Strong Cold Front
Impacts: Severe Weather, Coastal Flooding, Gusty Winds

Decision Support Briefing # 3
As of: 6 AM December 24th, 2020

What Has Changed?
- Upgrade to Coastal Flood Warnings for Beaufort and Hyde counties
- Confidence continues to increase
# Main Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>Impacts</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Timing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Damaging Thunderstorm</strong></td>
<td>Localized downed trees and powerlines, and isolated structural damage associated with the strongest storms.</td>
<td>All of eastern North Carolina</td>
<td>Christmas Eve afternoon through early Christmas morning</td>
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<td>Wind Gusts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tornadoes</strong></td>
<td>Localized areas of enhanced damage with significant damage to structures and infrastructure.</td>
<td>All of eastern North Carolina</td>
<td>Christmas Eve afternoon through early Christmas morning</td>
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<td><strong>Strong Sustained Winds/Gusts</strong></td>
<td>Strong southerly winds could lead to wind damage and scattered power outages.</td>
<td>Coastal North Carolina, especially OBX</td>
<td>Christmas Eve through Christmas Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coastal Flooding</strong></td>
<td>Minor to moderate inundation of low lying areas. Greatest threat along the Outer Banks and Pamlico/Pungo Rivers.</td>
<td>Locations adjacent to northern/eastern Pamlico Sound. Portions of Pamlico and Pungo Rivers, eastern Albemarle Sound, Crystal Coast</td>
<td>Christmas Eve through Christmas Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ocean overwash &amp; beach erosion. Highest threat between Oregon Inlet &amp; Ocracoke Island.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marine</strong></td>
<td>Very strong winds &amp; extremely dangerous seas.</td>
<td>All marine areas around eastern North Carolina.</td>
<td>Christmas Eve through Christmas Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>Elevated</td>
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<td>Damaging Thunderstorm Wind Gusts: All of Eastern NC</td>
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<td>Tornadoes: All of Eastern NC</td>
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<td>Strong Sustained Winds: Coastal NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal Flooding: OBX, Beaufort &amp; Hyde Counties</td>
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<td>Marine: All Marine Areas</td>
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</table>
**Timing:**
Christmas Eve afternoon through early Christmas morning

**Impacts:**

- **Strong, damaging winds** in thunderstorms could lead to structural damage, trees down/uprooted, and power outages.

- **Several tornadoes are possible**, resulting in areas of enhanced damage.
Impacts
Scattered Power Outages Especially Along The Coast

High Wind Warnings in effect for Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands
Wind Advisories issued for the coastal counties adjacent to the ocean, sounds and main rivers.
Moderate to Significant ocean overwash is expected, especially during high tide, from Oregon Inlet down to Ocracoke Island. Highway 12 will likely be impassable at times.

2 to 4 feet of inundation expected soundside along Outer Banks between Nags Head/Roanoke Island, south to Buxton.

Additional Minor coastal flooding expected across Mainland Dare County

Moderate beach erosion also expected, especially south of Cape Hatteras
Coastal Flooding

Anticipated areas of inundation

- 2 to 4 feet of inundation expected along the Pamlico & Pungo Rivers, and NW Pamlico Sound

- Minor coastal flooding expected across the Crystal Coast, including areas adjacent to Bogue and Core Sound. Some flooding also possible across the Bay River.
Storm Warnings in effect for all coastal waters and the Pamlico Sound

Gale Warnings in effect for the rest of the inland sounds and rivers.
Temperatures will fall through the day Christmas.

Low temps in the 20s Friday night

Highs only in the 30s Saturday
Event Summary

Threats for Severe Weather, Strong Winds, Coastal Flooding

*Christmas Eve through Christmas Day*

- Strong, damaging winds in thunderstorms could lead to structural damage, trees down/uprooted, and power outages.

- Several Tornadoes possible, resulting in areas of enhanced damage.

- Moderate to minor coastal flooding expected for locations adjacent to ocean, inland sounds and tidal rivers. Additionally, ocean overwash and beach erosion are likely along the coast, with the main threat from Oregon Inlet to Ocracoke Island.

- Southerly wind gusts up to 50-60 mph expected along the Outer Banks, with wind gusts 40-50 mph expected elsewhere along the coast.
This will be the last briefing unless there are significant changes.

**Briefing Webpage**

- Web: [weather.gov/moreheadcity/](http://weather.gov/moreheadcity/)
- Phone (public): (252) 223-5737 ext. 6
- E-mail: wxobs.mhx@noaa.gov
- Facebook: [NWS Newport/Morehead City](https://www.facebook.com/NWSNewportMoreheadCity)
- Twitter: [@NWSMoreheadCity](https://twitter.com/NWSMoreheadCity)
- YouTube: [NWSMoreheadCity](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw2tOCURS9w7jXz78pHfYhg)

**Disclaimer:** The information contained within this briefing is time-sensitive, do not use after December 25th.