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BULLETIN
HURRICANE FRAN ADVISORY NUMBER 49
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MIAMI FL
5 PM EDT THU SEP 05 1996

...DANGEROUS HURRICANE FRAN NEARING THE CAROLINA COAST...

HURRICANE WARNINGS ARE IN EFFECT FROM EDISTO BEACH SOUTH CAROLINA TO THE NORTH CAROLINA/VIRGINIA BORDER...INCLUDING PAMLICO AND ALBEMARLE SOUNDS. PREPARATIONS TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY IN THE HURRICANE WARNING AREA SHOULD BE COMPLETED. PEOPLE IN THE WARNING AREA SHOULD HEED ADVICE FROM LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS.

A HURRICANE WATCH AND A TROPICAL STORM WARNING ARE IN EFFECT FROM NORTH OF THE NORTH CAROLINA/VIRGINIA BORDER TO CHINCOTEAGUE VIRGINIA...INCLUDING THE GREATER HAMPTON ROADS AREA. A TROPICAL STORM WARNING IS IN EFFECT FOR THE LOWER CHESAPEAKE BAY. A TROPICAL STORM WARNING IS IN EFFECT FROM NORTH OF BRUNSWICK GEORGIA TO JUST SOUTH OF EDISTO BEACH.

AT 5 PM EDT...2100Z...THE CENTER OF HURRICANE FRAN WAS LOCATED NEAR LATITUDE 32.9 NORTH...LONGITUDE 77.9 WEST OR ABOUT 80 MILES SOUTH-SOUTHEAST OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA/NORTH CAROLINA BORDER. THIS POSITION IS ALSO ABOUT 95 MILES SOUTH OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA.

FRAN IS MOVING TOWARD THE NORTH NORTHWEST NEAR 16 MPH AND A GRADUAL TURN TOWARD THE NORTH IS EXPECTED TONIGHT OR ON FRIDAY. ON THIS TRACK THE CENTER OF THE HURRICANE IS EXPECTED TO CROSS THE COAST SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT. HURRICANE FORCE WINDS ARE BEGINNING TO SPREAD ACROSS THE COAST IN THE HURRICANE WARNING AREA.

MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS ARE NEAR 115 MPH...WITH HIGHER GUSTS. AMATEUR RADIO REPORTS INDICATE WIND GUSTS TO 100 MPH AT SOUTHPORT NORTH CAROLINA. A SHIP JUST NORTHEAST OF THE CENTER REPORTED SUSTAINED WINDS OF 98 MPH A FEW HOURS AGO. THE FRYING PAN SHOALS WEATHER STATION LOCATED ABOUT 50 MILES SOUTHEAST OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA RECENTLY MEASURED SUSTAINED WINDS OF 81 MPH AND A GUST OF 101 MPH. FRAN WILL BEGIN TO WEAKEN AFTER THE CENTER CROSSES THE COAST. HOWEVER... HURRICANE FORCE WINDS ARE EXPECTED TO SPREAD INLAND AS FAR AS 100 MILES NEAR THE PATH OF FRAN.

HURRICANE FORCE WINDS EXTEND OUTWARD UP TO 140 MILES FROM THE CENTER AND TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS EXTEND OUTWARD UP TO 260 MILES.

LATEST MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE REPORTED FROM RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT WAS 953 MB...28.14 INCHES.

TIDES OF 12 TO 16 FEET ABOVE NORMAL...ACCOMPANIED BY DANGEROUS BATTERING WAVES...ARE EXPECTED NEAR AND TO THE NORTHEAST OF WHERE THE CENTER MAKES LANDFALL OVER THE CAROLINAS.

RAINBANDS ARE SPREADING INLAND. RAINFALL TOTALS OF 5 TO 10 INCHES ARE EXPECTED ALONG THE PATH OF FRAN. THE THREAT FROM RAINFALL WILL INCREASE OVER HIGHER TERRAIN DURING THE NEXT 24 HOURS.