

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MIAMI FL
9 PM EDT THU SEP 05 1996

...HURRICANE FRAN HAS MOVED ASHORE NEAR CAPE FEAR...

HURRICANE WARNINGS ARE IN EFFECT FROM NORTH OF CAPE ROMAIN 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 MAINTAINED. 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.

ALL WARNINGS ARE DISCONTINUED FROM CAPE ROMAIN SOUTH CAROLINA SOUTHWARD.

AT 9 PM EDT...0100Z...THE CENTER OF HURRICANE FRAN WAS LOCATED NEAR LATITUDE 33.9 NORTH...LONGITUDE 78.0 WEST OR NEAR SOUTHPORT AND ABOUT 25 MILES SOUTH-SOUTHWEST OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA.

FRAN IS MOVING TOWARD THE NORTH NEAR 16 MPH AND THIS GENERAL MOTION IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS. ON THIS TRACK THE CENTER OF THE HURRICANE WILL MOVE OVER EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA TONIGHT AND FRIDAY.

MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS ARE NEAR 105 MPH...WITH HIGHER GUSTS. WIND GUSTS TO 86 MPH WERE RECENTLY REPORTED AT WILMINGTON. FRAN WILL CONTINUE TO WEAKEN AS THE CENTER MOVES FARTHER INLAND. 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... MAINLY OVER THE WATER.

LATEST MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE REPORTED FROM RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT WAS 956 MB...28.23 INCHES.

STORM SURGE FLOODING OF UP TO 12 FEET...ALONG WITH DANGEROUS BATTERING WAVES ARE EXPECTED TO GRADUALLY DECREASE ALONG THE COAST IN THE HURRICANE WARNING AREA.

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...WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR INLAND FLOODING.

ISOLATED TORNADOES ARE POSSIBLE OVER PORTIONS OF NORTH CAROLINA AND SOUTH CAROLINA. THERE WAS AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF A TORNADO AT TOPSAIL BEACH NORTH CAROLINA.

REPEATING THE 9 PM EDT POSITION...33.9 N... 78.0 W. MOVEMENT TOWARD...NORTH NEAR 16 MPH. MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS...105 MPH. MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE... 956 MB.

THE NEXT ADVISORY WILL BE ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER AT 11 PM EDT.

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