TROPICAL STORM NICHOLAS BRIEFING

5:20 PM CT
Sunday, September 12, 2021

What’s Changed: Timing of impacts pre-dawn through early afternoon Mon, 9/13

Next Briefing: 10:30 PM (9/12) and/or 4:30 AM (9/13)

Disclaimer: The information contained within is time-sensitive. Do not use after 1:00pm EDT Wednesday.
Tropical Storm Nicholas is forecast to scoot quickly near the northeast Mexican and Lower Texas coast tonight and Monday.

Tropical Storm Warnings and Storm Surge Watches remain effect along the Cameron-Kenedy County coast.

Strong winds, minor rainfall flooding, beachfront flooding, and dangerous surf are potential impacts to prepare for along/near the coast.

Event time now focused from midnight tonight (Sunday) through late afternoon Monday.

**NOTE:** Do not focus on the exact track. Impacts can occur well outside the area enclosed by the cone.
The storm will be small in size when it passes near or just inland of the Cameron/Willacy/Kenedy County coast

Exact location of the center will determine extent of impacts on land.

- A center remaining offshore would sharply reduce rainfall between coastal and inland locations, with limited to no impacts in the mid-upper Valley
- A center moving inland (say, along IH-69E) would create significant impacts Cameron-Kenedy, but notably lower impacts across the mid-upper Valley

Nicholas is developing and moving quickly! For areas under watches/warnings, preparedness should be completed immediately.
For information on specific hazards in this area, please go to https://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?office=bro
Timing: Mainly Monday (midnight to 4 PM)

Forecast amounts have dropped as rainfall potential shifts farther north. If Nicholas tracks farther offshore, there would be less rainfall.

Regardless of totals, some areas of the Valley will see beneficial rains after a prolonged period of drying since mid July.

In areas where rain bands produce 2 inches of rain per hour for up to 2 hours, 2+ feet of water depth will create flooding in poor drainage locations.

- Cameron and Willacy County, mainly east of Expressway
There is a **reasonable worst-case** scenario for:

- 40 mph gusts in any stronger rain bands in Hidalgo and Brooks County
- 50-60 mph gusts in stronger bands in Cameron County along/east of IH-69E with minor damage to light weight objects, fences, trees
- 60+ mph gusts and some damage to unfastened objects and trees on South Padre Island and Port Isabel
- Isolated power outages in Hidalgo; scattered power outages in Cameron/Willacy

Expected forecast:

- 35 to 50+ mph gusts Port Isabel-South Padre with isolated to scattered power outages and minor tree/fence damage
- 25-35 mph gusts Brownsville-Harlingen-Raymondville
- 15-25 mph gusts Hidalgo along/east of IH69C
The most likely time of arrival of Tropical Storm Force Winds for Cameron and Willacy County is Monday morning.

However, this area could see Tropical Storm Force Winds as early as 2 AM Monday (late Sunday night).
A 4 to 7-in-10 chance for 40 mph or greater winds along Laguna Madre and the coast, including South Padre/Port Isabel/Port Mansfield

A 2 to 4-in-10 chance for 40 mph or greater winds between IH-69C and IH-69E

A less than 2 in 10 chance Rio Grande Plains

Primary time: Monday, sunrise through early afternoon
A 1 to 2-in-10 chance for ~60 mph or greater winds along Laguna Madre and the coast, including South Padre/Port Isabel/Port Mansfield.
Peak inundation along South Padre/Padre Island is 2 to 4 feet above normally high ground (sand)

Most likely scenario: Water levels 1.5 to 2.5 feet above normally high ground

Impacts: **Sea water into dunes** at narrow beaches, and **up to the dunes at wider beaches**, Monday. Best opportunity – **late morning Monday**

Note: High tide is at 12:02 AM Monday. Low tide is at 2:38 PM Monday. Peak inflow would be between high and low tide.
Surf/Waves - Monday
Tropical Storm Nicholas

• Tides could look like this (under rain and wind, not sunshine) at wide beaches Monday

• Rough/confused surf with waves 8 to 10 feet expected Monday, receding Monday evening and overnight

• Rain through early afternoon Will keep people out of the surf, but potential late afternoon sunshine could bring some out when conditions remain dangerous
Key Take-Aways

Tropical Storm Nicholas

- Main threats and location: Flooding rainfall and strong winds, favoring locations east of IH-69E (Cameron/Willacy/Kenedy)
- Timing for all: Midnight tonight through late afternoon Monday.
- Peak rainfall and wind timing: 2 AM through 2 PM Monday
- Some uncertainty in final track passing the lower Valley; small storm size could dramatically change where and if impacts occur.
- If storm passes farther east in Gulf: lesser impacts; farther west (just inland) over coastal counties = greater impacts
- Minimal impacts in the “upper” Valley/Rio Grande Plains

Forecast Confidence

Increasing confidence on timing (sooner than later)
Moderate confidence on track
Moderate-High confidence on intensity and storm size
Next Briefing:
Overnight, at 10:30 PM, 4:30 AM, or both
Method: Email

For the latest graphics and information go to: www.hurricanes.gov or weather.gov/srh/tropical?office=bro