



New York Metro Weather

Clearing the fog in the forecast

Hurricane Sandy Severe Weather Briefing | New Jersey Coast

8:30pm Sunday October 28th, 2012

This evening, we are releasing area-specific severe weather briefings in anticipation of Hurricane Sandy's widespread impact on the area in the coming days. These reports will be detailed for the specific area listed at the top of the document. We encourage you to share the documents to spread the word of the potential impacts and hazards, as well as helping with preparedness information.

A storm of record breaking size will take an unprecedented track from the Western Atlantic Ocean and retrograde back to the west, likely making landfall on the New Jersey Shore late Monday Night into early Tuesday Morning. In all likelihood, many of us have never seen a storm similar to the one we are set to experience over the next several days. While our objective is to not sound like alarmists, our job is also to inform the public of the potential hazards. In this case, the potential hazards are more dangerous than usual. Over the next few days, hazards will include hurricane force winds, record setting storm surge, and widespread flooding rains.

The New Jersey Coast is at specifically high risk with this storm system. Sandy is forecast to turn west and make landfall somewhere along the New Jersey shoreline late Monday evening. Ahead of her landfall, very strong northeast winds will bring significantly high surf, storm surge, and coastal flooding. Heavy tropical rains, especially in southern parts of the shore will not help the situation. Significant coastal flooding is expected. Flooding is also a possibility inland, even away from the ocean and storm surge, especially in low lying areas.

Before we indulge into details, the following areas are under evacuations or should consider evacuating immediately:

- All New Jersey coast barrier islands
- Long Beach Island
- Recommended evacuation of all beaches from Cape May to Sandy Hook
- Low lying near-beach areas and cities
- Belmar, New Jersey

Threat Overview and Timeline

What are the main threats with Sandy?

- **Storm Surge:** Sandy is the largest tropical cyclone in the Atlantic Ocean (yes, in history). She is piling up a ton of water and as she phases with the upper level trough to our west and retrogrades towards us, it will come directly at the east coast. The NWS is forecasting a storm surge of over 6 feet and a maximum of 10 feet. If you live a storm surge prone area, evacuate.
- **Flooding:** Heavy rain and high winds plus storm surge will cause significant amounts of coastal flooding. If you live on a barrier island, near the ocean, or near a body of water, we recommend evacuating as well. Flooding is also likely inland from heavy rain. If you live in an inland flood prone area, move to a higher ground or prepare for the flooding.
- **High Winds:** Sandy will merge with another upper level storm and become a very powerful low pressure area. The jet streams will feature some very strong wind fields just above and at the surface. Tropical storm force winds are likely throughout the area, and hurricane force wind gusts are also possible. This is especially true near the coasts. Prepare for the potential for widespread wind damage.

Have you been able to narrow down an expected timeline of events? Yes. Our team of meteorologists has worked out the following spread of expected timing of hazards to help you remain prepared.

Sunday Night

- Showers becoming widespread throughout most of the area from southeast to northwest. Winds will begin to increase. This is your last chance for final preparations. It's better to be safe than sorry — so be prepared.
- Winds will increase but there will still be periods of calm winds...with gusts increasing in intensity and frequency by the overnight period.

Monday

- **Morning:** Things will rapidly go downhill during the day on Monday. In the morning, expect a moderate breeze at almost all times with gusts to Tropical Storm and Hurricane force. Rain increasing in intensity and becoming widespread. The first signs of storm surge and coastal flooding along the shores and storm surge prone areas – and these conditions will rapidly deteriorate.
- **Afternoon:** Very heavy rain throughout the area, especially Southern New Jersey. Winds rapidly becoming sustained near Tropical Storm Force. Hurricane force wind gusts along the shore and possible inland as well – and these are likely for several hours. Storm surge and high waves will continue to impact the shore.
- **Evening:** The worst of the storm system will come from late afternoon into the evening hours. The surface low will be swinging towards the NJ Shore and will eventually make

landfall. As it does, winds will abruptly shift southeast in almost all of the area's coastal locations. The storm surge potential will continue despite the storm moving inland. Very heavy rain, widespread flooding, tropical storm force sustained winds with gust over hurricane force are still likely throughout the area. Do not travel Monday Night unless it is absolutely necessary. Leave the roads open for emergency services and do not travel simply for your own safety.

Tuesday

- **Morning:** The worst of the storm begins to wind down, but the storm is not over. Southeast gale force winds will continue to hammer the New Jersey shore. Winds continuing with Tropical Storm force sustained and Hurricane Force gusts.
- **Afternoon:** The worst of the winds will begin to die down with strong gusts still possible and sustained winds still over 25 miles per hour along the shores. Showers will remain in the forecast throughout the day despite a decrease in moisture.
- **Evening:** The storm begins weakening over land and the atmospheric setup becomes less favorable for strong winds and heavy precipitation. Isolated showers will still continue, however, through most of the area.

Preparedness Information and Steps

If you haven't prepared yet, for whatever reason, you should do so now. This is a potentially life-threatening storm system. No, this does not mean that your life will be at stake the entire event as you cower in a corner. But don't take the chance of not being properly prepared. Here are the recommended pre-storm preparations.

- Board up windows
- Secure boats and docks
- Remove outdoor decorations or loose objects
- Clear gutters and drains of leaves and debris
- Have flashlights, batteries, and essentials available.
- If possible, have a backup power source available.
- Charge your cell phone and fill up your car with gas prior to the storm.
- Have an NOAA weather radio readily available.

Bottom Line: A significant, high impact storm system is set to impact the entire area. Conditions will differ depend on your exact location, but we urge you to prepare for the worst. This is a serious storm system, do not take it lightly. Whether or not you see damage or severe weather, you will be glad that you were prepared..we can guarantee you that. We remind you to stay with us for future updates.

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