

# NWS Raleigh Provides New Tropical Forecast Products

July 11, 2018



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For tropical cyclone forecasts and information visit:

<https://www.weather.gov/rah/tropical>

Tropical cyclones are a major threat to life and property in North Carolina. In fact, North Carolina ranks 4th in the country in land falling Hurricanes, trailing only Florida, Texas, and Louisiana. Therefore it is imperative that we continue to improve not only the forecasting associated with tropical cyclones, but also the communication of the threats associated with them.

For the first time, the National Weather Service in Raleigh will issue tropical products when a tropical system threatens central North Carolina. Previously, only coastal NC offices issued tropical products.

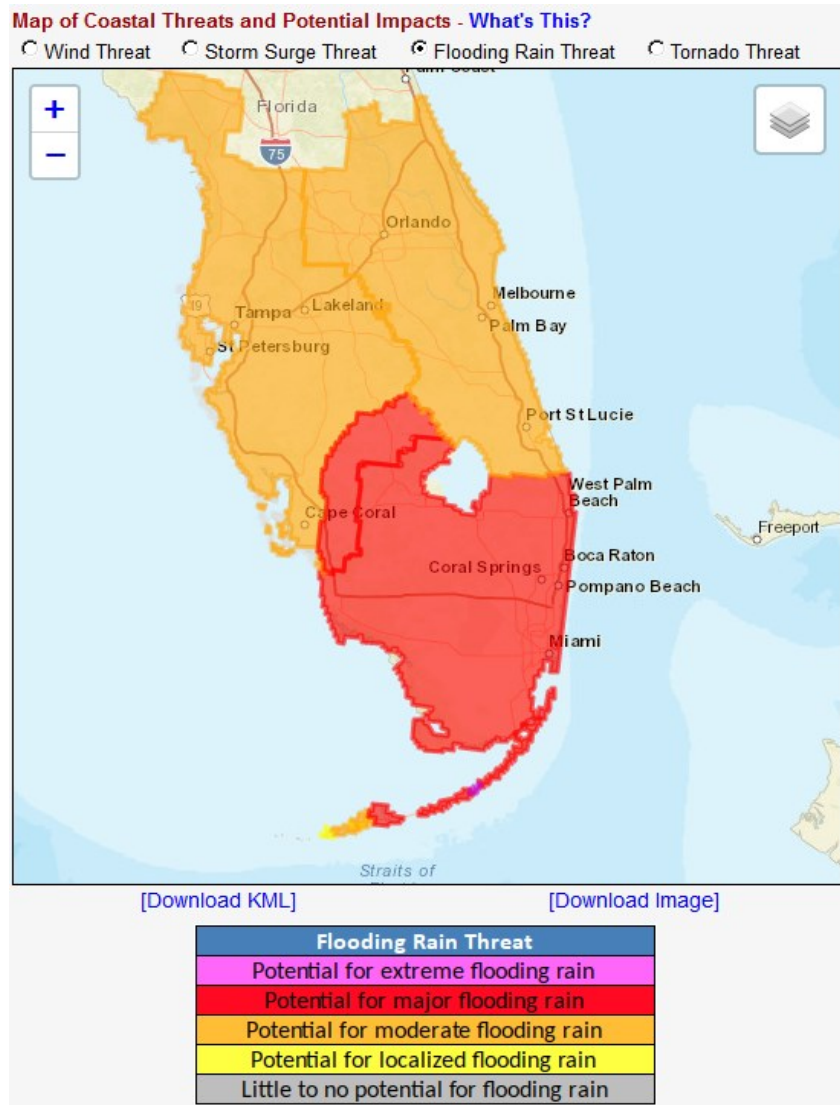
The new policy comes as part of an effort to improve communication and consistency between products and offices. Previously, if winds associated with a tropical cyclone

were going to affect NC, coastal offices might put out a tropical storm warning, and inland offices would issue high wind warnings. Under the new initiative, both coastal and inland offices would issue tropical storm warnings.

The new service goes much further than hurricane and tropical storm watches and warnings. Other products to be issued include the Hurricane Local Statement, which is similar to the National Hurricane Center's public advisory but with much more local context including preparedness actions and expected impacts to central NC.

In addition, NWS Raleigh will be creating Hurricane Threats and Impacts (HTI) graphics (example on page 2) which will communicate the potential threat of wind, inland flooding, and tornadoes across central NC during a tropical





Example Hurricane Threats and Impacts graphic for flooding rain threat.

cyclone. Coastal offices have been issuing these graphics already and also include an HTI graphic for storm surge. The graphics give a reasonable worst case scenario that decision makers can use to see the maximum extent of potential hazards that they need to prepare for to remain safe during the storm.

Also being launched this year is the NWS Raleigh tropical webpage. The site is designed to be a one stop shop for any products related to tropical weather. This includes products issued by the NWS Raleigh forecast office as well as those issued by the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL and the Weather Prediction Center in College Park, MD. These products include but are not limited to the advisory, forecast discussions, precipitation and wind forecasts, as well as the aforementioned HTI graphics. Also on the site are various preparedness guides as well as localized information such as North Carolina evacuation routes. There is even a tab that displays posts currently on NWS Raleigh social media accounts. The site can be accessed at <https://www.weather.gov/rah/tropical>.

We hope that the website and the information provided in it will help decision makers and the public to more quickly access the information they need in order to prepare for the impacts associated with a land falling tropical cyclone in North Carolina.