HURRICANE LAURA
BRIEFING

11:00 AM CDT
Wednesday, August 26, 2020
Prepared by: WFO Jackson, MS

What has changed: Laura now a major hurricane

The Next Briefing: Wednesday, August 26, 7:30 pm CDT

Disclaimer: The information contained within is time-sensitive. Do not use after 1 pm CDT Wednesday.
Hurricane Laura has undergone significant strengthening overnight, now a Category 3 with 125 mph winds

Further strengthening is expected possibly becoming a Category 4 (130 mph winds) before making landfall

Still expected landfall over the northwest Gulf of Mexico near TX/LA border after midnight

Northeast LA/Southeast AR/Western and Northern MS will be impacted by wind, tornado and heavy rain potential

Tropical Storm Warning – Richland, Franklin, Catahoula, and Concordia Parishes through Thursday
Laura is a large Category 3 hurricane that has developed an eye overnight.

Still on a track toward the upper TX/southwest LA coast.

Similar in size, track and intensity to Hurricane Rita in September 2005.
- Track of Laura remains unchanged

- May strengthen to Category 4, 135 MPH winds, before making landfall after midnight tonight

- Storm size and track close enough for wind, tornado and heavy rain potential for the area

**NOTE:** Do not focus on the exact track. Impacts can occur well outside the area enclosed by the cone.
The most likely time of arrival of Tropical Storm Force Winds for coastal areas is late this afternoon.

Tropical Storm Force Winds possible over northeast LA/southeast AR/western MS beginning early Thursday morning.
Wind Threat / Potential Impact

Hurricane Laura

Gusty Winds Likely
Early Thursday morning into Thursday Evening

Elevated Threat:
- Sustained winds of 30-40 mph with gusts of 50 mph.
- Downed trees and powerlines expected.
- Power outages may last for 1-2 days.

Limited Threat:
- Sustained winds of 20-30 mph with gusts up 35-40 mph.
- Weak trees & tree limbs may break & fall.
- High profile vehicles may become unsteady in gusts.

Timing:
Early Thursday morning into Thursday evening
Expected Storm Total Rainfall

Hurricane Laura

**Storm Total rainfall forecast valid through 7 am Monday**
- 4-10 inches western LA/AR
- 1-3 inches northeast LA/southeast AR/much of MS

**Note:** There will likely be locally higher amounts
- Greatest flood risk over the next 3 days will occur across western LA into AR
- Some risk will exist over western MS/southeast AR and northeast LA
Flooding Impacts

Hurricane Laura

Flash Flooding Possible
Late Tonight through Thursday

Limited Threat:
- 1-2" of rain
- Localized flash flooding possible, particularly in low lying & urban areas.

Timing:
Late Tonight - Thursday

weather.gov/jan
Potential Tornado Impacts

Jackson, Mississippi
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Hurricane Laura

Severe Storms Possible
Late Tonight through Thursday

Slight Risk:
- Severe weather associated with landfalling Hurricane Laura
- Tornadoes possible
- Damaging wind gusts

Marginal Risk:
- Rain bands associated with landfalling Hurricane Laura
- Tornadoes possible
- Damaging wind gusts

Timing:
Late tonight through Thursday
Key Take-Aways

Hurricane Laura

- Hurricane Laura has undergone significant strengthening overnight, now a Category 3 with 125 mph winds
- Further strengthening is expected possibly becoming a Category 4 (130 mph winds) before making landfall
- Still expected landfall over the northwest Gulf of Mexico near TX/LA border after midnight
- Northeast LA/Southeast AR/Western and Northern MS will be impacted by wind, tornado and heavy rain potential
- Tropical Storm Warning – Richland, Franklin, Catahoula, and Concordia Parishes through Thursday
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Method: Webinar

For the latest graphics and information go to: www.hurricanes.gov