

# Weather Briefing Hurricane Irene

Prepared 1245 PM EDT – Friday August 26, 2011

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NOAA's National Weather Service

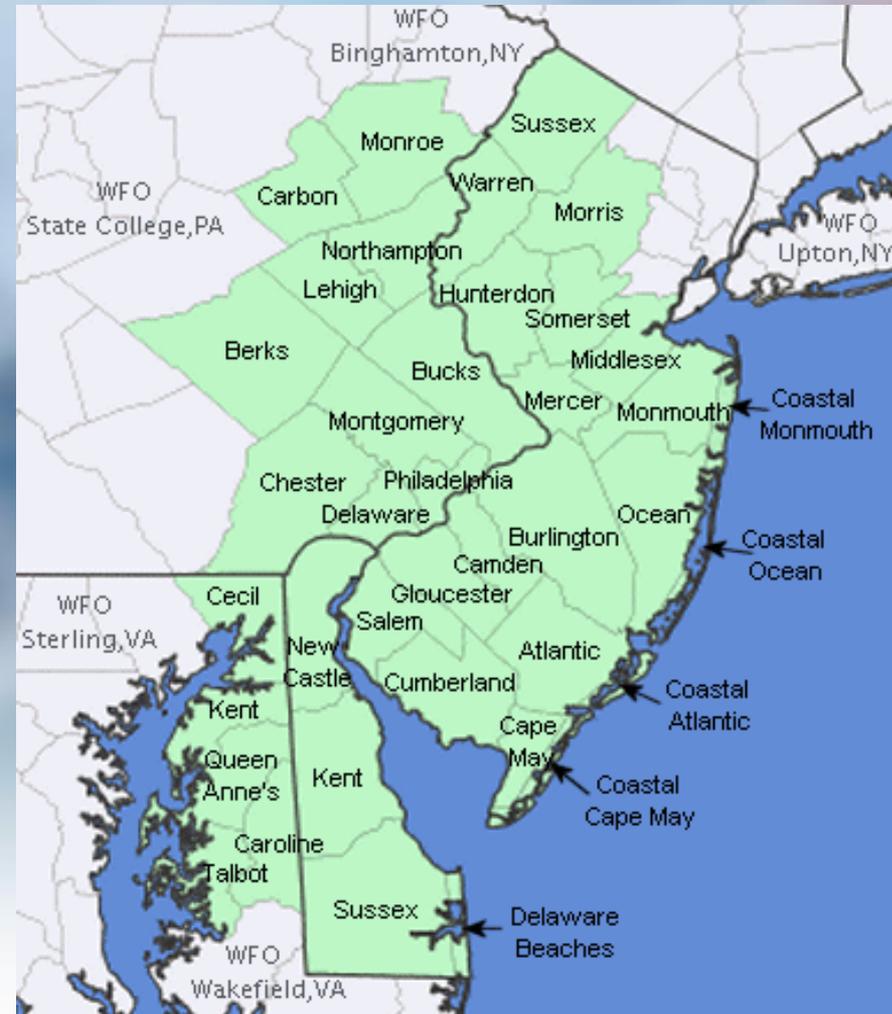
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly NJ Forecast office

[Weather.gov/phi](http://Weather.gov/phi)



# Purpose of briefing

- Briefing #6 for event
- Promote situational awareness for emergency management community & partners
- Provide guidance for planning efforts
- Briefing applies to Mount Holly service area – shaded in green on map



# Executive Summary

- Hurricane Warnings are now posted for all of coastal New Jersey and Delaware including Delaware Bay and portions of Chesapeake Bay. Tropical Storm Warnings are in effect further inland, including the remainder of our Maryland counties and some of our Pennsylvania counties. Hurricane and Tropical Storm Watches are posted further north. A slide detailing the watches and warnings is included.
- Hurricane Irene will very likely be a threat to our forecast area starting Saturday night, August 27th into Sunday August 28th.
- Given how much recent rainfall we have experienced as well as what is expected, major river flooding is very likely. Record flooding is now possible.
- Hurricane force winds are likely to be experienced along the NJ and DE coast, along with severe coastal flooding. If the maximum storm surge occurs during the time of high tide, record coastal flooding is possible.
- Since we're getting closer to the event, average hurricane track errors are decreasing, and at this point in time, are under 100 miles. Average track errors will continue to decrease, as we get closer to the storm event.
- There is a high risk of this being a very damaging, life threatening event. All preparedness activities should be rushed to completion.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Continued

- National Hurricane Center Advisory times are 5 AM, 11 AM, 5 PM, 11 PM EDT
- Intermediate Advisories at 8 AM, 2 PM, 8 PM, 2 AM
- Next briefing package will be issued around 700 PM
- Maintain situational awareness by monitoring our website at:  
<http://weather.gov/phi>
- Contact information  
– 609-261-6602, ext. 222

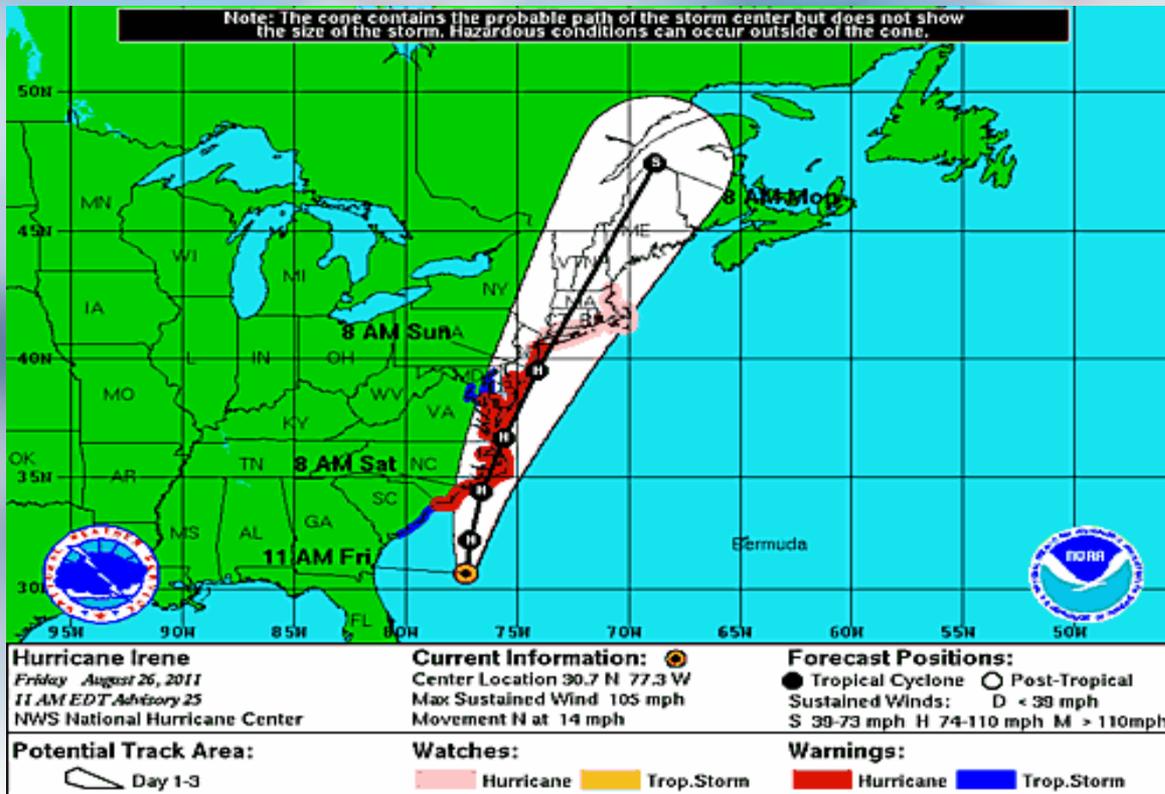


# Things to Keep in Mind

- Average track errors are decreasing as we get closer to the event. This means we are losing the opportunity for the storm to miss our region by shifting further out to sea or well inland. It is increasingly likely our region will feel the direct impacts of Hurricane Irene.
- Hurricane Irene is a larger than average hurricane, and that is expected to continue. This means a broad area will be affected by wind and rain from the hurricane
- Catastrophic inland flooding from very heavy rainfall is now a distinct possibility. Record coastal flooding due to storm surge is now a distinct possibility along the New Jersey and Delaware Atlantic coastlines.
- Showers and thunderstorms may develop Saturday in advance of the hurricane. Today is the last day for final completion of any outside preparedness activities prior to hurricane arrival.

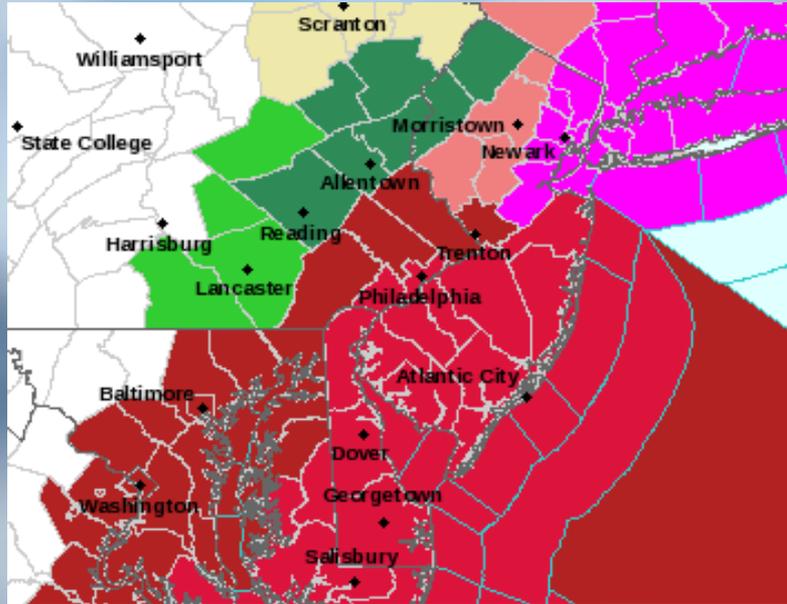


# Latest Projected Track from the National Hurricane Center



# Hurricane Irene

## Latest Watches and Warnings



- A Hurricane Watch is in effect for Middlesex County.

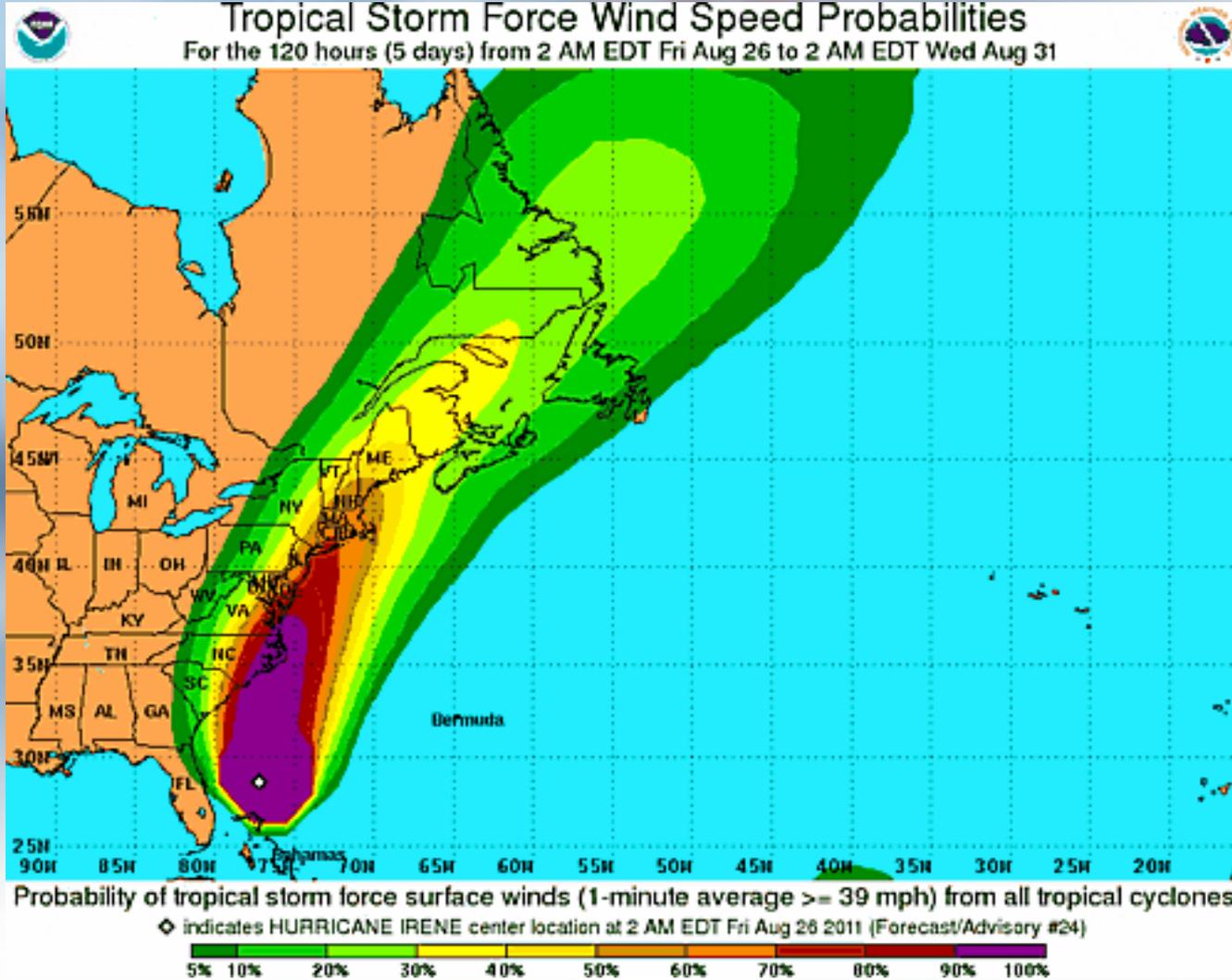
- A Tropical Storm Watch is in Effect for Somerset and Morris Counties.

- Hurricane Warnings are now in effect for the ENTIRE New Jersey and Delaware Coasts from Fenwick Island to Sandy Hook including Delaware Bay and portions of Chesapeake Bay.

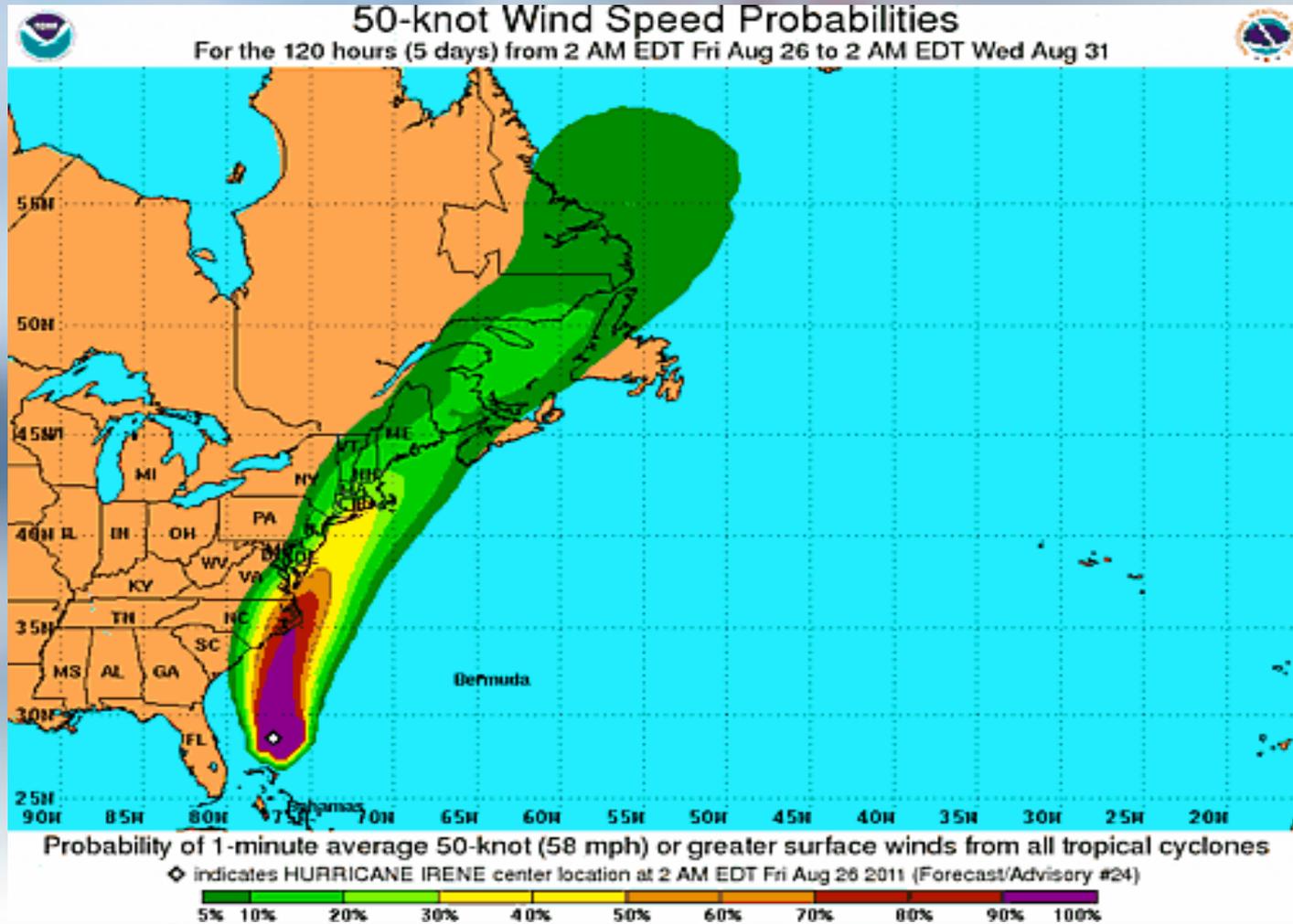
- This includes ALL Delaware Counties and Cape May, Atlantic, Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, Camden, Burlington, Ocean, Monmouth, Philadelphia and Delaware Counties and Talbot and Caroline Counties in MD.

- Tropical Storm Warnings are now in effect for Chesapeake Bay , Queen Annes, Kent, Cecil, Chester, Bucks, Montgomery and Mercer in NJ.

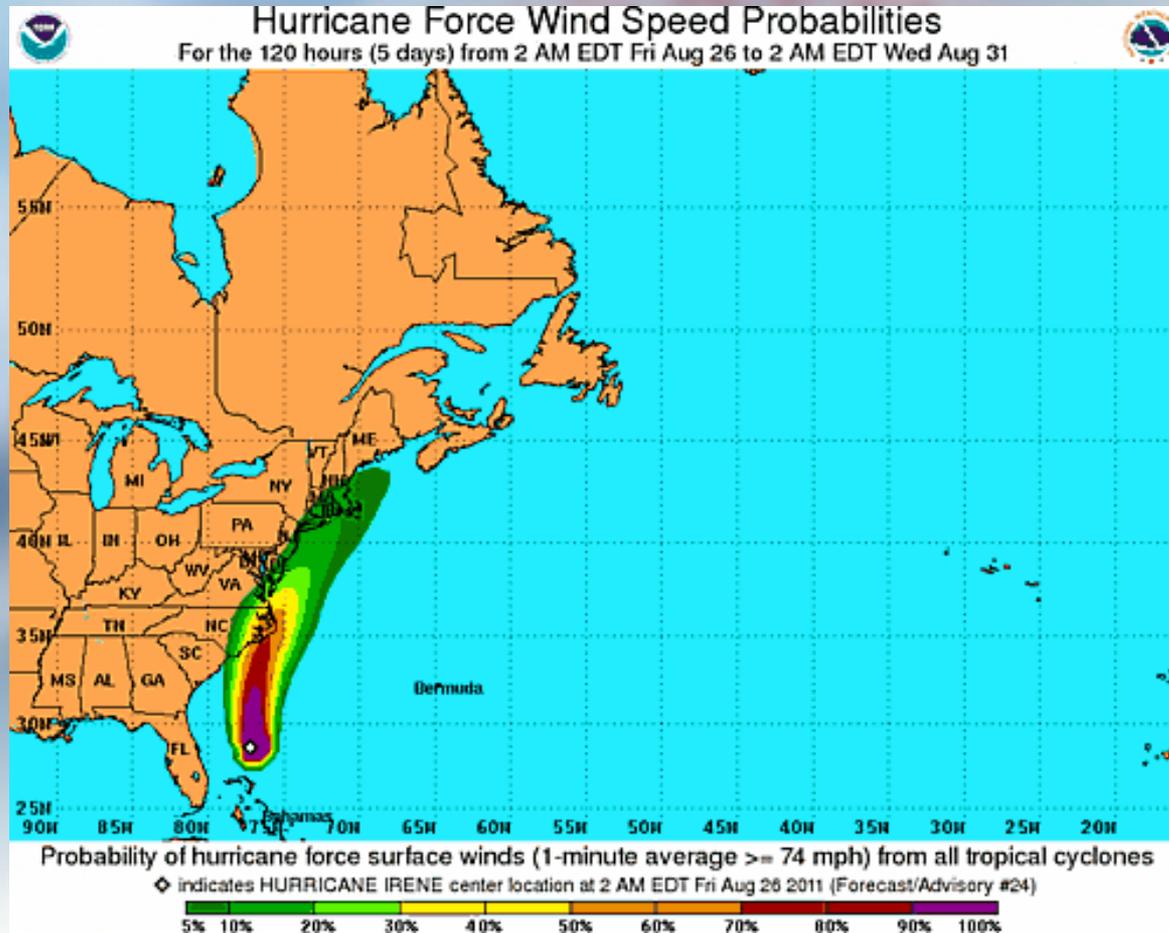
# 34 Knot Wind Probabilities



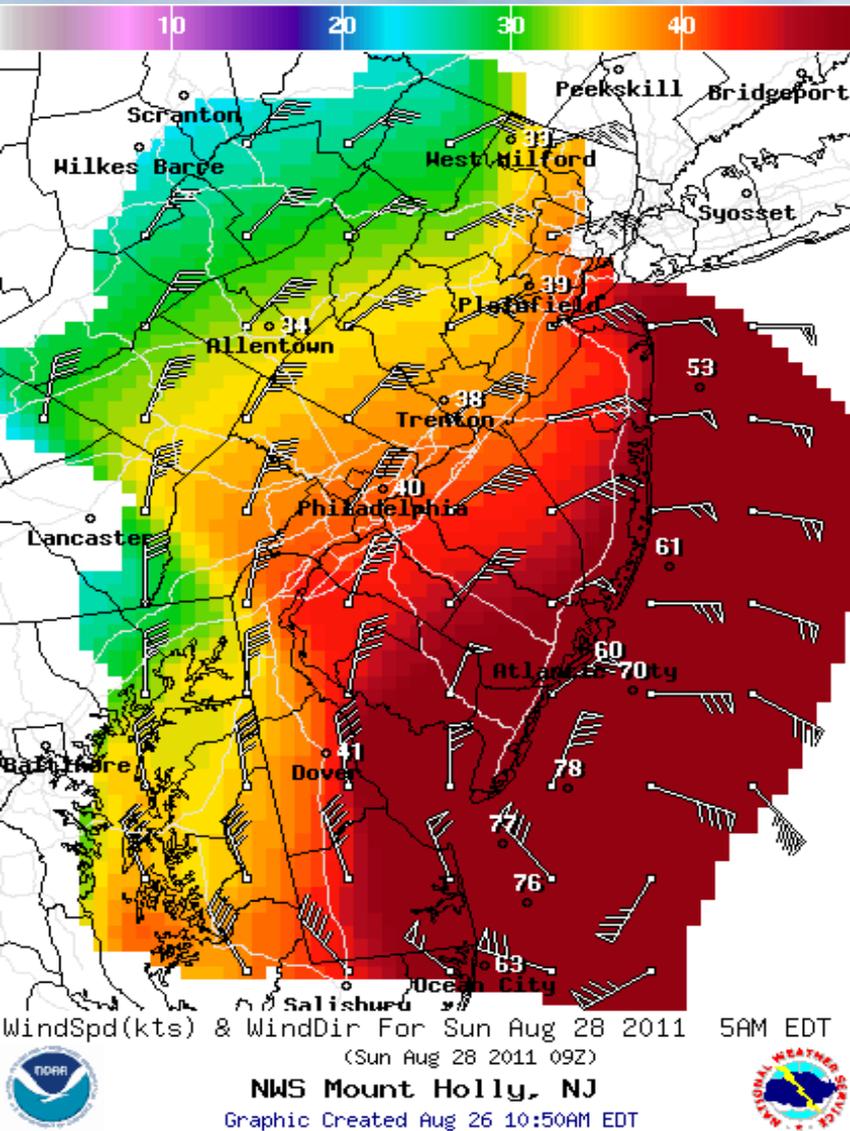
# 50 Knot Wind Probabilities



# 64 Knot Wind Probabilities



# Damaging Winds



Wind gusts will reach 50 mph in the Poconos and far northwest New Jersey; 75 mph along the I-95 corridor; 100 mph along the Atlantic Coast as the hurricane passes

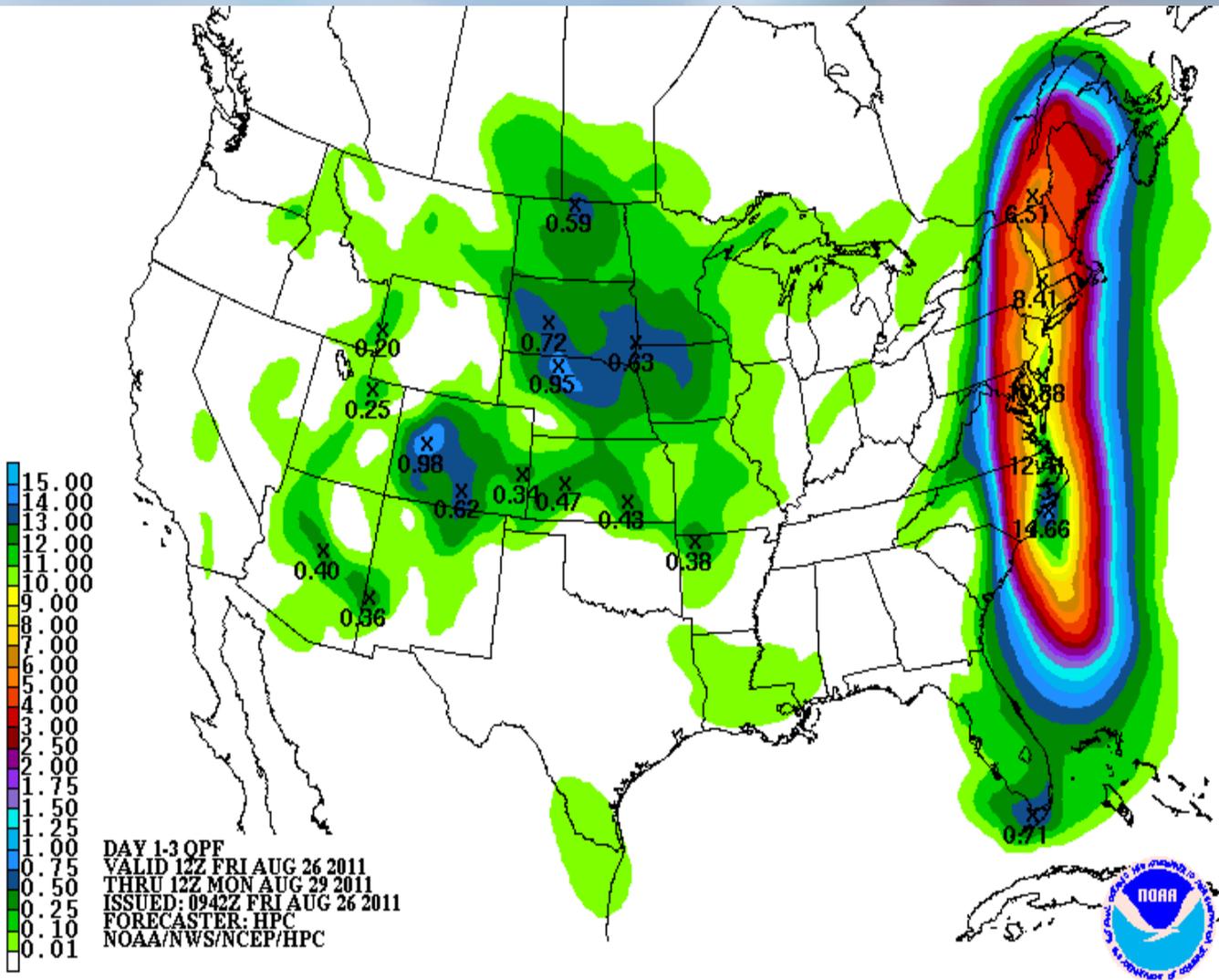
Hurricane force winds extend 90 miles from the center and tropical storm force 290 miles.

National Weather Service  
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly



Graphic indicates sustained wind

# Rainfall threat

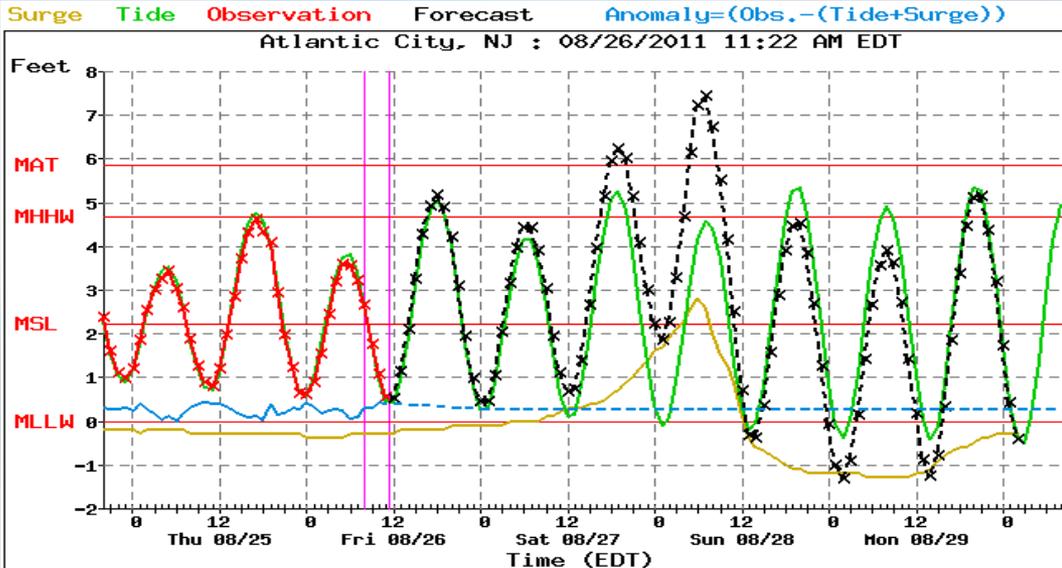


Rainfall amounts of 6 to over 10 inches possible.

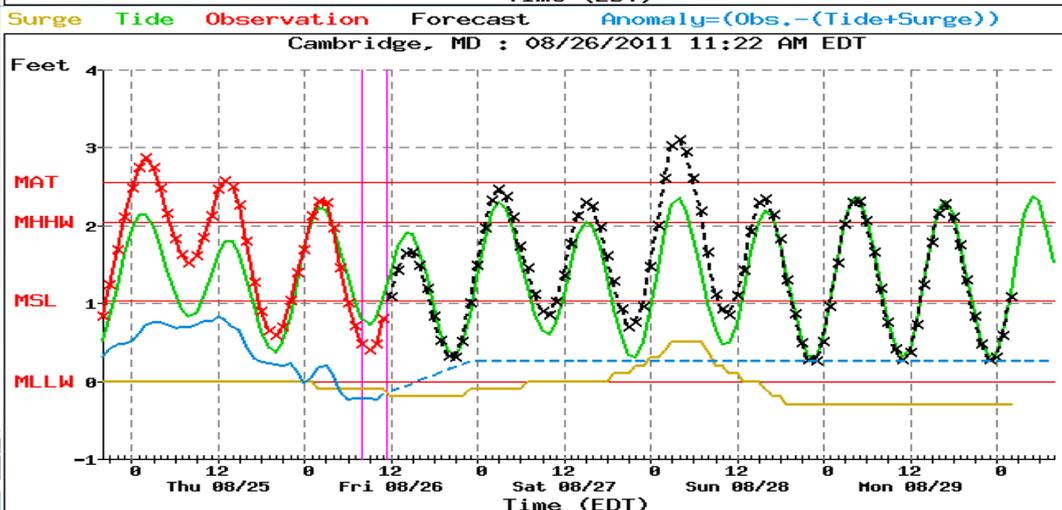
Major and even record river flooding likely as well flooding along small streams & creeks



# Coastal Flooding Threat Beach Erosion/Rip Currents



Storm surge of 3 to 6 feet is expected along the New Jersey and Delaware Coast and into the Raritan Bay. 3-6 feet into Delaware Bay and 2-4 feet into the Eastern Portion of Chesapeake Bay.



This could produce severe (and possible record flooding) along the Atlantic Coast and into the Raritan Bay, moderate to severe flooding in the Delaware Bay, and minor to moderate flooding in the upper Chesapeake Bay

# Beach Erosion/Rip Currents

Extensive beach erosion is expected from Irene. Rip Current Potential will increase to High. Waves in the surf zone will be 12 to 15 feet.



Please see our Hurricane Local Statement under the header PHLHLSPHI for further information, and to maintain situational awareness on this storm.

