

Current Watches and Warnings

A **Tropical Storm Warning** is in effect from east of Morgan City, Louisiana to the Okaloosa/Walton County line, Florida; Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas, and Metropolitan New Orleans

Current Details from the National Hurricane Center (NHC)

COORDINATES: 26.5° north, 91.1° west

LOCATION: 220 miles (355 kilometers) south of Morgan City, Louisiana

MOVEMENT: north-northeast at 14 mph (22 kph)

WINDS: 35 mph (55 kph) with gusts to 45 mph (70 kph)

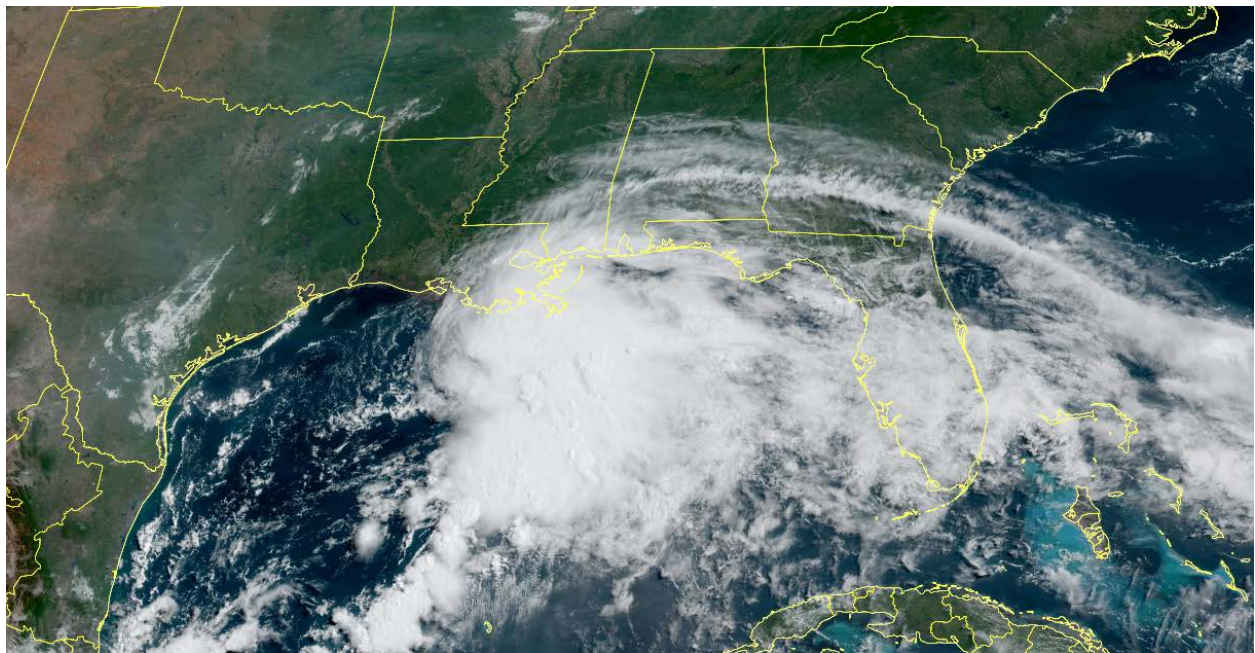
MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE: 1007 millibars

SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE RANKING*: Potential Tropical Cyclone

FORECAST LANDFALL LOCATION: southeastern Louisiana (USA)

FORECAST LANDFALL TIMEFRAME: late Friday night or early Saturday morning local time

Latest Satellite Picture



Source: NOAA / NASA / Colorado State University (RAAMB)

Discussion

Potential Tropical Cyclone Three, located approximately 220 miles (355 kilometers) south of Morgan City, Louisiana, is currently tracking north-northeast at 14 mph (22 kph). The system – which has yet to become an official tropical cyclone – is gradually becoming better organized. Deep thunderstorm activity has increased during the past several hours, but it remains confined to the east side of the circulation due to notable west-southwesterly wind shear. The Air Force Hurricane Hunters have been investigating the system and they found a surface center a little to the east of where the NHC previously anticipated but have otherwise reported generally light winds. Based on surrounding surface observations and the aircraft data, the NHC has held the initial intensity at 35 mph (55 kph) for this advisory. The leading edge of the rain is just reaching portions of the northern Gulf Coast.

The broad disturbance is moving north-northeastward into a weakness in the steering ridge of high pressure. This motion should continue during the next 12 to 24 hours, taking the center of the cyclone to the coast of southeastern Louisiana overnight or on Saturday morning. After landfall, a turn to the right across the southeast U.S. is expected when the system becomes embedded in the westerly flow on the north side of the ridge. The forecast computer models are in good agreement, and the NHC track forecast is a little to the east of the previous one based on the initial position and motion.

Although the system will likely become a tropical storm later today or tonight, significant strengthening is not expected due to a number of factors including its broad and asymmetric structure, ongoing west-southwesterly wind shear, and limited time over the Gulf of Mexico waters. The forecast models are in quite good agreement overall, and the NHC intensity forecast lies near model consensus. It should be noted that the cyclone could be a little stronger at landfall than shown in the track map since it is expected to occur between the 12- and 24-h forecast times.

The NHC notes that given the current and anticipated structure of this system, users should not focus on the exact track of the center, as rainfall and wind hazards are likely to extend well east of the center and arrive well in advance of landfall.

Key Messages from the National Hurricane Center

1. The system is expected to produce heavy rainfall, considerable flash, urban and small stream flooding beginning today and continuing through the weekend along the Central Gulf coast. Flood impacts will spread northeastward into the Southern Appalachians.
2. Tropical storm conditions are expected to begin later today in areas near and well to the east of the center along portions of the central Gulf Coast from Intracoastal City, Louisiana, to the Okaloosa/Walton County line, Florida, including New Orleans.

Additional Information

RAINFALL: Rainfall totals of 4 to 8 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 12 inches are expected across portions of the Central Gulf Coast beginning today. Considerable flash, urban and small stream flooding impacts as well as new and renewed minor to isolated moderate river flooding are likely.

As the system continues to lift northeast through the weekend, anticipate heavy rain to expand across southeastern Mississippi, southern and central Alabama, and central Georgia resulting in rainfall totals of 3 to 5 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 7 inches. Flash, urban, small stream and isolated minor river flooding impacts are possible.

The potential tropical cyclone is expected to produce total rainfall of 3 to 6 inches with isolated amounts of 8 inches across the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.

STORM SURGE: The combination of storm surge and the tide will cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by rising waters moving inland from the shoreline. The water could reach the following heights above ground somewhere in the indicated areas if the peak surge occurs at the time of high tide:

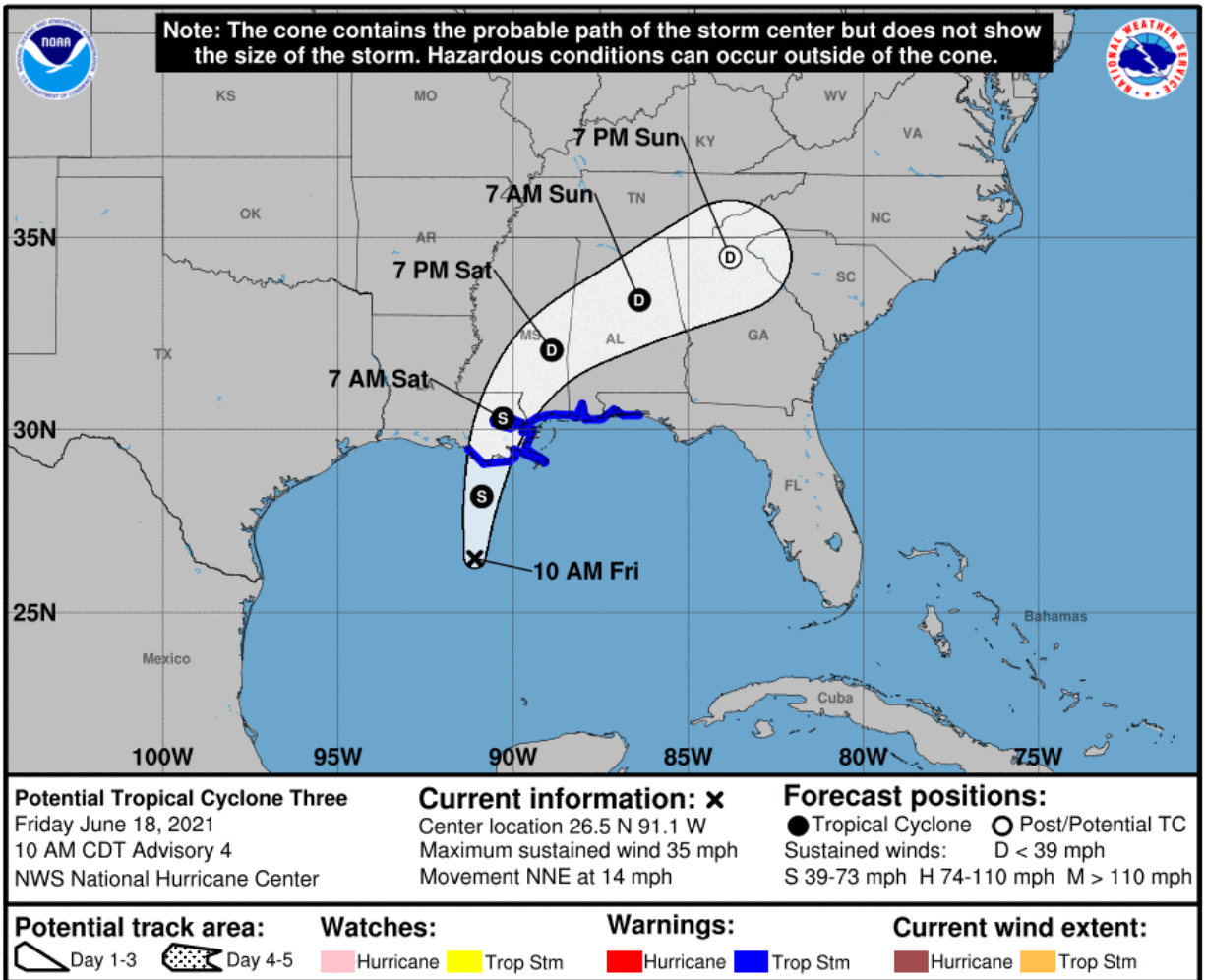
Morgan City, LA to Okaloosa/Walton County Line, FL: 2-3 feet
Lake Borgne and Mobile Bay: 2-3 feet
Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas: 1-2 feet
Okaloosa/Walton County Line, FL to Panama City, FL: 1-2 feet
Pensacola Bay, Choctawhatchee Bay, and Saint Andrew Bay: 1-2 feet
Cameron, LA to Morgan City, LA: 1-2 feet
Vermilion Bay: 1-2 feet

Surge-related flooding depends on the relative timing of the surge and the tidal cycle, and can vary greatly over short distances.

WIND: Tropical storm conditions are expected to first reach the coast within the warning area later today, making outside preparations difficult or dangerous.

TORNADOES: The threat for a tornado or two will begin this afternoon across coastal Louisiana, then spread overnight into Saturday across southern portions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, to the western Florida Panhandle.

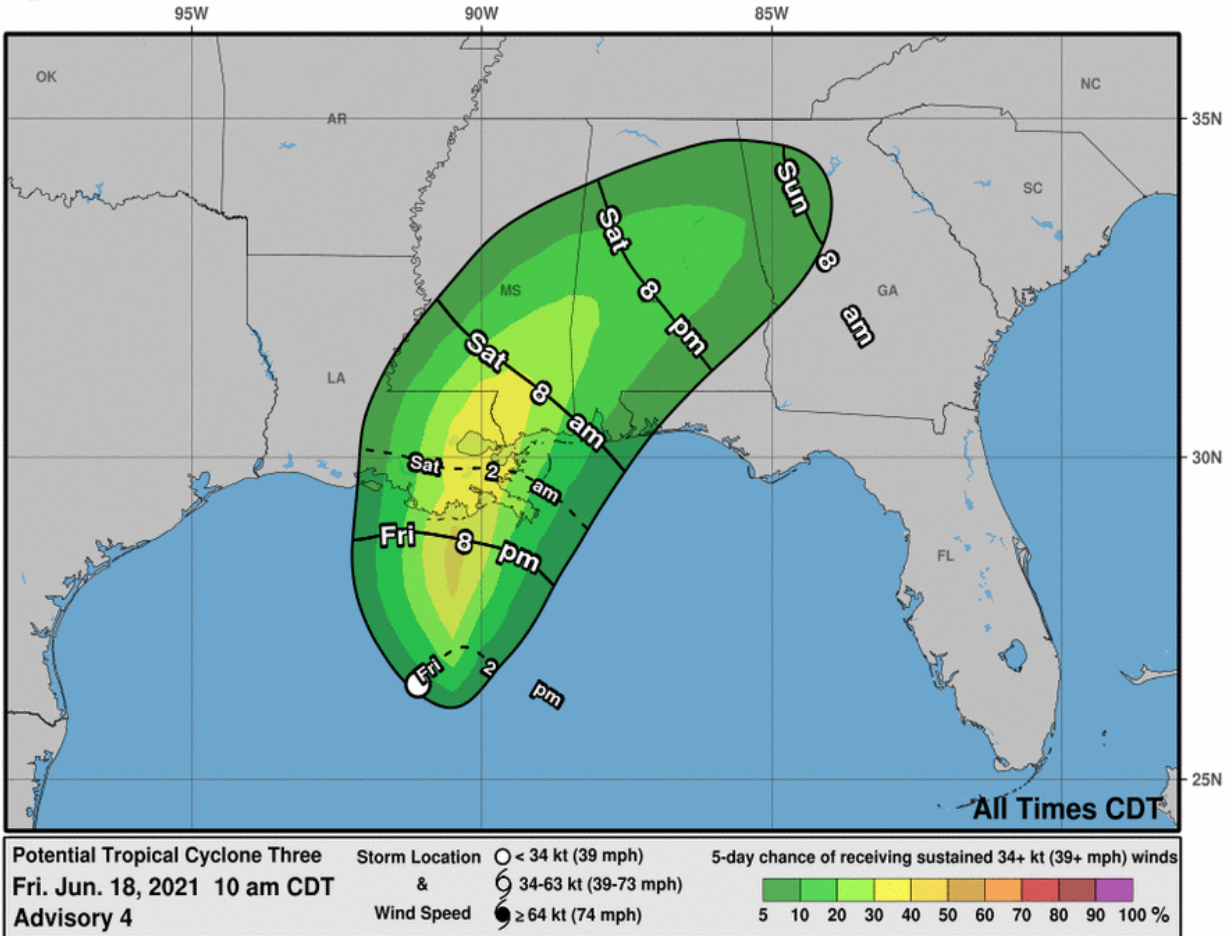
National Hurricane Center (NHC) Forecast



Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical Storm-Force Winds

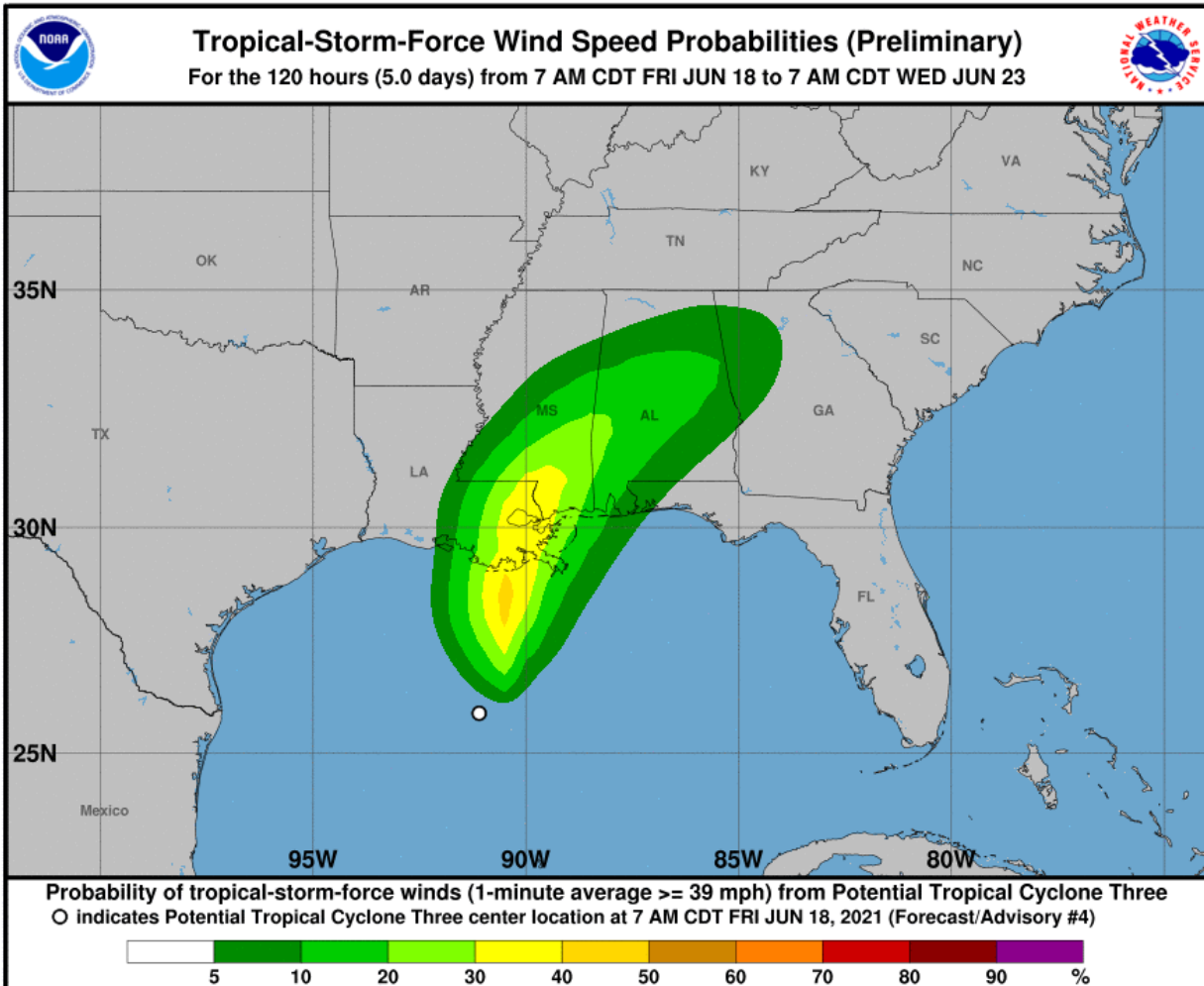


Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds

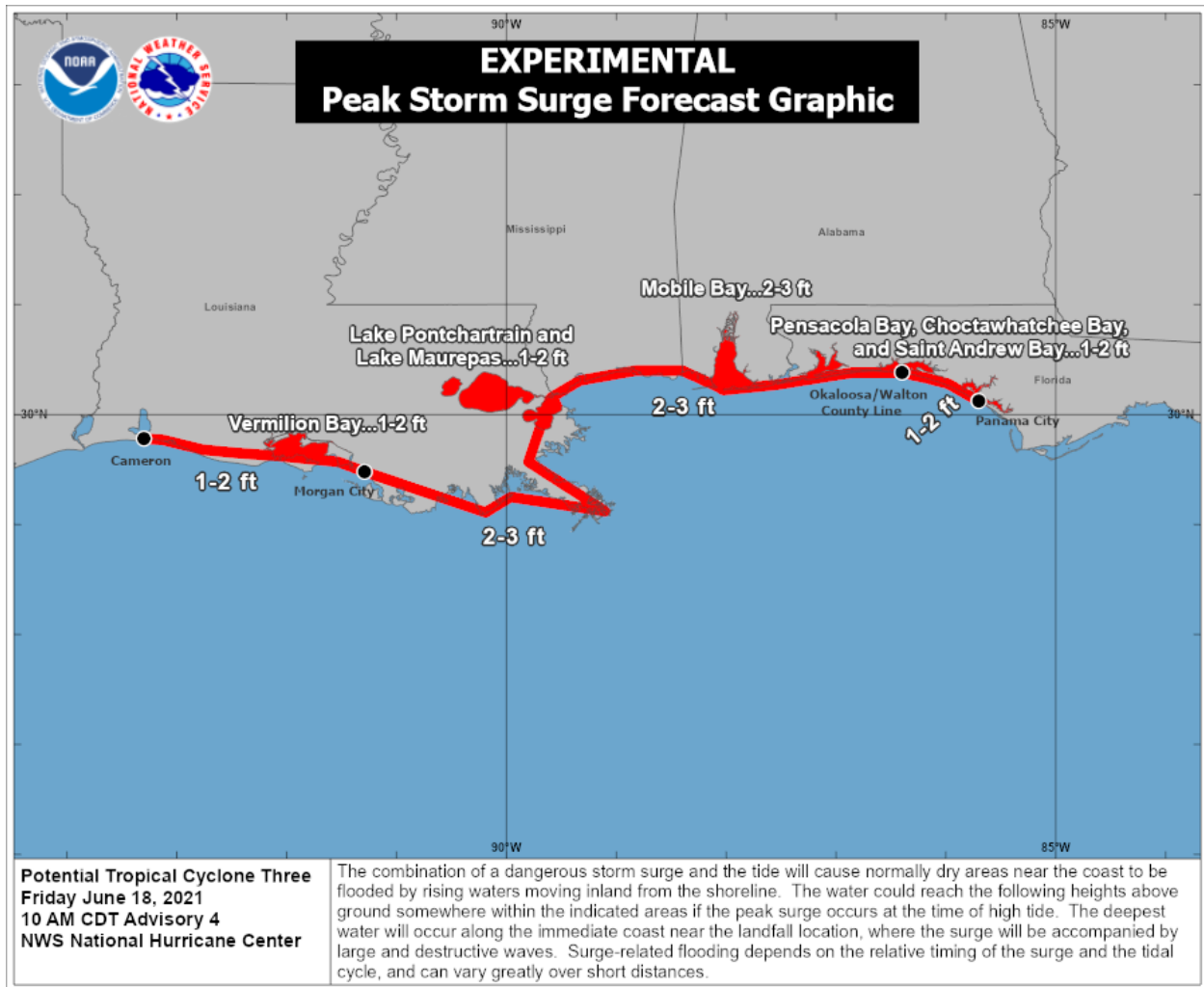


National Hurricane Center: Wind Speed Probabilities

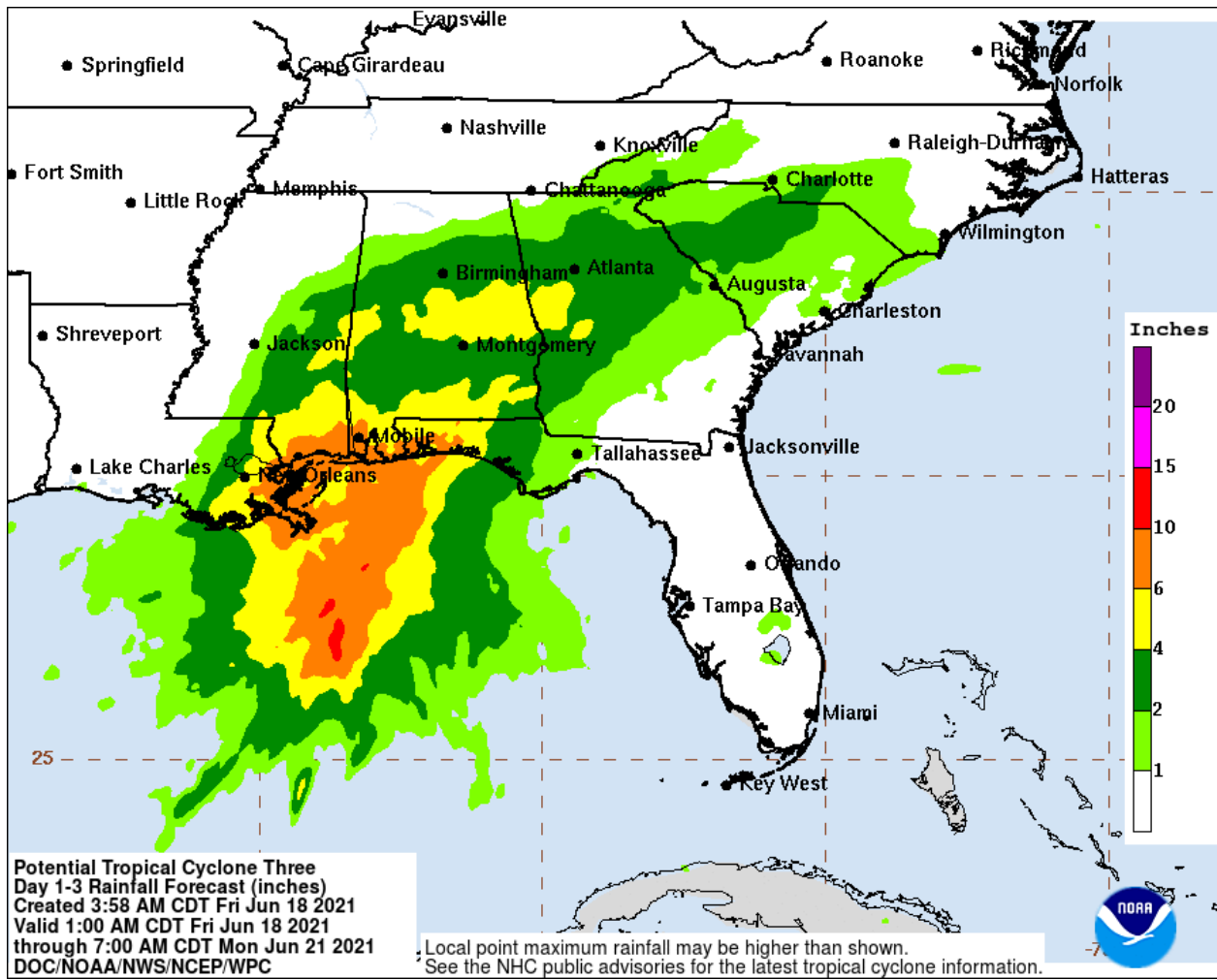
Tropical Storm-Force Wind Probabilities (≥ 40 mph (65 kph))



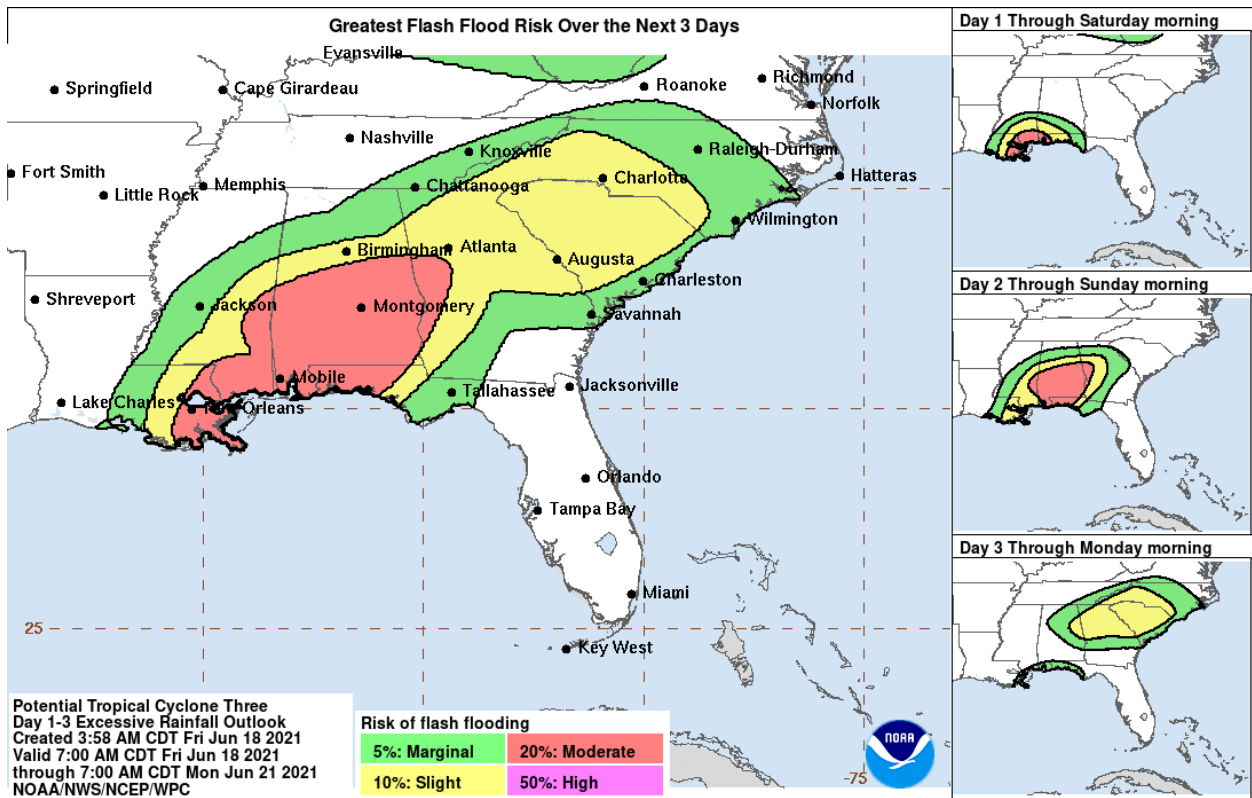
NHC: Storm Surge Inundation Graphic



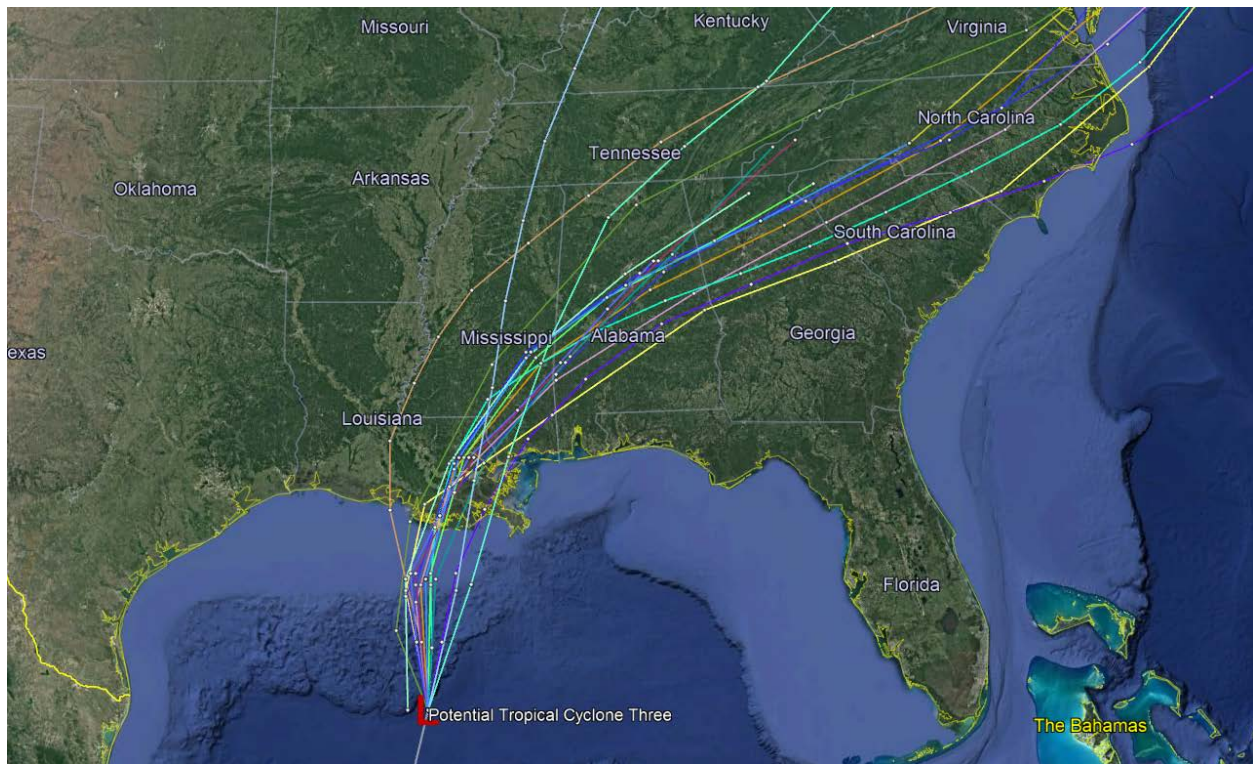
Weather Prediction Center: Rainfall Potential



Weather Prediction Center: Flash Flood Potential



Current 'Spaghetti' Model Output Data



Source: NHC

Additional Information and Update Schedule

Wind intensity forecasts and forecast track information can be found via the National Hurricane Center at www.nhc.noaa.gov

NEXT CAT ALERT: Since the system is expected to come ashore into Louisiana within the next 24 hours without any significant intensification, this will be the final Cat Alert. Full details on the impacts – likely to be primarily driven by heavy rainfall – will be found in next week's Weekly Cat Report.

*Tropical Cyclone Intensity Classifications for Global Basins

WIND SPEED			BASINS AND MONITORING BUREAU							
KTS ¹	MPH ¹	KPH ¹	NE Pacific, Atlantic	NW Pacific	NW Pacific	SW Pacific	Australia	SW Indian	North Indian	
			National Hurricane Center (NHC)	Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC)	Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)	Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS)	Bureau Of Meteorology (BOM)	Meteo-France (MF)	India Meteorological Department (IMD)	
30	35	55	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression	Tropical Low	Tropical Depression	Deep Depression	
35	40	65	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm	Cat. 1 Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 1 Tropical Cyclone	Moderate Tropical Storm	Cyclonic Storm	
40	45	75								
45	50	85								
50	60	95								
55	65	100								
60	70	110	Cat. 1 Hurricane	Typhoon	Typhoon	Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Tropical Cyclone	Very Severe Cyclonic Storm	
65	75	120								
70	80	130								
75	85	140								
80	90	150								
85	100	160			Cat. 2 Hurricane	Typhoon	Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone		Intense Tropical Cyclone
90	105	170								
95	110	175								
100	115	185			Cat. 3 Major Hurricane	Typhoon	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone		Intense Tropical Cyclone
105	120	195								
110	125	205								
115	130	210	Cat. 4 Major Hurricane	Super Typhoon	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Very Intense Tropical Cyclone	Super Cyclonic Storm		
120	140	220								
125	145	230								
130	150	240								
135	155	250	Cat. 5 Major Hurricane	Super Typhoon	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Very Intense Tropical Cyclone	Super Cyclonic Storm		
140	160	260								
>140	>160	>260								

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