

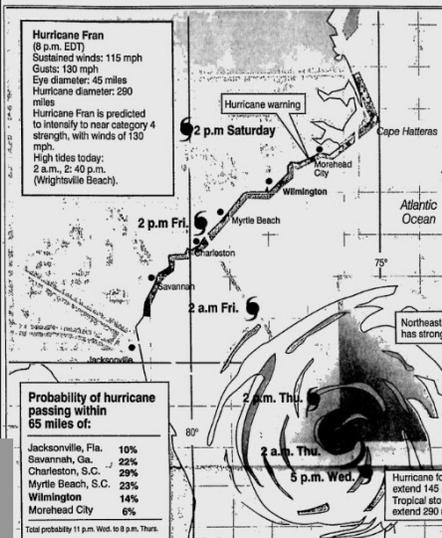
HURRICANE COMING
AREA CANCELLATIONS - 4A **EVACUATION ROUTES - 3B**
TRACKING MAP - 2B **SPORTS CANCELLATION - 4C**
EMERGENCY SHELTERS - 2B **SURVIVAL GUIDE - 1D**

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WEATHER
Hurricane Fran
 Today:
 Hurricane warning. Winds increasing through the day. High near 80.
 Complete forecast on 10A

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Morning Star



Full-force Fran aims for coast

Evacuations ordered in N.C., S.C. beach communities

By JEFF SELINGO Staff Writer

As Hurricane Fran churned Wednesday toward its meeting with the Carolina coast, forecasters painted a picture of another Hugo.
 Wednesday night, a hurricane warning was issued for the entire North Carolina coast after the storm continued to jog northward throughout the day.
 Although landfall was still projected between Charleston and Myrtle Beach, forecasters warned the storm likely would continue veering north.
 Also, the storm is to be a landfall in South Carolina would bring hurricane conditions — including storm surges as high as 21 feet — to southeastern North Carolina. A storm surge is a bulge of water pushed toward the shore by the storm's winds.
 Forecasters said the storm would extend outward as far as 145 miles. Tropical storm force winds extend outward to 230 miles from the center of the storm. Wilmington is about 170 miles from Charleston.
 By the time it makes landfall, Fran would be as strong as Bertha, which hit the Wilmington area in July.
 "It's quite a nasty storm," said Staff Writer, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Wilmington.
 "We're looking at something much larger than we went through with Bertha," Mr. Summers said.
 Up and down the coastline, officials urged residents to take the storm seriously. Beach town residents were reminded that hurricane conditions might leave emergency crews unable to help them.
 In Brunswick County, a mandatory evacuation will begin at 8 a.m. for all beaches, although residents were being urged to leave sooner.
 Brunswick County's evacuation should go quickly because most vacationers have gone home already and the storm is not coming over a holiday weekend, said Cecil Summers.

The last time Wilmington was directly affected by two hurricanes in one season was 1958 when hurricanes Diane and Ione hit.
 Strike probabilities computed by the National Hurricane Center say the eye of the storm has a 30 percent chance of passing within 65 miles of Charleston by 2 p.m. Saturday.
 Wilmington has a 21 percent chance, the highest in North Carolina.
 Storm surges associated with the storm could reach 21 feet in Brunswick County if the storm hits around Myrtle Beach, said coastal geologist Dan Pearson. Forecasters at the National Weather Service are predicting surges, or storm tides, from 12 to 16 feet.
 "The worst surge always occurs 20 miles north or right of the eye," said a spokesman for the service on already-saturated ground, the Weather Service says.
 Forecasters see similarities between Fran and Hugo, which made landfall in the Charleston area in 1960. Fran is about as large as Hugo, although not quite as strong. But Hugo became stronger when it crossed the warm September waters just before it made landfall.
 And once Fran hits the coast, they expect it to remain strong as it heads toward Charlotte, where Hugo did severe damage in 1960. North Carolina's damage total from Hugo was \$4.5 billion, most of it in the Charlotte area.
 Forecasters expect nothing to stop the storm from hitting the U.S. mainland. The question for them is where it will land. That depends on a weather system centered over western North Carolina. If the system breaks apart, as expected, the storm will continue toward Charleston. If it remains in place, then a track to the right or north is likely.

Storm has folks boarding up and bugging out, again

By TRICIA VANCE Staff Writer
 Beach residents and visitors were ordered to evacuate islands in New Hanover and Brunswick counties this morning as Hurricane Fran made a beeline for the Carolina coastline.
 The New Hanover County Commissioners declared a state of emergency Wednesday, and evacuation of the beach towns and low-lying areas was ordered to begin at 7 a.m. and end at noon.
 With gale-force winds expected by midday, authorities urged residents to have storm preparations made by noon, said Emergency Management Director Dan Summers.
 The Cape Fear Chapter of the American Red Cross had volunteers ready to open shelters by noon today, and New Hanover County's Emergency Management Office

was sending cots and supplies to the designated shelters.
 Mr. Summers said winds of 30 to 40 mph could arrive early this afternoon, and he urged residents to be where they plan to ride out the storm by late afternoon.
 "We're looking at something much larger than we went through with Bertha," Mr. Summers said.
 Up and down the coastline, officials urged residents to take the storm seriously. Beach town residents were reminded that hurricane conditions might leave emergency crews unable to help them.
 In Brunswick County, a mandatory evacuation will begin at 8 a.m. for all beaches, although residents were being urged to leave sooner.
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6A WILMINGTON MORNING STAR / THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1996



Wayne and Peggy Meese boarded up their Long Beach home Wednesday afternoon as they prepared to head home to Jamestown. The couple, who had a beach house full of children during the Labor Day weekend, found themselves boarding up on the beach alone.

Ready

Continued from page 1A
 Logan, the county's emergency management coordinator.
 Bald Head Island's emergency management team was to meet at 6:30 a.m. to discuss an evacuation.
 In the event of evacuation, power and water was to be shut off to parts of the island. Island management planned a broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on Channel 2, the island's in-house cable television station.
 Officials estimate about 500 people are on the island, including several hundred tourists, 110 residents and contractors and builders.
 On Topsail Island, a mandatory evacuation is likely, said Carson Smith, Pender County's emergency management coordinator. County officials will meet at 5 a.m. with Surf City and Topsail Island town officials, he said.
 Onlooker County officials called for a voluntary evacuation of North Topsail Beach on Wednesday. Town officials are scheduled to meet at 7 a.m. to decide whether to make evacuations mandatory.
 Many roads on the island were already flooded late Wednesday afternoon because of the heavy rain.
 Many schools in the area are closed today.
 The University of North Carolina at Wilmington has a special program because it has more than 1,500 resident students. Residence hall meetings were held Wednesday, and students were urged to make plans to leave — and to tell their parents of their plans, said spokesman Mimi Cunningham.
 The university will make arrangements to house international students and others who cannot leave, she said.
 Anyone planning to travel by air should stay in close communication with their airlines regarding possible flight cancellations today, said Robert Kemp, director of the New Hanover County airport.
 Unless there is damage to the airfield, the airport will remain open, he said.
 Inland counties also were making preparations to weather Fran. Logan County emergency management officials called the county's towns to ensure that water tanks are full. They also called nursing homes to get a count of empty beds in case hospital patients need to be moved.
 As emergency officials worked to get residents ready for the storm, utility companies were preparing for the aftermath.
 "This is a much wider storm than Bertha, so more of our service area will be impacted," said George Van Velsor, Wilmington district manager for Carolina Power & Light Co.
 And the company could be unable to call on some of the outside crews that helped restore power during Bertha. Ms. Van Velsor said. "The storm will also impact the areas served by S.C. Gas and Electric and Duke Power, and they came to our assistance last time," she said.
 If power goes off, as it almost certainly will if high winds hit the Wilmington area, Ms. Van Velsor urged residents to be patient.
 "We are not going to have our crews working during the peak of the storm," she said. A damage assessment will be made as soon as it's safe.
 Main lines will be repaired first, then the smaller service lines. That means some residents might have to wait several days — or more if the storm hits hard — to regain power.
 For that reason, she said customers with special needs — like people on oxygen or who otherwise cannot go without electricity — should make plans to move to a shelter or another location with a generator, Ms. Van Velsor said.
 "We do have a critical customer

AREA CANCELLATIONS

The following cancellations were made Wednesday because of the threat from Hurricane Fran:
 ■ New Hanover County Schools will be closed today and Friday. Only designated emergency personnel should report to work.
 ■ New Hanover County offices are closed today except for workers with emergency assignments.
 ■ Wilmington city offices were to open at 8 a.m. today, but an early closing was planned.
 ■ The Carolina Beach town hall will open at 8 a.m. today, but designated emergency personnel should report.
 ■ Pender County Schools will be closed today, but staff should report.
 ■ UNCW is closed today. Students and staff can call 962-3991 for the status of classes and campus events. Resident students are urged to leave the campus.
 ■ Cape Fear Community College will be closed today and Friday. Faculty and staff orientation is cancelled. Today's luncheon at the Coast Line Convention Center will be at 11 a.m. and is optional.
 ■ Brunswick Community College has cancelled day and evening classes today, and late registration will be extended to Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 ■ The Air Force Association Cape Fear chapter will not meet today.
 ■ The Cape Fear Area United Way has postponed the start of its 1996 Campaign Kickoff, which was set for 7:30 a.m. today.
 ■ A meeting of city neighborhood organizations scheduled for 7 p.m. today at Sunset Park United Methodist Church will be rescheduled.

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