

# GC Briefing

October 9, 2018

## Weather Sentinel Hurricane Michael

Hurricane Michael has strengthened into a category-2 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Scale, and further intensification is expected by the National Hurricane Center (NHC). The center of Michael should move inland over the Florida Panhandle or Big Bend Region on Wednesday, with onset of conditions tonight. Landfall as a category-3 hurricane is probable.

### Status at 8 AM EDT (12 UTC) Today (NHC)

Maximum Sustained Winds: 100 mph  
Approximate Location: About 395 miles south of Panama City, Florida  
Motion: North-Northwest at 12 mph  
Minimum Central Pressure: 968 mb  
Extent of Hurricane-Force Winds from the Center: 40 miles  
Extent of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds from the Center: 195 miles  
Status: Category-2 Hurricane

### Discussion

- Hurricane Michael now sits about 395 miles south of Panama City, Florida according to the National Hurricane Center (NHC). The storm is moving to the north-northwest at 12 mph due to steering flow between a large ridge to the northeast and a large trough to the northwest. According to the NHC best forecast, the resulting steering flow should take Michael on a gradual turn to the northeast through Wednesday with some increase in forward speed. This should take the center of the storm inland over the Florida Panhandle or Big Bend region on Wednesday, with onset of conditions later today. The storm should then cross the Southeastern U.S. and move into the Atlantic Ocean by Friday. Model guidance is in reasonable agreement on the general scenario.
- Concerning intensity, Michael has strengthened to a category-2 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Scale, with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph and higher gusts. The storm is expected to move through an environment of decreasing wind shear and warm waters of considerable depth. On this basis, the storm is expected by the NHC to gain intensity before moving inland, and landfall as a category-3 hurricane appears probable. Following landfall, Michael should weaken while crossing the Southeastern U.S., and should clear the Southeast Atlantic coast as a tropical storm.
- Hurricane, tropical storm and storm surge watches and warnings have been issued by the NHC for areas under potential or imminent threat along the northeastern Gulf Coast. Specifics can be found at [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov). Watches, warnings and advisories have also been issued for inland areas under threat by local National Weather Service Forecast Offices, available at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).

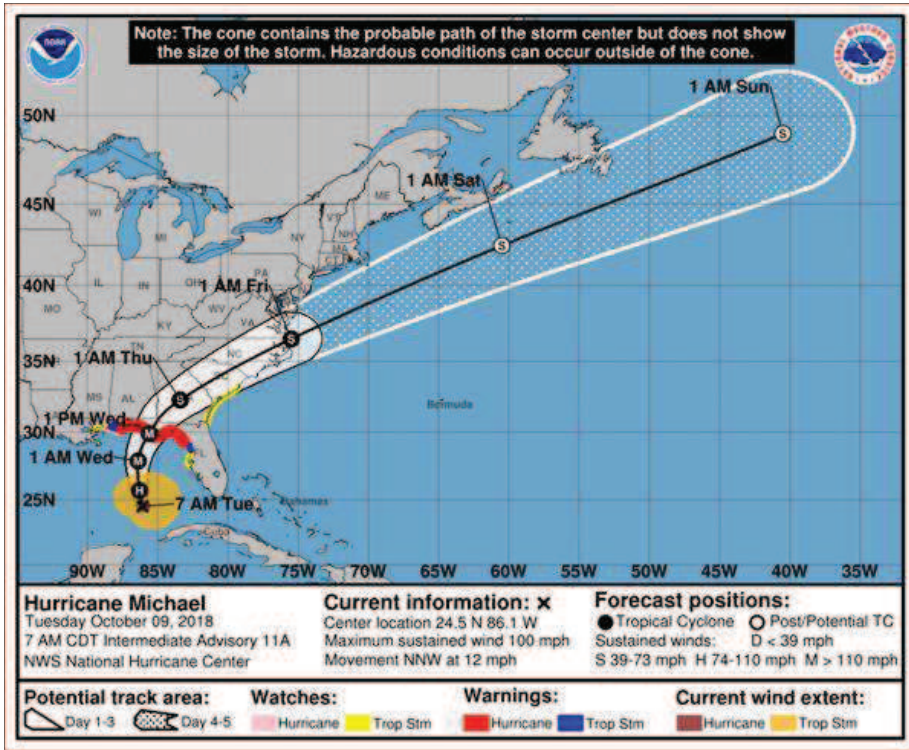
- This is a large storm, and conditions extend well away from the center of circulation. Hazards of concern include:
  - Storm surge to render property, vehicle and infrastructure damage due to seawater inundation, water velocity and wave battering with waterborne debris. Inundation heights above ground may reach as high as 8-12 feet for some areas according to the NHC. Impacts will be most severe near the immediate coast and adjacent waterways, however seawater inundation will extend well inland from the immediate coast and adjacent waterways to also affect broad, low-lying areas of the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend Region.
  - Damaging winds to render variable property and vehicle damage over a large area, along with downed trees and powerlines and power outages. Onset of tropical storm conditions should occur as early as tonight, and escalate to hurricane conditions by Wednesday. Hurricane conditions will extend well inland to affect areas of the Florida Panhandle, southeastern Alabama and southwestern Georgia and more substantial wind damage can be expected for these areas to both property and infrastructure. Wind impacts will be most severe for areas closer and to the right of the storm track and closer to coastal areas.
  - Heavy rainfall will also bring the threat of flooding and flash-flooding for affected areas, with amounts of 4-8 inches and local amounts to 12 inches expected by the NHC. The flood threat will be compounded where storm water management systems are impeded by storm surge.
  - The threat for tornadoes will escalate tonight and into Wednesday for affected areas of the Florida Panhandle, the northern Florida Peninsula and southern Georgia.

## Key Messages From The NHC

1. Life-threatening storm surge is likely along portions of the coasts of the Florida Panhandle, Big Bend, and Nature Coast, and a storm surge warning is in effect for these areas. Residents in these areas should follow all advice given by their local officials.
2. A hurricane warning has been issued for portions of the Florida Gulf Coast, and everyone in these areas should prepare for life-threatening winds associated with the core of Michael. Damaging winds will also extend inland across portions of the Florida Panhandle, southern Georgia, and southeast Alabama as Michael moves inland.
3. Heavy rainfall from Michael could produce life-threatening flash flooding from the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend region into portions of Georgia and South Carolina.
4. Tropical storm conditions will continue in portions of western Cuba for a few more hours.
5. Michael is expected to produce heavy rainfall and flash flooding over portions of western Cuba during the next day or so.

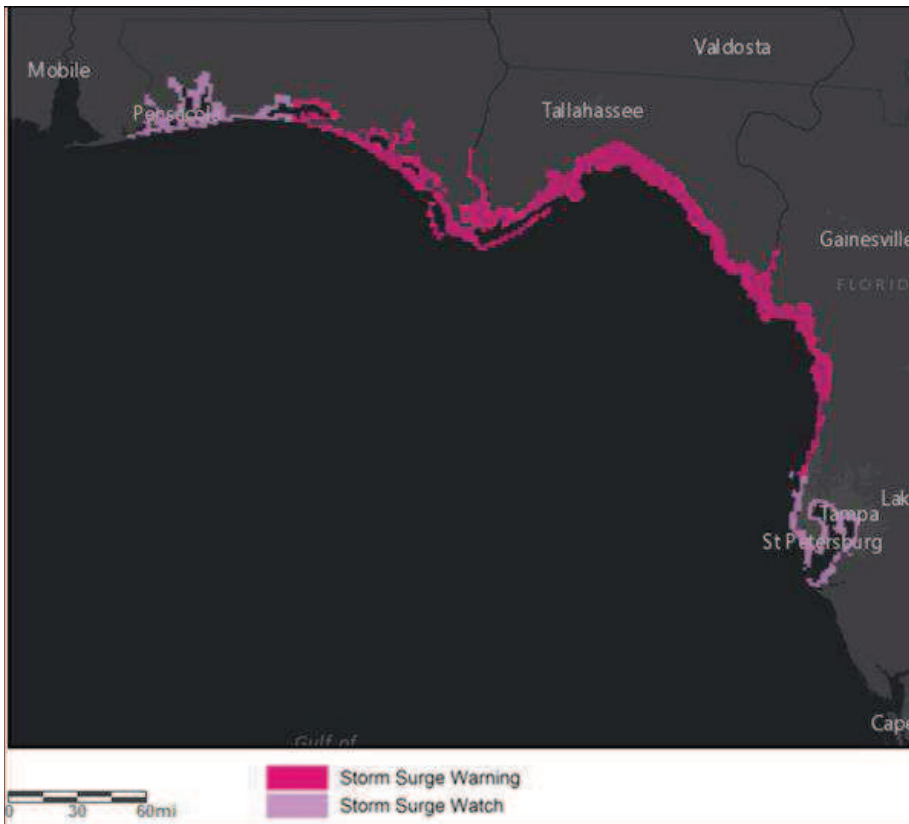
Further Sentinel updates will be issued as materially new guidance comes available. Statements from the National Hurricane Center can be found at [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov). Local National Weather Service watches, warnings and advisories can be found at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) (type in the location or zip code, or click on the map).

Local watches and warnings from official meteorological agencies, and statements from local emergency management agencies supersede this update, and should be closely heeded concerning matters of personal safety.



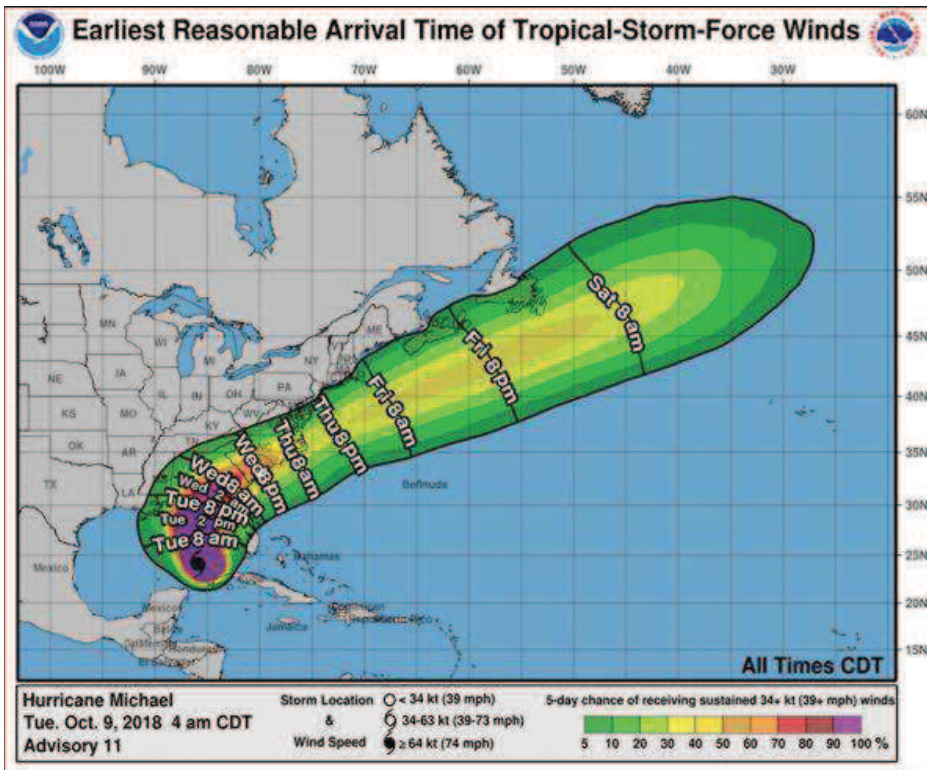
**NHC Position and Best Forecast**

SOURCE: NOAA/NHC

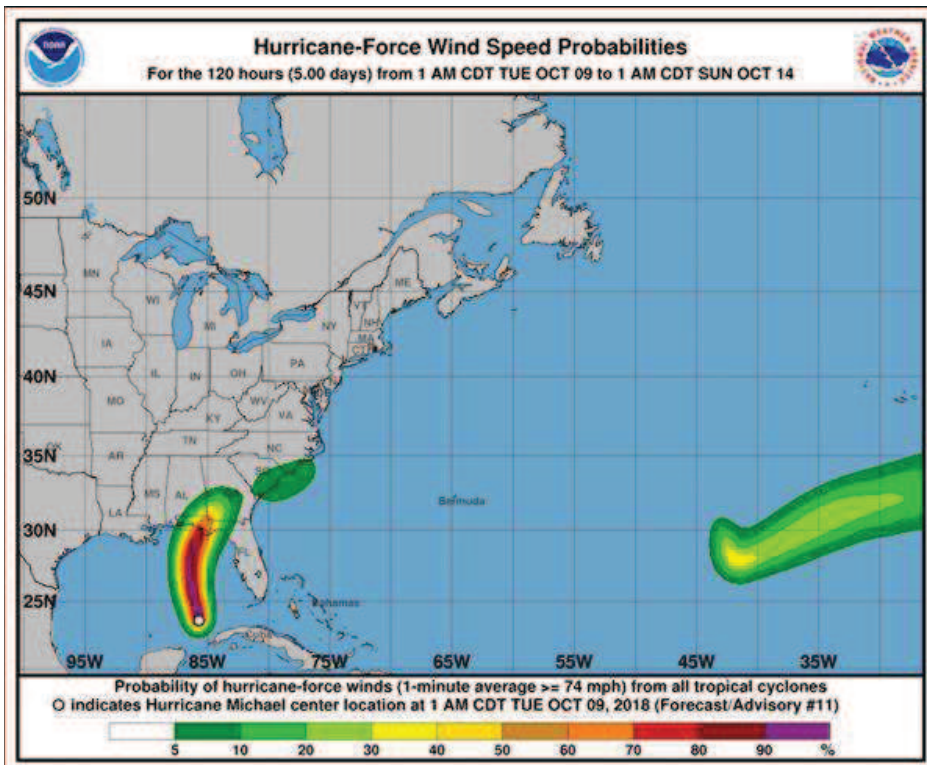


**Storm Surge Watches and Warnings**

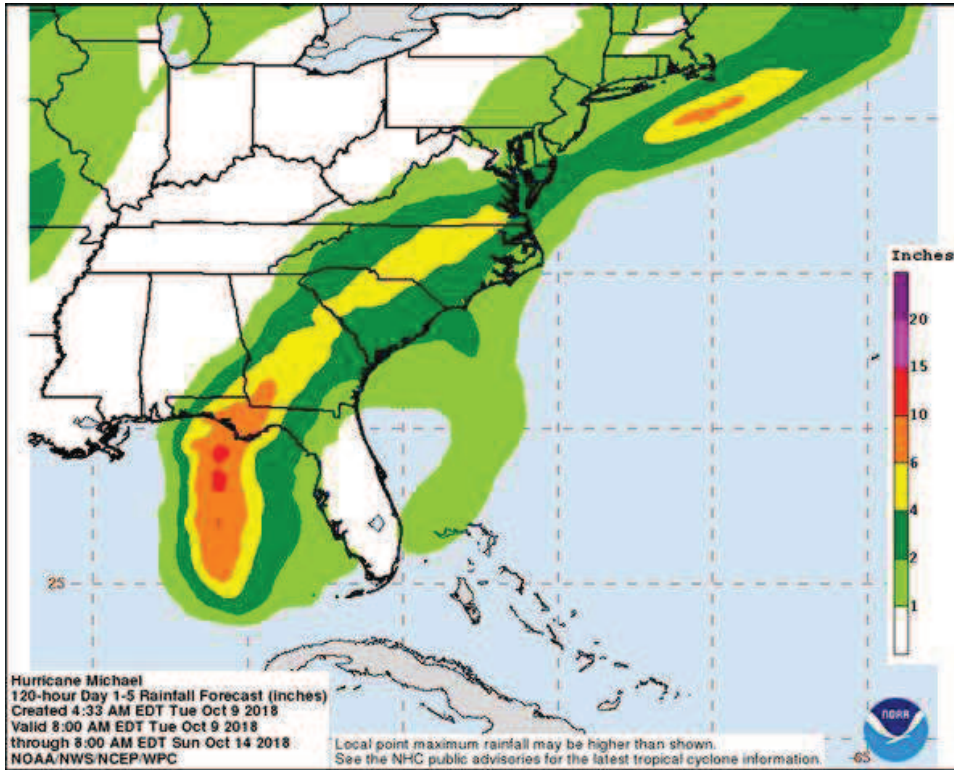
SOURCE: NOAA/NHC



Earliest Reasonable Arrival Time of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds (Contours)  
 Probability of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds (Shaded)  
 SOURCE: NOAA/NHC



Probability of Hurricane Force Winds  
 SOURCE: NOAA/NHC



**Forecast Rainfall Amounts**  
**5-Days Ending 8AM EDT (12 UTC) October 14**  
 SOURCE: NOAA/NHC

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