



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

COLUMBIA, SC WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Hurricane Matthew

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...Hurricane Matthew to Impact the Midlands and CSRA this Weekend...

OVERVIEW

Hurricane Matthew will move north along the east coast of Florida and be near the Georgia and South Carolina coast late tonight through Saturday. There is an increasing threat for tropical storm force winds and flash flooding.

CURRENT WATCHES, WARNINGS AND/OR ADVISORIES

FLASH FLOOD WATCH remains in effect through Sunday morning for the following counties: BURKE, AIKEN, BAMBERG, BARNWELL, CALHOUN, CHESTERFIELD, CLARENDON, FAIRFIELD, KERSHAW, LANCASTER, LEE, LEXINGTON, ORANGEBURG, RICHLAND AND SUMTER.

WIND ADVISORY in effect tonight through Saturday night for most of the area including the following counties: COLUMBIA, RICHMOND, BURKE, LANCASTER, CHESTERFIELD, NEWBERRY, FAIRFIELD, KERSHAW, EDGEFIELD, SALUDA, LEXINGTON, RICHLAND, AND AIKEN.

HIGH WIND WARNING is now in effect tonight through Saturday night for the following counties: BARNWELL, BAMBERG, ORANGEBURG, CALHOUN, SUMTER, LEE AND CLARENDON.

EXPECTED IMPACTS (INCLUDES TIMING AND LOCATION)

HEAVY RAIN: Heavy rainfall will occur late Friday through Saturday evening with the threat of excessive rainfall greatest late Friday night into mid-day Saturday. Uncertainty of the rainfall forecast remains high due to the eventual track of Hurricane Matthew. This is due to the very tight west to east rainfall forecast gradient that will set up across the Midlands and CSRA. The latest information suggests central South Carolina and northern CSRA totals approaching 3 to 5 inches west of Columbia to Augusta, 5 to 8 inches in a band from Lancaster County, through the Columbia Metro Area and to Burke County, and 7 to 11 inches east of Columbia in the vicinity of eastern Orangeburg, Clarendon and Sumter counties along and east of the I-95 corridor. Based on the latest guidance a flash flood watch has been issued for the central and east Midlands and a portion of the CSRA. The greatest threat for flash flooding appears to be across the east Midlands but if the storm moves closer to the coast, the threat will increase inland. The main concern for possible river flooding would be along the Great Pee Dee River due to recent heavy rainfall across eastern North Carolina, and the North Fork of the Edisto River near Orangeburg. The Great Pee Dee River at Cheraw is forecast to crest near 26.0 feet (Action Stage is 20 feet and Flood Stage is 30 feet) early Monday. The river stage at Cheraw will be heavily dependent on releases from upstream reservoirs. The North Fork of the Edisto River is expected to crest just below flood stage (8.0 feet) at 7.8 feet on Monday night.

WINDS: Based on the latest track forecast, the strongest wind in central South Carolina and east central Georgia will likely occur Friday night and Saturday. The latest information supports gusts of 25 to 35 mph in the Piedmont and the northern CSRA, 35 to 45 mph around Columbia, and 45 to 50 mph in the Eastern Midlands. The highest winds will be along and east of the I-95 corridor. A high wind warning has been issued for eastern portions of the Midlands later today, with wind advisories still in place elsewhere. The stronger winds combined with heavy rainfall may down weak trees and limbs. This could result in power outages, especially across the Eastern Midlands. Also, unanchored buildings and mobile homes may be moved by the stronger wind gusts.

TORNADOES: Based on the forecast track, central South Carolina will not get into the right-front quadrant of the storm, so the overall tornado threat remains low.

POTENTIAL TIMING OF TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS

POTENTIAL ONSET TIME: Tropical storm force winds are expected across the eastern Midlands by late Friday evening. Tropical storm force winds could extend into the central Midlands and southern CSRA if the center of Hurricane Matthew tracks closer to the coast.

POTENTIAL ENDING TIME: The threat for tropical storm force winds should end in the southern CSRA by Saturday evening and the central and eastern Midlands Saturday night.

CONFIDENCE

Confidence is moderate. However, a small deviation in the track would make a large difference in rainfall amounts and wind speeds. There is the greatest confidence with impacts in the the eastern Midlands.

RECOVERY PHASE WEATHER ISSUES

A dry, cool weather pattern is expected during recovery efforts.