



## NOAA NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

[www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov)

[Facebook](#)

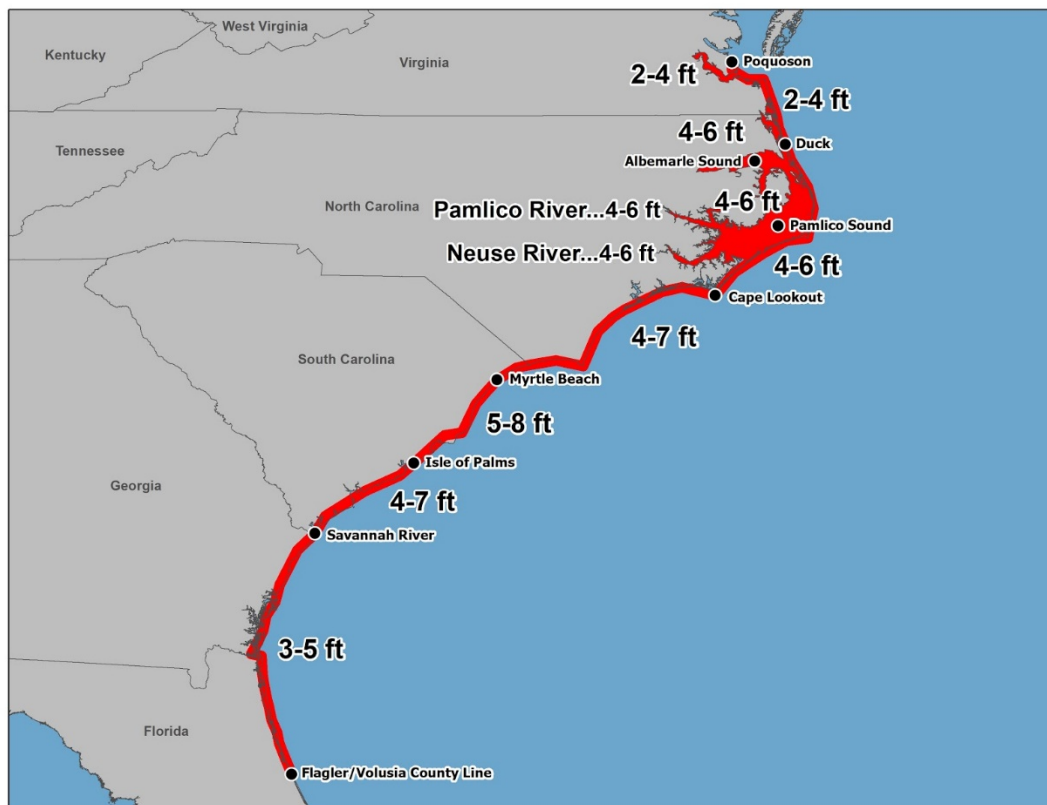
[Twitter](#)

## Update on National Hurricane Center Products and Services for 2020

### Changes include:

#### 1) Graphical depiction of storm surge inundation values

NHC will begin providing an experimental graphic in 2020 that will depict the expected storm surge inundation values for the United States Gulf and Atlantic coasts, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands that are provided in the tropical cyclone public advisory (TCP). These values represent the peak height the water could reach above normally dry ground somewhere within the specified areas. This graphic will be made available on the NHC webpage.



## 2) 60-hour forecast information

NHC will begin providing 60-hour track, intensity, and 34-kt and 50-kt wind radii forecasts. These forecasts will be included in the tropical cyclone forecast/advisory (TCM), tropical cyclone discussion (TCD), and referenced within the tropical cyclone public advisory (TCP). The 60-h forecast information will also be included on the NHC cone graphic and will be used in the computation of the NHC wind speed probabilities, time of arrival graphic and probabilistic storm surge products.

### 60-hour Forecast Information in the Forecast/Advisory and Tropical Cyclone Discussion

#### Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory

```

ZCZC MIATCMAT5 ALL
TTAA00 KNHC DDRHMM

HURRICANE DORIAN FORECAST/ADVISORY NUMBER 21
NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL AL052019
1500 UTC THU AUG 29 2019

FORECAST VALID 31/1200Z 26.3N 73.4W
MAX WIND 110 KT...GUSTS 135 KT.
64 KT... 20NE 10SE 10SW 10NW.
50 KT... 30NE 30SE 20SW 30NW.
34 KT... 80NE 60SE 40SW 60NW.

FORECAST VALID 01/0000Z 26.7N 75.2W
MAX WIND 110 KT...GUSTS 135 KT.
50 KT... 40NE 30SE 20SW 30NW.
34 KT... 80NE 70SE 40SW 70NW.

FORECAST VALID 01/1200Z 27.0N 76.9W
MAX WIND 115 KT...GUSTS 140 KT.
50 KT... 40NE 40SE 30SW 30NW.
34 KT... 90NE 80SE 50SW 80NW.
                
```

#### NHC and CPHC will begin providing 60-h forecast information in 2020: position, intensity, and 34-kt and 50-kt wind radii

#### Tropical Cyclone Discussion Table

FORECAST POSITIONS AND MAX WINDS						
INIT	29/1500Z	21.4N	67.2W	75 KT	85 MPH	
12H	30/0000Z	22.9N	68.1W	85 KT	100 MPH	
24H	30/1200Z	24.5N	69.6W	100 KT	115 MPH	
36H	31/0000Z	25.6N	71.4W	105 KT	120 MPH	
48H	31/1200Z	26.3N	73.4W	110 KT	125 MPH	
60H	01/0000Z	26.7N	75.2W	110 KT	125 MPH	
72H	01/1200Z	27.0N	76.9W	115 KT	130 MPH	
96H	02/1200Z	27.5N	79.8W	115 KT	130 MPH	
120H	03/1200Z	28.1N	81.5W	65 KT	75 MPH... INLAND	

### 60-hour Forecast Information on the Cone Graphic

**Hurricane Sandy**  
Friday October 26, 2012  
11 PM EDT Advisory 19  
NWS National Hurricane Center

**Current information:** x  
Center location 27.7 N 77.1 W  
Maximum sustained wind 75 mph  
Movement N at 7 mph

**Forecast positions:**  
● Tropical Cyclone ○ Post-Potential TC  
Sustained winds: D < 39 mph  
S 39-73 mph H 74-110 mph M > 110 mph

**Potential track area:** Day 1-3 Day 4-5  
**Watches:** Hurricane Trop Sea  
**Warnings:** Hurricane Trop Sea  
**Current wind extent:** Hurricane Trop Sea

**60-h Forecast Information on Cone Graphic**

**60-h forecast information also used as input for PSurge and for TC wind speed probabilities**

### 3) New local time zones for systems in the eastern Atlantic

The NHC public advisories, tropical cyclone discussions, tropical cyclone updates, and some graphical products have used local time within the product header based on the time zone where the center of the tropical cyclone is currently located. For example, advisories for tropical cyclones centered in the central and western Gulf of Mexico have used Central Time, and those near the east coast of the United States or in the eastern Gulf have used Eastern Time. All other Atlantic basin tropical cyclone advisories have referenced Atlantic Standard Time. This however, can be problematic for systems affecting the Cabo Verde Islands or other locations in the northeastern Atlantic basin where locations are 3 to 4 hours ahead of Eastern Time. Beginning in 2020, systems located south of 25°N and east of 30°W will use Cape Verde Standard Time (GMT-1) and systems north of 25°N and east of 45°W will use Greenwich Mean Time (equivalent to Azores Summer Time). These times will be used for the public advisory (TCP), discussion (TCD), update (TCU), and all graphical products that use local time.

The actual issuance times of these products remain the same with full advisory packages issued at 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 UTC (5 am, 11 am, 5 pm, and 11 pm EDT). Intermediate public advisories are issued at 0000, 0600, 1200, and 1800 UTC (2 am, 8 am, 2 pm, and 8 pm EDT) whenever coastal tropical cyclone watches or warnings are in effect.



#### 4) Annual update to the track forecast error cone

The size of the tropical cyclone track forecast error cone for the Atlantic basin will be mostly unchanged this year. The eastern Pacific basin cone graphic will be slightly larger from 36 to 72 h, and slightly smaller at 120 h. The cone represents the probable track of the center of a tropical cyclone, and is formed by enclosing the area swept out by a set of imaginary circles placed along the forecast track (at 12, 24, 36 hours, etc.). The size of each circle is set so that two-thirds of historical official forecast errors over the previous five years (2015-2019) fall within the circle. The circle radii defining the cones in 2020 for the Atlantic and eastern North Pacific basins are given in the table below:

Forecast Period (hours)	Circle radius Atlantic Basin (nautical miles)	Circle radius Eastern North Pacific Basin (nautical miles)
3	16	16
12	26	25
24	41	38
36	55	51
48	69	65
60	86	78
72	103	91
96	151	115
120	196	138

A video showing how to properly interpret and use the cone graphic can be found at: [www.nhc.noaa.gov/cone\\_usage.php](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/cone_usage.php)

## Other items of interest for 2020:

1) Pronunciation guides for storm names including the phonetic pronunciations of all Atlantic and eastern North Pacific storm names can be found on the NHC website at:

Atlantic: [www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/aboutnames\\_pronounce\\_atlc.pdf](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/aboutnames_pronounce_atlc.pdf)

Eastern North Pacific: [www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/aboutnames\\_pronounce\\_epac.pdf](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/aboutnames_pronounce_epac.pdf)

Note that the [World Meteorological Organization's Region IV Hurricane Committee](#) was unable to conduct its annual meeting in 2020. As a result, the business of updating the region's operational plan, which includes storm name retirement for 2019, was not conducted. Any consideration of a 2019 storm name retirement will be completed at the 2021 meeting, as the 2019 names will not be used again until 2025.

2) The National Hurricane Center has a Facebook page. The "NOAA NWS National Hurricane Center" page provides updates about the NHC outreach and education campaign and other items that might be of interest to the public throughout the year. During the hurricane season, the site contains a daily tropical weather update for both the Atlantic and eastern North Pacific basins, as well as alerts regarding any tropical cyclone activity as needed. The NHC also conducts Facebook Live briefings during tropical cyclone events. The NHC Facebook page is found at: [www.facebook.com/NWSNHC](http://www.facebook.com/NWSNHC)

3) The National Hurricane Center is on Twitter – and has five twitter accounts:

Interactive Outreach (**@NWSNHC**) - The broadest in scope of NHC's Twitter accounts, **@NWSNHC** is our primary mechanism for engaging the public and our partners in two-way conversations. This account will cover general topics such as education and outreach, NWS products and policies concerning tropical cyclones, significant events, or just fun facts – from across all of the branches that comprise NHC.

There are two operational Twitter feeds, one for the Atlantic basin - **@NHC\_Atlantic** (which includes the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea) and one for the eastern North Pacific basin - **@NHC\_Pacific**. Automated tweets are sent via these accounts whenever NHC issues:

- A public advisory regarding a tropical cyclone (TCP)
- A tropical cyclone update (TCU)

Each tweet contains a link to access the corresponding product on the NHC website. These two operational accounts will also be used to supplement and augment the formal tropical cyclone product suite, with occasional notices on such topics as reconnaissance aircraft status, announcements on NHC's intention to initiate advisories on a new tropical cyclone, highlights of key messages during active cyclones, etc.

The NHC storm surge group can be followed on Twitter at **@NHC\_Surge**

This account enhances storm surge forecasts by providing real-time reports and observations during an event (resources permitting). The feed will enhance preparedness and outreach efforts throughout the year, and provide news and announcements on updates to the SLOSH modeling system and storm surge decision support tools.



The Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) is on Twitter at **@NHC\_TAFB**. TAFB, an operational arm of the NHC, is responsible for issuing more than 100 marine products daily covering millions of square miles of the Atlantic and eastern Pacific Ocean. This account highlights significant weather events over the marine area as well as its outreach programs.

4) An audio podcast will be available when the media pool is activated.

The audio podcast RSS/XML feed for top-of-the-hour briefings will be operational when the media pool is activated: [www.nhc.noaa.gov/audio](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/audio). The media pool is typically activated when a hurricane watch is issued for any portion of the U.S. contiguous coastline.

### **9) On the Web:**

National Hurricane Center: [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov)

Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook:  
[www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnhcgraphics.shtml#GTWO](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnhcgraphics.shtml#GTWO)

Definition of NHC Track Forecast Cone: [www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutcone.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutcone.shtml)  
[www.nhc.noaa.gov/cone\\_usage.php](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/cone_usage.php)

National Hurricane Preparedness Week: [www.hurricanes.gov/prepare](http://www.hurricanes.gov/prepare)

National Hurricane Center Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/NWSNHC](https://www.facebook.com/NWSNHC)

National Hurricane Center Twitter page: [www.nhc.noaa.gov/twitter.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/twitter.shtml)

**Contact:** NHC Public Affairs: [nhc.public.affairs@noaa.gov](mailto:nhc.public.affairs@noaa.gov)

*April 20, 2020*