

TROPICAL UPDATE

11 AM EDT

Thursday, August 31, 2017 Tropical Depression Harvey & Hurricane Irma

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.nhc.noaa.gov.

Atlantic Basin Satellite Image



T.D. Harvey Satellite





Regional Radar as of 9:45am EDT

Bands of showers and storms east of the center of TD Harvey will continue to affect the Panhandle and Big Bend today.

Observed Rainfall – Past 2 Days



Active Flood Advisories



River Flood Outlook



2 Day Cumulative Forecast Rainfall (does not account for isolated higher totals)



Rip Current Threat Through Friday



Beach Warning Flags



- Water closed to public
- High Hazard High surf and/or strong currents
- Medium Hazard Moderate surf and/or currents

Low Hazard Calm conditions, exercise caution



Hurricane Irma Satellite Image

08/31/17 12002 11L IRMA 08/31/17 13452 GOES-13 VIS



Steering Currents

KTS

100

50

15

10

31AUG17

Irma

Irma will be steered generally west over the next 2 days, then move more in a southwest direction as pressure over the Bahamas moves towards the central Atlantic.

Harve

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CIMSS ENV STEERING PRODUCT: 500-850 HPA LAYER (FOR TC MSLP RANGE: 990-999 HPA) 1200 UTC



Hurricane IRMA Model Track Guidance





Current Wind Shear (shaded) and Shear Tendency (lines)



Hurricane IRMA Model Intensity Guidance





Five-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida





Summary

- Harvey was downgraded to a tropical depression Wednesday evening.
- At 5am EDT Thursday, the center of Tropical Depression Harvey was located in northern Louisiana, about 315 miles northwest of Pensacola, FL.
- Harvey will continue to move north-northeast at 10-15 mph before dissipating over middle Tennessee or central Kentucky tomorrow night, but will continue to produce the threat for heavy rain and tornadoes over portions of Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky.
- Irma rapidly intensified this morning and at 11am EDT Thursday, Irma became the 4th hurricane of the 2017 season.
- Maximum sustained winds jumped from 70mph at 5am to now near 100 mph, making Irma a Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.
- Hurricane Irma is located in the eastern Atlantic about 650 miles west of the Cabo Verde Islands, which is about 3,035 miles east-southeast of Miami, FL.
- Environmental conditions will continue to promote strengthening, and Irma could become a major hurricane by tonight.
- Computer models are in good agreement on the forecast track through the next 5 days, sending Irma on a westnorthwest to west track through Friday, and then on a more southwestern track over the weekend.
- After this point, computer models begin to diverge. Computer models beyond 7 days are prone to errors, but show a west and west--northwest movement resuming in 6-7 days as it approaches the northern Windward Islands.
- Elsewhere, computer models are predicting that an area of low pressure could form in the southwestern Gulf of Mexico over the weekend and move slowly north or northeast early next week.
- There is currently a 0% chance of tropical development within the next 48 hours, but a 20% chance of tropical development by Tuesday.
- If a low pressure system were to develop, these chances may increase. Additionally, it may bring additional rainfall to the US Gulf Coast next week.

Florida Outlook:

- Rain bands displaced from the center of Tropical Depression Harvey will continue to affect the Florida Panhandle and western Big Bend today and tonight.
- An additional 1-3" of rain is forecast for the area over next 24 hours, with isolated higher amounts of 5-8" possible primarily over the western Panhandle.
- Storm cells repeatedly moving over the same area for several hours could cause flooding of low lying and poor drainage areas as well as the ponding of water on roadways.
- A **Flash Flood Watch** remains in effect for Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa Counties through this evening.
- Local rivers and streams are also rising but should crest near **minor flood** stage within the next 2 days.
- Additionally, an increased risk for **rip currents** is expected along the Panhandle coast through at least Friday.
- Hurricane Irma does not pose a threat to Florida within the next 5 days, but should be closely monitored.
- The west Gulf possible low should also be monitored for development and potential impacts to the Panhandle coast.

Another briefing packet will be issued on Friday. For the latest information on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center website at <u>www.hurricanes.gov</u>



TROPICAL UPDATE

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