

## ALERTS: DETAIL

- UPDATE 13: Hurricane Matthew brings destructive winds and dangerous storm surge to Florida and the southeastern US Oct. 7. Expect widespread severe damage.**

Locations affected by this alert: **Bahamas, Florida - Daytona Beach, Florida - Fort Myers, Florida - Ft. Lauderdale, Florida - Gainesville, Florida - Jacksonville, Florida - Key West, Florida - Melbourne-Space Coast, Florida - Miami, Florida - Naples, Florida - Orlando, Florida - Sarasota-Bradenton, Florida - St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Florida - Tampa, Florida - West Palm Beach, Georgia - Augusta, Georgia - Brunswick-Golden Isles, Georgia - Savannah, Georgia - Waycross, North Carolina - Cape Hatteras, North Carolina - Fayetteville, North Carolina - Jacksonville, North Carolina - Morehead City, North Carolina - Nags Head, North Carolina - Wilmington, South Carolina - Charleston, South Carolina - Columbia, South Carolina - Florence, South Carolina - Myrtle Beach**

This alert began 10/07/16 10:17 UTC and is scheduled to expire 10/07/16 23:59 UTC.

### Storm Details (0500 EDT Oct. 7)

- **Center of Circulation:** Approximately 40 miles (65 km) east-southeast of Cape Canaveral, Fla., US and 90 miles (150 km) southeast of Daytona Beach, Fla., US ([map](#))
- **Maximum Sustained Winds:** 104 kts (195 kph, 120 mph)
- **Projected Landfall (Date):** Close approach to Florida's Space Coast, US (early Oct. 7)
- **Affected Areas:** Bahamas; US

### Watches and Warnings (0500 EDT Oct. 7)

- **Hurricane Warnings:** Northwestern Bahamas (Abacos, Andros Island, Berry Islands, Bimini, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama Island, New Providence Island); Jupiter Inlet, Florida to South Santee River, South Carolina
- **Tropical Storm Warning:** Anclote River, Florida to Suwanee River, Florida; North of South Santee River, South Carolina to Surf City, North Carolina; Boca Raton, Florida to Jupiter Inlet, Florida
- **Tropical Storm Watch:** Anna Maria Island, Florida to Anclote River, Florida

### Updated Information

Hurricane Matthew continues to track north-northwestward along the eastern coast of Florida. As of 0500 Oct. 7, the center of circulation was located approximately 40 miles (65 km) east-southeast of Cape Canaveral, Fla., US and 90 miles southeast of Daytona Beach, Fla., US. Matthew weakened slightly into a Category 3 hurricane during the early morning of Oct. 7, and while additional weakening is forecast during the next 48 hours, Matthew is expected to maintain its Category 3 status as it passes close to the Florida coast through late evening Oct. 7. The most recent forecast track brings Hurricane Matthew within miles of Cape Canaveral and Florida's Space Coast. It remains unclear if the center of circulation will make landfall in eastern Florida; however, hurricane conditions are likely into central Florida, and tropical storm conditions are possible along the Gulf Coast of Florida through Oct. 8.

Hurricane-force winds are confined to a relatively small area, extending only 60 miles (95 km) outward from the center of circulation. However, tropical-storm force winds extend outward approximately 160 miles (260 km) from the center of the storm, which means that high winds and very heavy rain can be expected to affect eastern Florida, as well as parts of central and western Florida, through Oct. 7

Matthew is then forecast to veer northeastward near the Florida-Georgia border, and will track roughly parallel to the Georgia and South Carolina coasts through Oct. 8. Matthew should weaken beginning Oct. 7, but is projected to remain a hurricane as it moves up along the southeast coast of the US. Uncertainty remains in the forecast track of Matthew after it passes off the coast of the Carolinas; however, recent forecast models indicate that the storm could loop back toward the Bahamas as a tropical storm Oct. 10-12.

### Bahamas

As of 0500 Oct. 7, Matthew was 220 km (136 miles) northwest of Freeport, Bahamas. Hurricane warnings remain in effect for the northwestern Bahamas. Matthew will bring damaging winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, and life-threatening flooding to the northwestern Bahamas on Oct. 7. Current models indicate that Matthew will produce an additional 2-5 centimeters of rainfall over the northwestern Bahamas on Oct. 7, with isolated maximum storm total amounts of 38 cm (15 inches).

Hurricane-force winds should diminish over the northwestern Bahamas morning Oct. 7.

Expect continued widespread transport and power disruptions throughout the Bahamas. Protracted outages are likely until damage assessments of the electrical grid are completed after the storm passes. Ground transport disruptions are a near-certainty due to standing water and debris on roadways.

Maritime traffic, including cruise, freight, and ferry services will almost certainly be halted until the storm passes. Widespread flight cancellations are also likely; all airports in the Bahamas closed at 1100 Oct. 5. The Department of Civil Aviation and the Airport Authority plan to provide the public with updated information on airport reopenings following the passage of the hurricane.

## Florida

Forecast models indicate that the center of Hurricane Matthew will make a close approach or landfall along the east coast of Florida early Oct. 7. In preparation for the storm, US President Barack Obama signed an emergency declaration for the state. Florida Gov. Rick Scott also declared a state of emergency, and 2,500 members of the National Guard will be activated to support preparation and response efforts; an additional 4,000 are ready for deployment if needed. Evacuation orders were issued for Brevard, Broward, Clay, DeSoto, Duval, Flagler, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Nassau, Palm Beach, St. Johns, St. Lucie, and Volusia counties ([details and maps](#)). The evacuation orders cover approximately 1.5 million people.

Tropical storm and hurricane conditions will spread northward as the center of circulation makes a close approach or landfall near Florida's Space Coast. Winds along the east coast of Florida are dependent on how close the center of circulation gets to land. A slight shift in the final track of the storm to the west could bring the heaviest hurricane-force winds onshore; likewise, a shift farther eastward could keep the most damaging winds out to sea. Multiple hours of sustained winds in excess of 75 mph (120 kph) are nonetheless likely between West Palm Beach and Jacksonville through late Oct. 7. Wind gusts could approach 120 mph (195 kph) in areas closest to the coastline. Parts of western and central Florida could see tropical-storm force winds of 39-74 mph (63-119 kph). The strong winds will almost certainly cause widespread property damage and prolonged power outages. More than 140,000 homes and businesses have reportedly lost power as of early Oct. 7. Power companies, including Duke Energy, Florida Public Utilities, TECO Energy, and electric co-ops have prepositioned restoration crews to respond to outages.

Widespread totals of 8-12 inches (20-30 cm) of rain are likely along the eastern coast of Florida, with higher amounts in excess of 15 inches (30 cm) possible in isolated locations. Rainfall amounts farther inland will likely be less, though 3-5 inches (7.5-13 cm) remains possible in the central part of the state. Rough seas will cause dangerous coastal flooding, beach erosion, and rip currents. A storm surge in excess of 11 feet (3.3 meters) is forecast from Sebastian Inlet, Florida to Edisto Beach, South Carolina.

### *Transport*

Most ground, air, and maritime transport in eastern Florida has been disrupted by Hurricane Matthew until at least early Oct. 8. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has shut down Intracoastal Waterway bridges along the east coast of Florida prior to the arrival of sustained winds of 40 mph (64 kph). Tri-Rail service is suspended in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. Significant commercial trucking delays are likely on regional highways; the system is forecast to move close to the I-95 corridor in Florida, making driving conditions nearly impossible through early Oct. 8. Similar conditions are possible on I-4, US 1, US 17, and Florida's Turnpike. Strong wind gusts could pose a hazard to high-profile vehicles; heavy rainfall will almost certainly cause low-lying routes to become inundated with floodwaters.

As of midday Oct. 6, widespread flight cancellations are ongoing in Florida. Major airports where extensive cancellation and complete flight suspensions are occurring Oct. 6 include:

- **Daytona Beach International Airport (DAB):** Numerous flight cancellations, though airport remains open
- **Fort Lauderdale International Airport (FLL):** Numerous flight cancellations, though airport is open
- **Jacksonville International Airport (JAX):** Numerous flight cancellations, though airport remains open
- **Miami International Airport (MIA):** Numerous flight cancellations, though airport remains open
- **Orlando International Airport (MCO):** Airport to closed by 2000 Oct. 6
- **Palm Beach International Airport (PBI):** Numerous flight cancellations, though airport remains open

As of early Oct. 7, flights were operating normally out of Tampa Bay International Airport (TPA) and Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW); however, deteriorating weather conditions will likely cause flight disruptions through at least Oct. 7.

As of Oct. 5, the US Coast Guard issued Port Condition Zulu at all South Florida ports, including Seven Mile Bridge in Key West, Port Miami, Miami River, Port Everglades, Port of Palm Beach, and Port of Fort Pierce. All vessels are prohibited from entering or moving throughout the facilities, and all ship-to-shore operations must cease.

## Georgia

Hurricane Matthew will likely start impacting southeastern Georgia beginning early Oct. 7. The storm is forecast to turn to the northwest and pass along the Georgia coastline as a Category 4 storm through early Oct. 8. In preparation for the storm, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal issued a state of emergency for 30 southeastern counties. A mandatory evacuation order was also issued for approximately 500,000 residents that live east of the I-95 corridor. The order covers the counties of Chatham, Bryan, Liberty, McIntosh, Glynn and Camden.

Hurricane Matthew is forecast to bring widespread rainfall totals of 4-8 inches (10-20 cm) to southeastern Georgia; however, coastal areas could see localized amounts of up to 18 inches (45 cm). Widespread flash and areal flooding is a near certainty. Tropical storm-force sustained winds are likely in southeastern Georgia, with wind gusts of 60-80 mph (97-129 kph) possible in coastal areas. Widespread power and utility outages are likely, and it could take several days for services to be restored following the storm. Coastal flooding, beach erosion, and dangerous rip currents are likely as Hurricane Matthew approaches the coastline. A storm surge of up to 9 feet (2.7 meters) is forecast along the entire Georgia coastline.

#### *Transport*

Widespread transport disruptions are likely in southeastern Georgia through at least late Oct. 8. Low-lying coastal routes will become impassable due to floodwaters, and dangerous driving conditions are likely along the I-16 and I-95 corridors. Strong winds could pose a hazard to high-profile vehicles. The Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport (SAV) plans to continue operations, though widespread cancellations are expected. The Georgia Port Authority has decided to suspend operations at ports in Brunswick until Oct. 10; the Port of Savannah will be closed until Oct. 9.

#### **North/South Carolina**

Hurricane Matthew is forecast to make its closest approach to South Carolina as a Category 3 storm early Oct. 8, though conditions could deteriorate by late Oct. 7. A state of emergency is in effect for numerous counties in North and South Carolina, and coastal evacuations in both states are ongoing. As of Oct. 6, approximately 250,000 residents in the Lowcountry of South Carolina had heeded the evacuation orders; estimates indicate that about the same amount of people will move inland during the day on Oct. 6 when Georgetown and Horry counties officially begin evacuations. In North Carolina, a mandatory evacuation order is in effect for visitors and residents in Hyde County, including Ocracoke Island.

Widespread rainfall totals of 5-8 inches (13-20 cm) are forecast for much of the Lowcountry of South Carolina and eastern North Carolina; areas along the immediate coast will likely see higher totals of 12-18 inches (30-45 cm). The heavy rainfall will cause flash and areal flooding. Winds will be strongest along the coast of South Carolina, where gusts approaching 80 mph (129 kph) are possible. Wind gusts between 40-60 mph (64-97 kph) are possible farther inland to the I-95 corridor, and along the coast of North Carolina. Widespread power and utility outages could occur, and restoration of services might be delayed. Storm surge of 3-6 feet (0.9-1.8 meters) is forecast in along the southern and central South Carolina coast; coastal flooding, beach erosion, and dangerous rip currents are likely.

#### *Transport*

Though Hurricane Matthew is no longer forecast to make landfall along the Carolina coast, significant transport disruptions remain possible through at least Oct. 9. Flash and areal flooding will likely lead to commercial trucking and traffic disruptions on low-lying routes and regional highways, including along the I-95, I-26, and I-40 corridors. Authorities could temporarily close the routes if weather conditions warrant. Strong wind gusts could pose a hazard to high profile vehicles. Flight delays and cancellations are likely at regional airports, including those serving Charleston (CHS), Myrtle Beach (MYR), and Wilmington (ILM). As of Oct. 6, these airports were open and operational, though several flight cancellations were being reported. Authorities are assessing forecast weather conditions, and could temporarily suspend operations as Matthew approaches. As of 2200 Oct. 5, the US Coast Guard issued Port Condition X-Ray for the Port of Charleston; authorities could suspend vessel traffic in Charleston and Wilmington depending on sea conditions.

#### **Advice**

Activate contingency plans in areas where hurricane or tropical storm conditions are forecast. Heed all evacuation orders. Use extreme caution around waterways due to the high potential for severe flooding. Stockpile bottled water, nonperishable food, medicine, fuel, and other essentials in case of prolonged electricity outages. Sheltering in place may be necessary for 24-48 hours. Consider obtaining cash from ATMs well in advance of the storm's arrival. Store vital documents in a waterproof container, and be prepared to evacuate low-lying areas and move to hurricane shelters, which are typically at schools, churches, and local government buildings. Observe strict food and water precautions after the storm passes.

Plan accordingly for protracted commercial, transport, and logistics disruptions in areas in the path of the storm, especially if vital infrastructure is damaged. Seek updated information on road conditions before driving or routing shipments through areas where flooding or landslides have occurred. Confirm flights before checking out of hotels or driving to the airport; clearing passenger backlogs may take up to 48 hours in some locations.

#### **Resources**

##### *Weather*

US National Hurricane Center: [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

US National Weather Service: [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

Cuba Institute of Meteorology (Spanish): [www.met.inf.cu](http://www.met.inf.cu)

Bahamas Department of Meteorology: [www.bahamasweather.org.bs](http://www.bahamasweather.org.bs)

#### *Disaster Management*

Bahamas: [www.bahamas.gov.bs/nema](http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/nema)

Florida: [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

Georgia: [www.gema.ga.gov](http://www.gema.ga.gov)

North Carolina: [www.ncdps.gov](http://www.ncdps.gov)

South Carolina: [www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org)

#### *Road Conditions*

Florida: [www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com)

Georgia: [www.511ga.org](http://www.511ga.org)

North Carolina: [www.ncdot.gov](http://www.ncdot.gov)

South Carolina: [www.511sc.org](http://www.511sc.org)

#### *Airports*

Charleston International Airport: [www.chs-airport.com](http://www.chs-airport.com)

Daytona Beach International Airport: [www.flydaytonafirst.com](http://www.flydaytonafirst.com)

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport: [www.broward.org/airport](http://www.broward.org/airport)

Jacksonville International Airport: [www.flyjax.com](http://www.flyjax.com)

Miami International Airport: [www.miami-airport.com](http://www.miami-airport.com)

Myrtle Beach International Airport: [www.flymyrtlebeach.com](http://www.flymyrtlebeach.com)

Orlando International Airport: [www.orlandoairports.net](http://www.orlandoairports.net)

Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport: [www.savannahairport.com](http://www.savannahairport.com)

Southwest Florida International Airport (Fort Myers): [www.flylcpa.com](http://www.flylcpa.com)

Tampa International Airport: [www.tampaairport.com](http://www.tampaairport.com)

Wilmington International Airport: [www.flyilm.com](http://www.flyilm.com)

#### *Airlines*

Air Canada: [www.aircanada.com](http://www.aircanada.com)

American Airlines: [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com)

Bahamasair: [www.bahamasair.com](http://www.bahamasair.com)

Caribbean Airlines: [www.caribbean-airlines.com](http://www.caribbean-airlines.com)

Cayman Airways: [www.caymanairways.com](http://www.caymanairways.com)

Cubana: [www.cubana.cu](http://www.cubana.cu)

Delta Air Lines: [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)

Insel Air: [www.fly-inselair.com](http://www.fly-inselair.com)

JetBlue: [www.jetblue.com](http://www.jetblue.com)

Sunrise Airways: [www.sunriseairways.net](http://www.sunriseairways.net)

WestJet: [www.westjet.com](http://www.westjet.com)

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1. Related Advice: [How to prepare for a hurricane/tropical cyclone/typhoon.](#)
  2. Related Advice: [What to do before, during and after a flood.](#)
  3. Related Advice: [Water Treatment Methods.](#)
  4. Related Advice: [Post-flood Health Safety and Advice.](#)
  5. Related Advice: [Buildings damaged by storms present many health risks. Consider these before entry.](#)
  6. Related Advice: [Advice for water contamination issues caused by industrial accidents, natural disasters, or other environmental events.](#)