes landfall tonight; A strong tornado or two could occur during the mid to late afternoon, during peak heating hours of the day, likely between the I-4 corridor and Lake Okeechobee.
 - The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking an **Enhanced Risk (level 3 of 5) for Severe Weather** between the I-4 corridor and Lake Okeechobee into Southwest Florida today with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Severe Weather** and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** extending northward towards Gainesville.
 - *Tornado Watches and Warnings will be issued as conditions warrant.*
 - The potential for isolated tropical tornadoes will continue in trailing outer bands across south Florida and along lower portions of the Central-East Coast Thursday as Milton moves off the East Coast of Florida (**Marginal Risk for Severe Weather – level 1 of 5**).
- A **large area of destructive storm surge**, with **highest inundations of 10’ of greater**, is expected along a portion of the west-central coast of the Florida Peninsula.

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



Tropical Update

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