

Weather Briefing Potential Impacts of Hurricane Irene August 27th-August 28th, 2011

Prepared 1215 PM EDT – Thursday August 25, 2011

Gary Szatkowski

NOAA's National Weather Service

Philadelphia/Mt. Holly NJ Forecast office

Weather.gov/phi



Purpose of briefing

- Briefing #4 for event
- Promote situational awareness for emergency management community & partners
- Provide guidance for planning efforts
- Briefing applies to Mount Holly service area – shaded in green on map



Changes from previous briefing

- The National Hurricane Center path forecasts have trended slightly to the left (west) compared to 24 hours ago, and the track now passes very close to the New Jersey and Delaware coastline.



Executive Summary

- Hurricane Irene will very likely be a threat to our forecast area starting Saturday night, August 27th into Sunday August 28th.
- Given how much recent rainfall we have experienced as well as what is expected, major flooding is very likely. Record flooding is now possible.
- Hurricane force winds are likely to be experienced along the NJ and DE coast, along with severe coastal flooding. If the maximum storm surge occurs during the time of high tide, record coastal flooding is possible.
- Since we're getting closer to the event, average hurricane track errors are decreasing, and at this point in time, are under 150 miles. Average track errors will continue to decrease, as we get closer to the storm event.
- There is a high risk of this being a very damaging, life threatening event. All pre-storm activities should be rushed to completion. Be prepared to take additional action if hurricane watches and warnings are issued.
- See the following slides for additional information.
- Next briefing package will be issued Thursday evening, August 25th
- Maintain situational awareness by monitoring our website at:
<http://weather.gov/phi>
- Contact information

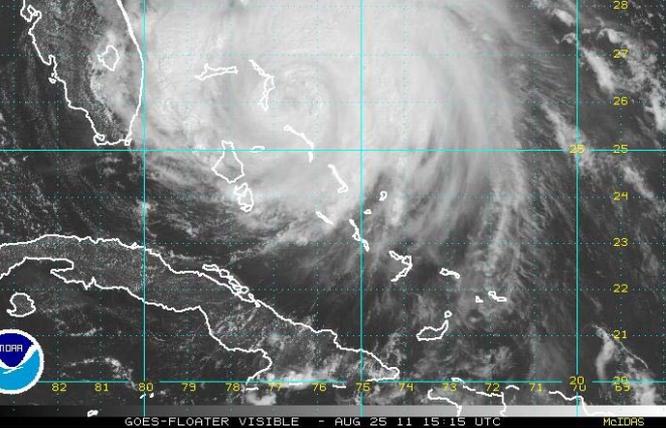
Gary Szatkowski – 609-261-6602, ext. 222



Things to keep in mind

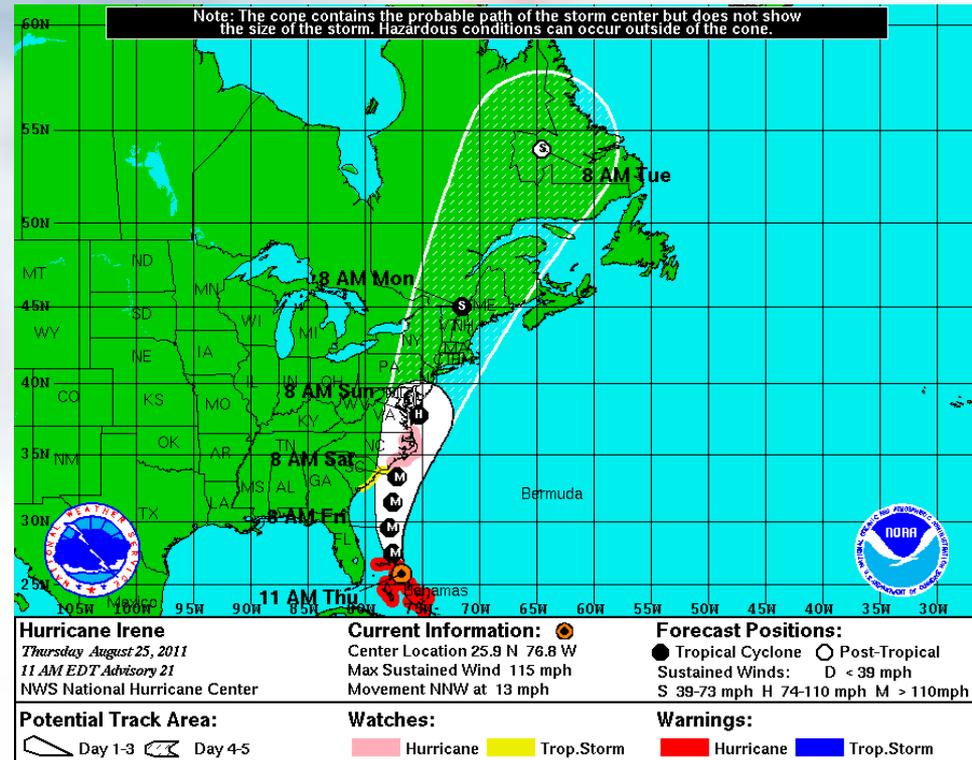
- Average track errors are decreasing as we get closer to the event. This means we are losing the opportunity for the storm to miss our region by shifting further out to sea or well inland. It is increasingly likely our region will feel the direct impacts of Hurricane Irene.
- Hurricane Irene is a larger than average hurricane, and that is expected to continue. This means a broad area will be affected by wind and rain from the hurricane
- Catastrophic inland flooding from very heavy rainfall is now a distinct possibility. Record coastal flooding due to storm surge is now a distinct possibility along the New Jersey and Delaware Atlantic coastlines.
- Showers and thunderstorms are expected today associated with a frontal passage; showers and thunderstorms may break out Saturday in advance of the hurricane. Friday is likely your best day for completing any outside preparedness activities prior to hurricane arrival.



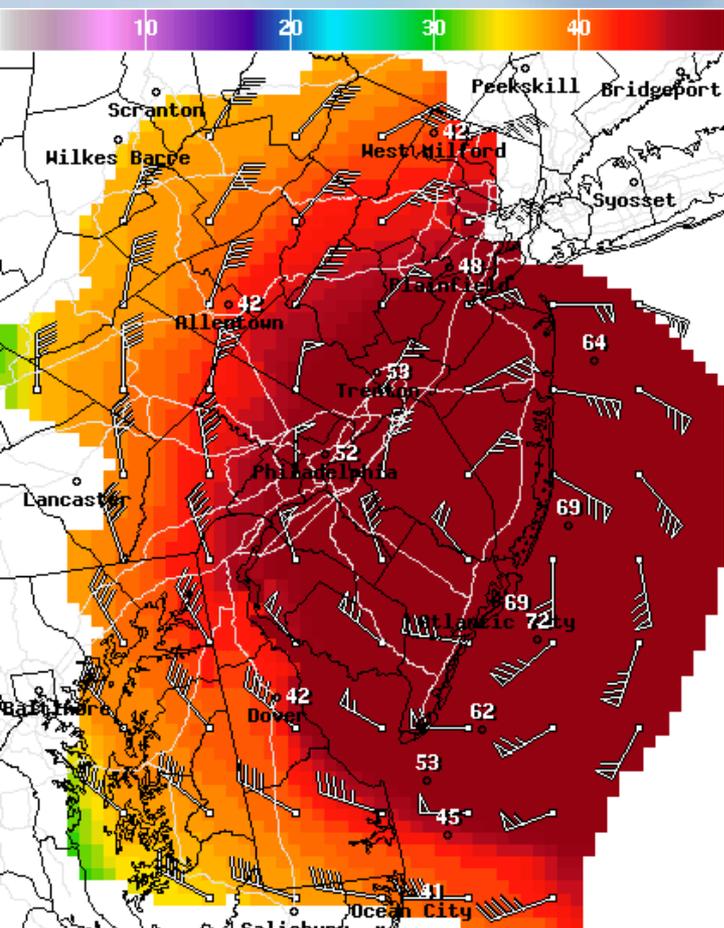


Hurricane Irene

- Maintain situational awareness of the latest National Hurricane Center forecast for the Hurricane at:
 - www.nhc.noaa.gov



Damaging winds



- Wind gusts will reach 50 mph in the Poconos and far northwest New Jersey; 75 mph along the I-95 corridor; 100 mph along the Atlantic Coast as the hurricane passes

WindSpd(kts) & WindDir For Sun Aug 28 2011 2PM EDT
(Sun Aug 28 2011 18Z)
NWS Mount Holly, NJ
Graphic Created Aug 25 11:46AM EDT



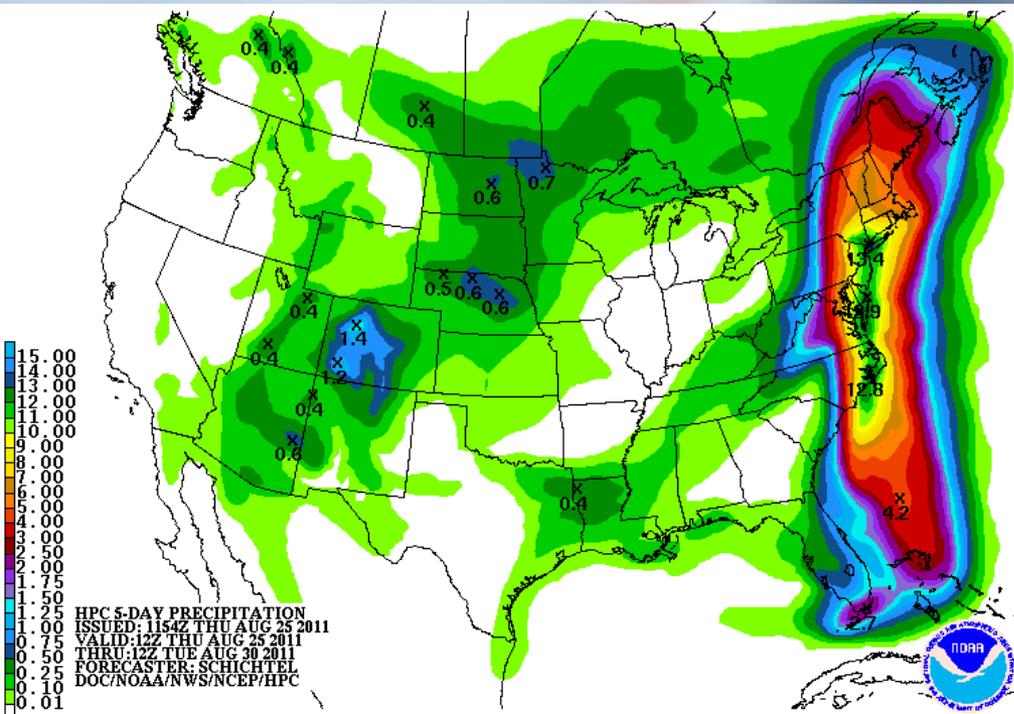
Coastal flooding

- Storm surge of 4-7 feet is expected along the New Jersey and Delaware Atlantic Coast and into the Raritan Bay, 3-5 feet in the Delaware Bay, and 2-4 feet in the eastern portion of the upper Chesapeake Bay
- This could produce severe (and possible record flooding) along the Atlantic Coast and into the Raritan Bay, moderate to severe flooding in the Delaware Bay, and minor to moderate flooding in the upper Chesapeake Bay



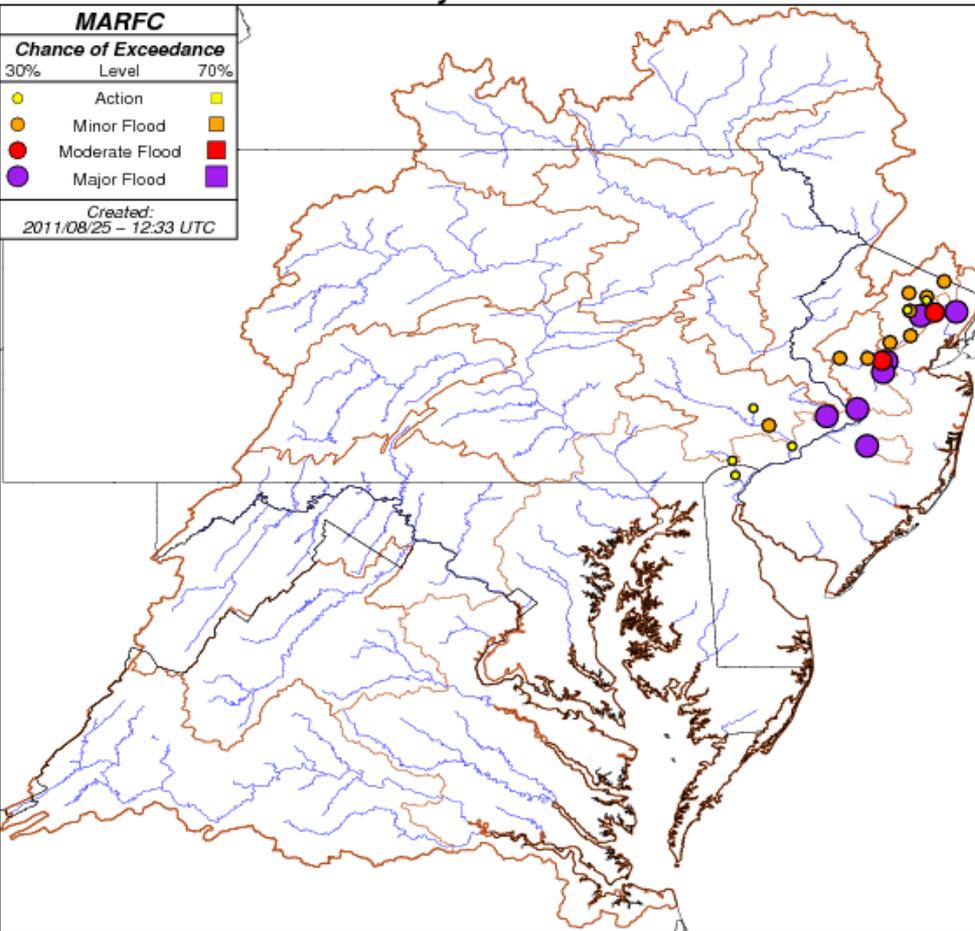
Rainfall & Flooding

- Over a foot of rain is possible with the hurricane
- Life threatening flash flooding will develop



Flooding

GEFS Ensemble Summary for 8/24/2011 – 8/31/2011
Forecast Cycle: 2011/08/25/06



- Major river flooding is likely, record river flooding is possible