



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TROPICAL STORM FLORENCE - SEPTEMBER 8 UPDATE

North Myrtle Beach, SC – September 8, 2018 –

Florence, which was once a hurricane, is now a tropical storm but is forecast to become a hurricane once again tonight (Saturday, September 8).

According to the National Weather Service, it is too early to determine if Florence will directly impact the Carolinas. However, the risk of direct impacts along the U.S. East Coast next week has increased.



Regardless of the eventual track, large swells will affect area beaches through the upcoming week. The swells will create rough surf, life-threatening rip currents, and steep waves at inlet entrances.

All interests in the Carolinas should increase their situational awareness, review their hurricane plans, and closely monitor Florence's progression.



KEY POINTS

- The risk for direct impacts from Florence is increasing along the U.S. East Coast next week.
- In the meantime, swells from Florence will result in rough surf and life-threatening rip currents through the weekend, but especially next week.
- All interests in the Carolinas should closely monitor the progression of Florence
- Begin reviewing your hurricane plans in case action is required next week

-- IF Florence does regain hurricane status and IF Florence ultimately sets course for our coastline as a major hurricane, it is possible that an evacuation could be called for all zones. It would make sense to begin thinking about where you would go in the face of an evacuation order.

EXPLANATION OF ACCOMPANYING GRAPHICS

The accompanying graphics provide two potential scenarios for Florence, if it returns to hurricane status. The graphics are dependent on the following information, best summed up by AccuWeather:

"The movement of Florence is likely to remain steady in the short term, but a deviation in the path may develop next week.

"An area of high pressure over the central Atlantic may bridge westward and join with an existing high pressure near the U.S. East coast over the next several days, which would guide Florence on a west to northwesterly course into next week.

"If that high pressure area weakens next week, then Florence may be able to curve northward then northeastward out to sea with impacts in the U.S. limited to an indirect nature with rough surf and heavy seas.

"However, if the high pressure area remains strong, then Florence may complete a 3,500-mile-long journey over the Atlantic and be guided right into the U.S. East Coast somewhere from the Carolinas to southern New England sometime during Wednesday or Thursday of next week."

CITY OF NMB HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION

To access City of North Myrtle Beach Hurricane Preparedness information, visit www.NMB.us and look under "Hurricane Season 2018" on the homepage.

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