



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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WEEKLY REPORT 8/26/2011

- Large and dangerous Hurricane Irene continues to move east of Florida Friday morning as a Category 2 hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 105 mph.
- Irene is beginning to impact coastal areas of the Carolinas and as Irene moves north around 13mph, more eastern areas of the Carolinas will be impacted Friday night through Saturday.
- The official forecast from the National Hurricane Center then has Irene moving very close to the U.S. Mid-Atlantic and New England coastline through the weekend and early next week before weakening over the Canadian provinces and maritime areas.
- Tropical storm force winds are exiting our coastal waters and though the chances of Florida receiving tropical storm force winds are less than 10%, we could still see some breezy winds along the eastern Peninsula through the rest of Friday.
- Winds could reach 20-25mph, especially along the immediate coast Friday morning, with occasional gusts to 35 mph. Winds should decrease Friday night and into Saturday.
- We still have tropical storm warnings for the Florida coastal waters north of Sebastian Inlet and though winds are expected to subside Friday night, we could still see lingering effects from Irene for the next day or so in terms of large waves. A High Surf Advisory and Coastal Flood Warnings and Advisories remain in effect north of Jupiter Inlet.

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- These lingering ocean swells will keep our rip current risk elevated into the weekend and a high risk of rip currents continues for the Florida Atlantic Coast. The best way to stay safe at the beach is to stay out of the water when red flags are flying.
- After seeing some heavy rainfall on Thursday and early Friday as Irene passed to our east, we could see a few more showers affect Northeast Florida through the afternoon where rain chances are around 50%-60% associated with the rain bands from Irene. Central and South Florida areas could also still see a 30% to 40% chance of scattered showers and storms on Friday.
- By Saturday and Sunday, rain chances will decrease statewide as Irene moves north and dry air moves into the state. Rain chances will be between 20% and 40% over much of Central and South Florida associated with the afternoon and evening sea breezes, but North Florida areas will likely remain dry.
- Rain chances will begin to increase on Monday, especially over the southern half of the state, but will increase over North Florida areas on Tuesday.
- Because of the lower rain chances, temperatures will rise and be quite hot statewide this weekend. Temperatures could reach near record levels and rise into the mid to upper 90s over many inland areas. A few locations, especially over North Florida along the I-10 corridor, could even reach the 100 degree mark. At the beach, temperatures in the upper 80s to low 90s are forecast, but all areas could see dangerously high heat index values.
- Heat index values could bet between 100 and 110 degrees each afternoon, with the highest values expected along the Florida Peninsula.
- If you are going to be outside this weekend to take advantage of the sunny weather, keep in mind some heat safety tips:
 - Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.
 - Wear a hat or use an umbrella. Apply sunscreen before exposure to the sun.
 - Drink water even if you do not feel thirsty.
 - Stay indoors when possible. Avoid strenuous activity in the afternoon.

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- Don't forget your pets. Make sure they have access to water, ventilation and shade.
- Do not leave people or pets in a car, even with the windows open.
- Taking a look at the tropics, though all eyes are on Hurricane Irene, Tropical Depression Ten remains in the central Atlantic. However, it is a long distance from Florida and the National Hurricane Center is forecasting the depression to move northwest and eventually dissipate in the open Atlantic next week.
- For the latest updates Hurricane Irene, the weather forecast for your area and more safety tips for extreme heat and rip currents, visit www.FloridaDisaster.org and click on the Division's homepage.

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