



Hurricane Irma

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...Irma's Impacts Will Be Greatest Today...

OVERVIEW

Conditions will deteriorate this morning as the expansive circulation of [Hurricane Irma](#) spreads across the region. Expect multiple hazards including life-threatening storm surge inundation at the coast, excessive rainfall/localized flash flooding, damaging wind gusts and a few tornadoes. Expect the worst conditions between 7 am and 5 pm today, earliest in SE GA and later in SE SC. More information can be found at the [NWS Charleston Tropical page](#).

CURRENT WATCHES, WARNINGS AND/OR ADVISORIES

Storm Surge Warning along the coast; **Flash Flood Watch** for all counties; **Tornado Watch** for parts of southeast Georgia; **Tropical Storm Warning** for all land areas and coastal waters north of Edisto Beach; **Hurricane Warning** for Georgia coastal waters; **Hurricane Watch** between Edisto Beach and the Altamaha River and for coastal waters between Edisto Beach and the Savannah River

EXPECTED IMPACTS (INCLUDES TIMING AND LOCATION)

TIDES & STORM SURGE: Elevated water levels will persist today. Life-threatening storm surge inundation is expected along the coast around the time of the early afternoon high tide, especially between 9 AM and 3 PM, when inundation levels up to 4 to 6 feet above typical dry ground could occur. Storm surge inundation and rough surf could damage coastal properties, roads and dunes. Expect areas of severe beach erosion.

HEAVY RAIN: Heavy rain will spread from south to north across the region this morning. Excessive rainfall could produce localized flash flooding today. Storm total rainfall amounts of 4 to 8 inches will be common, with greatest amounts near the coast and across SE GA. Locally greater amounts are possible. Heavy rain could worsen salt water flooding already expected at the coast.

RIVER FLOODING: Major flooding is forecast this week for the Canoochee River at Claxton GA. Minor to moderate flooding is forecast on other rivers starting this week. River Flood Warnings are valid for Claxton and Reidsville.

WINDS: Winds will continue to increase this morning. Strongest coastal wind gusts will range from 50 to 60 mph in SC to 60 to 70 mph in GA, where a few hurricane force wind gusts around 75 mph are possible. Strongest inland wind gusts will range from 40 to 50 mph in SC to 50 to 60 mph in GA. These strong winds will knock down trees and tree limbs which will produce power outages and could block some roads. Heavy rain and saturated ground will increase the potential for downed trees.

MARINE: Life-threatening winds and seas will continue today. Expect worst conditions including hurricane force wind gusts across Georgia waters.

TORNADOES: The threat for brief tornadoes will spread from south to north this morning and will persist until late today.

POTENTIAL TIMING OF TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS

Tropical storm force winds will overspread the region this morning. Strongest winds will occur 7 am to 4 pm.

CONFIDENCE

High for strong winds, excessive rainfall and marine impacts. Moderate for storm surge inundation and tornadoes.

RECOVERY PHASE WEATHER ISSUES

River flooding could persist beyond this week. No significant weather impacts expected through late week.