

Active Weather Threat Halloween Week nor'easter October 28th -31st 2012

Prepared 1145 AM EDT – Tuesday, October 23rd, 2012

Gary Szatkowski

NOAA's National Weather Service

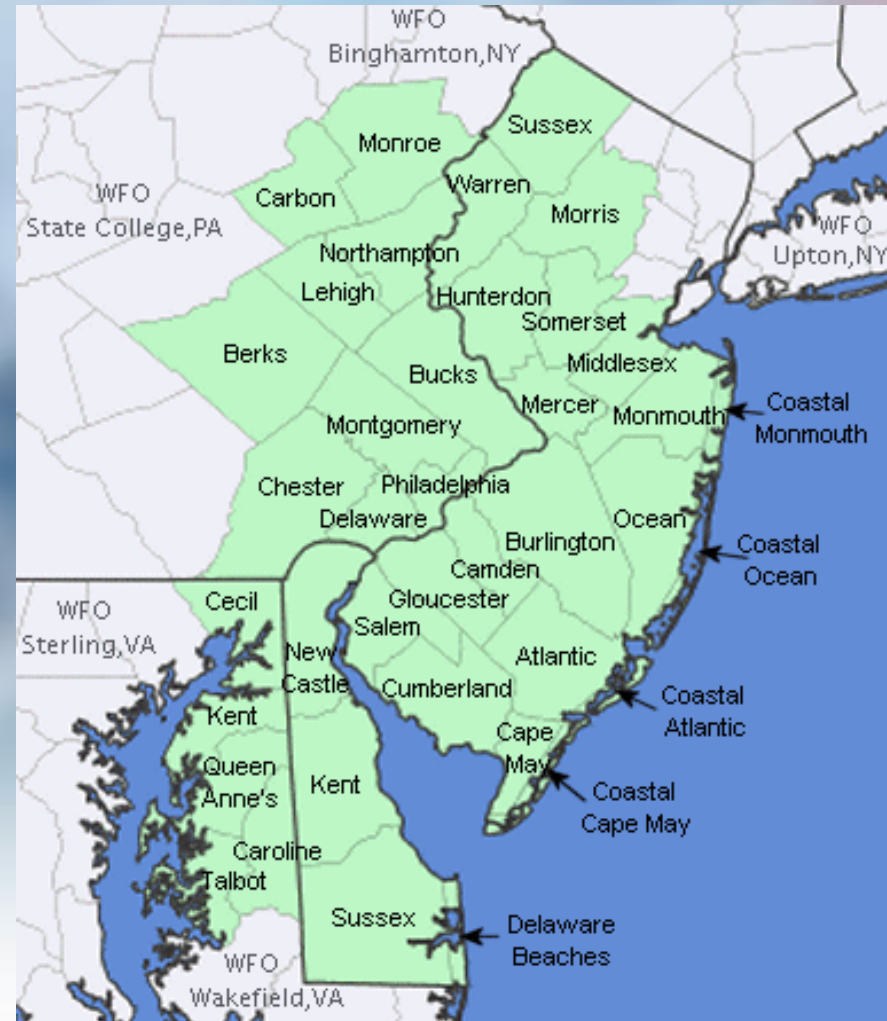
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly NJ Forecast office

Weather.gov/phi



Purpose of briefing

- Briefing #1 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

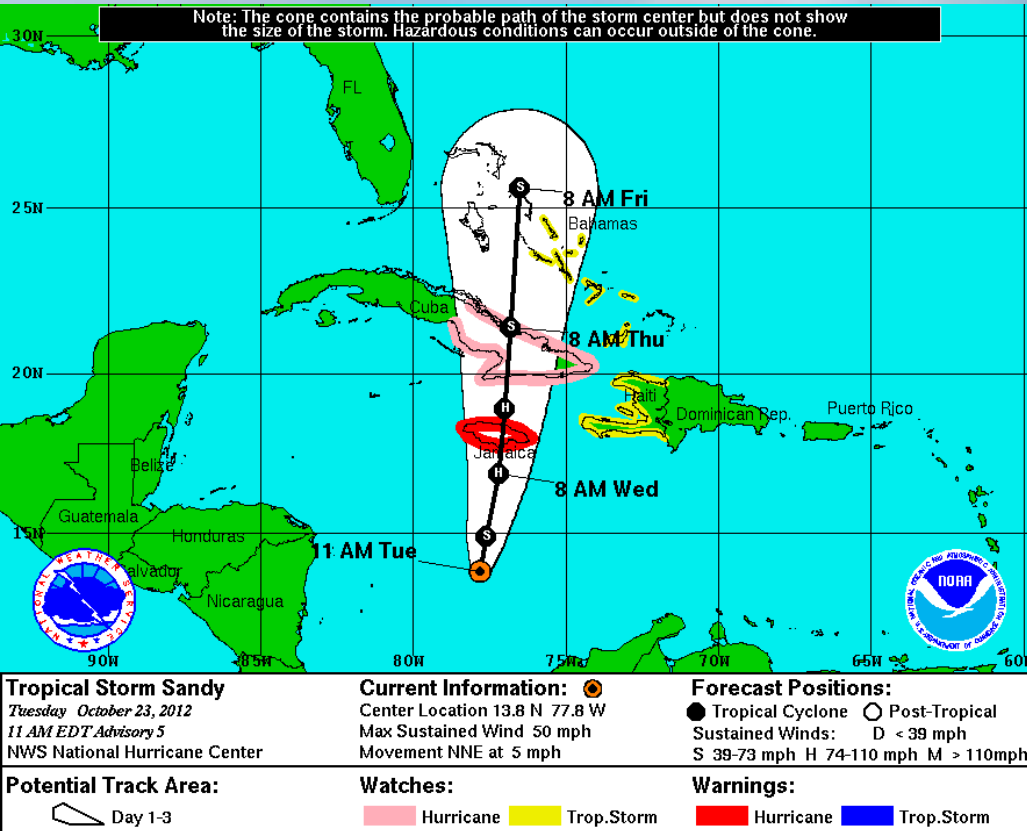


Executive Summary

- Potential for a very dangerous autumn storm system to affect the region early next week.
- This storm will be associated with what is currently Tropical Storm Sandy. This storm system will bring multiple potential threats to the region.
- Strong damaging wind gusts, extremely heavy rainfall, major inland flooding and major coastal flooding are all possible with the storm.
- The track of the storm will determine the area which is impacted; there is considerable uncertainty with the storm track this far in advance of the event.
- Next briefing package will be issued on Wednesday, October 24th.
- Monitor our website at weather.gov/phi



Current status of Tropical Storm Sandy



- Tropical Storm Sandy is expected to reach hurricane strength on Wednesday.
- It will continue to move northward.

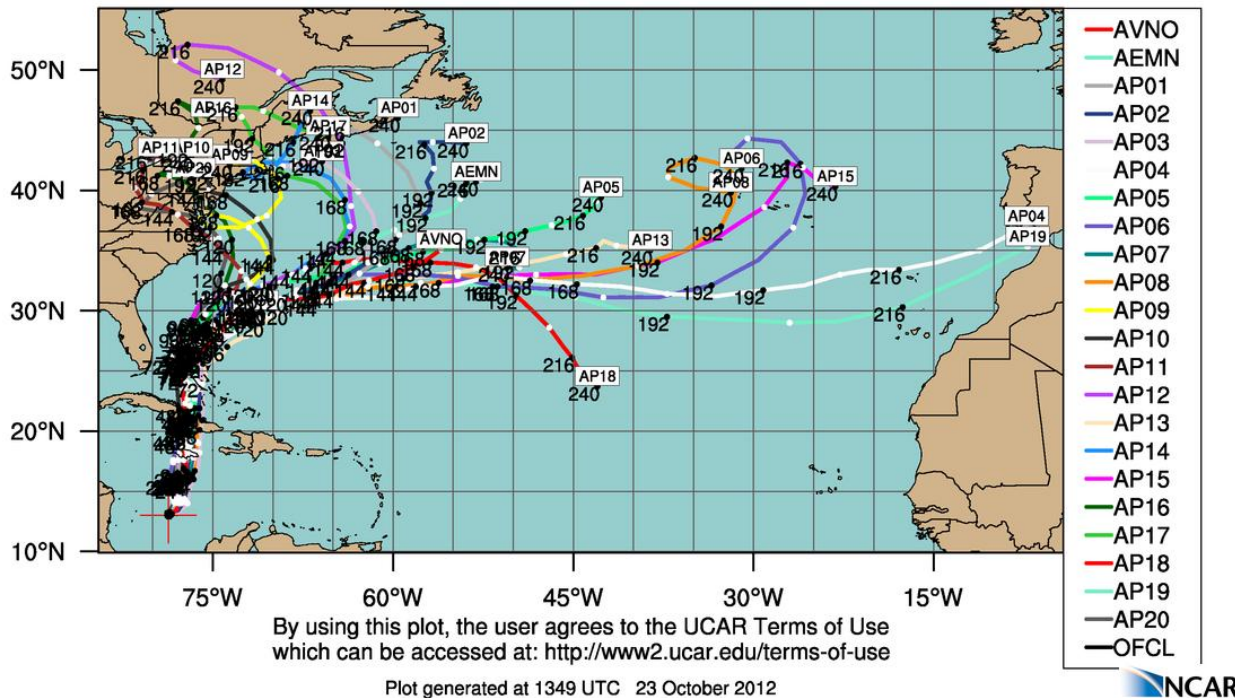
Where does Sandy go after it is no longer tropical?

TROPICAL STORM SANDY (AL18)

CEP GFS Ensemble track guidance initialized at 0600 UTC, 23 October 2012

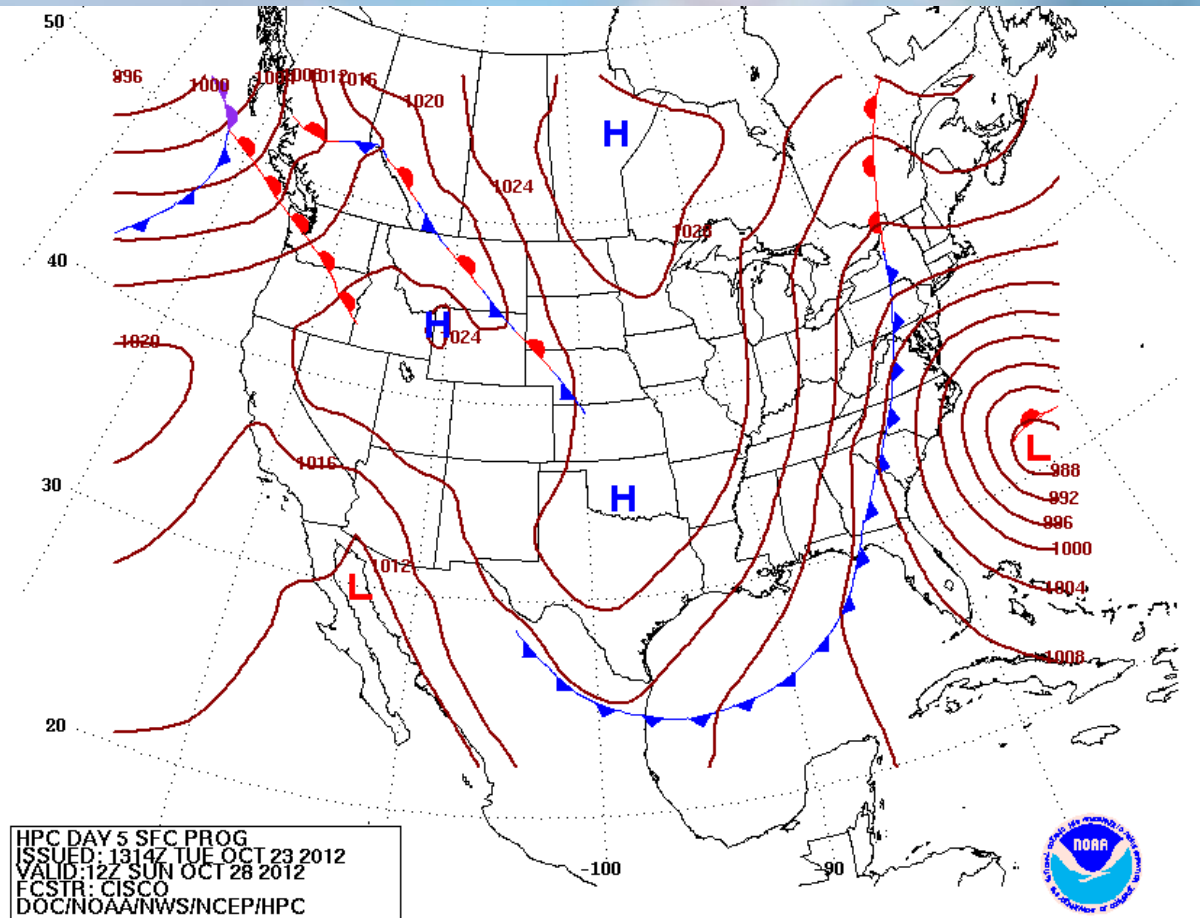
Current Intensity: 40 kt

Current Basin: North Atlantic

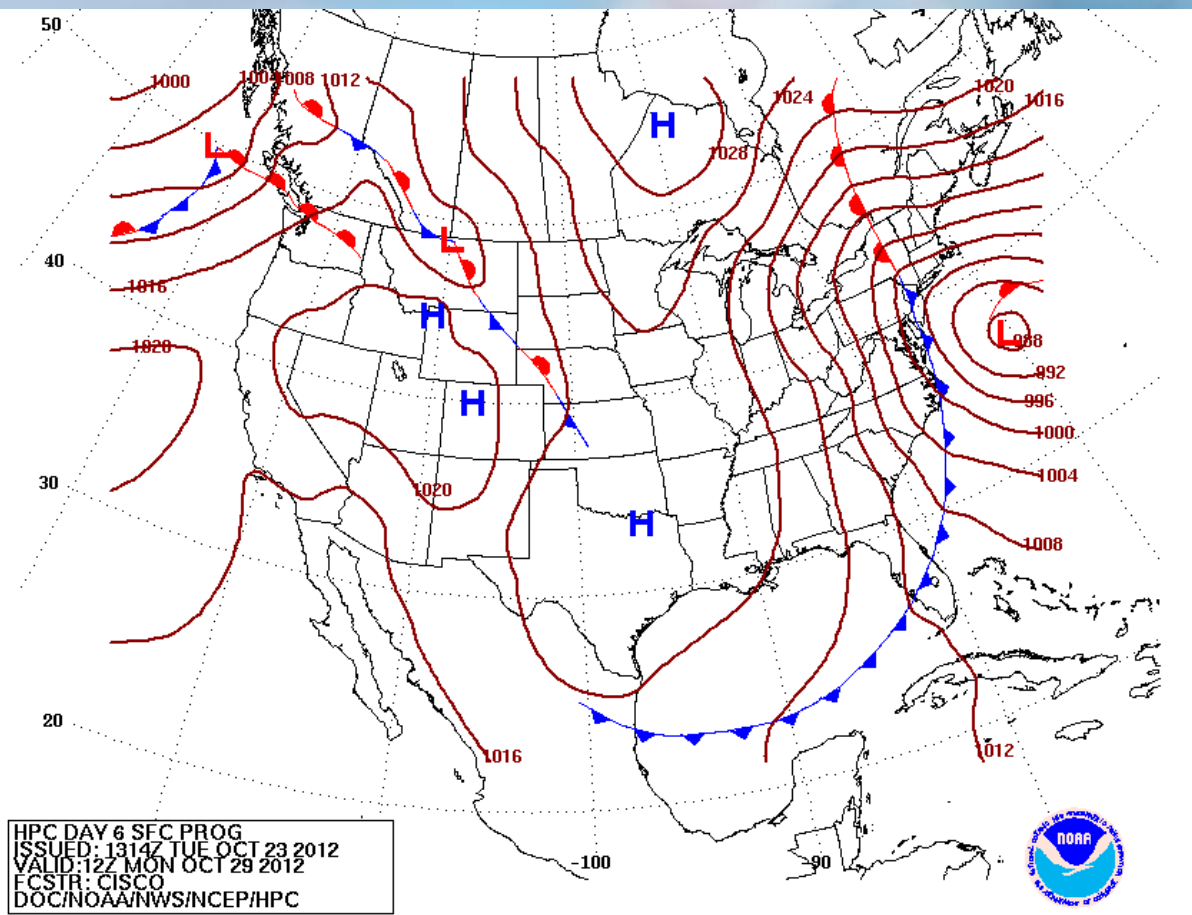


- Map on the left is one of the forecast tools meteorologists use.
- It shows over 20 potential tracks for the storm. Although many go out to sea, there are a considerable number which bring the storm onto the East Coast, ranging from Virginia up to New England.

The following maps show the latest forecast for the storm system track early next week

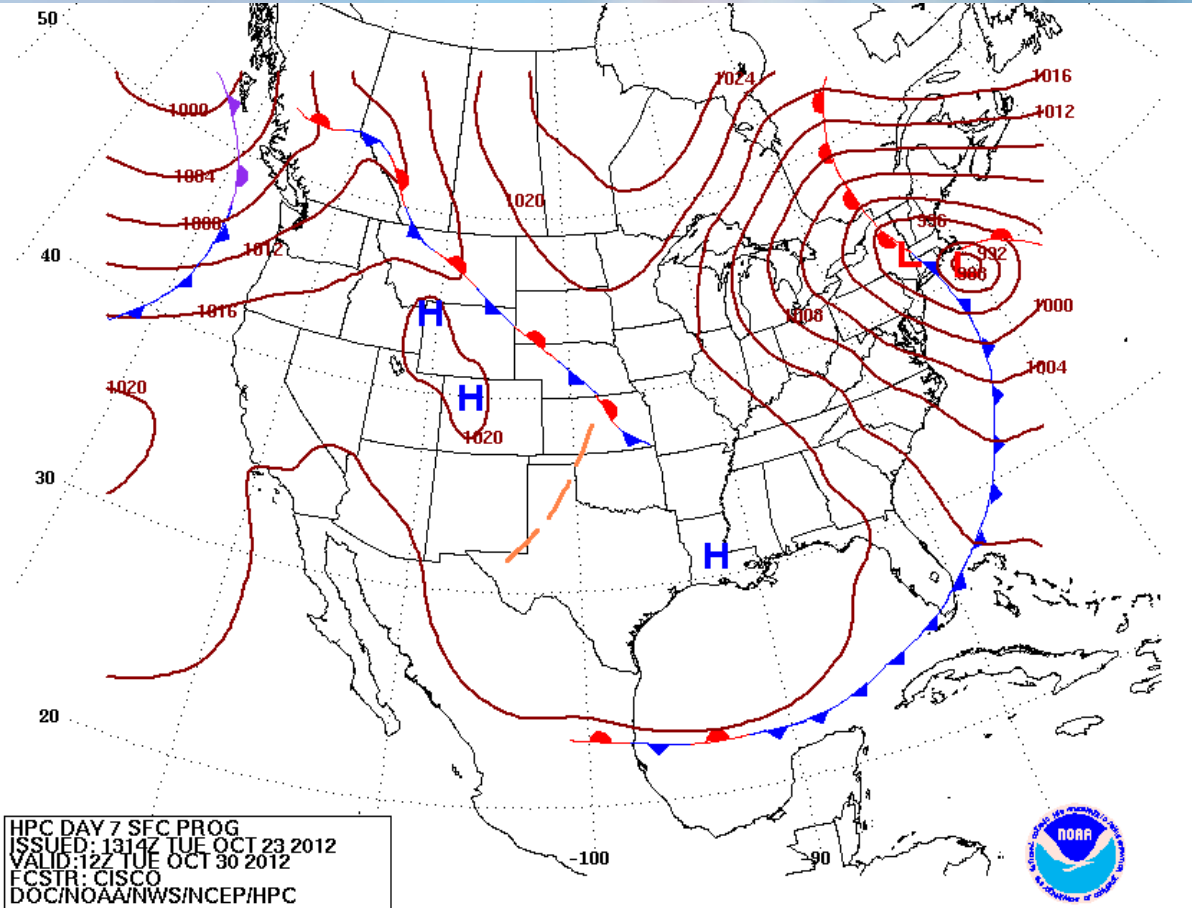


- Map on the left is valid 800 AM EDT Sunday October 28th.
- Storm center is east of the Carolinas.
- The storm could still have winds of 60-70 mph at this time.



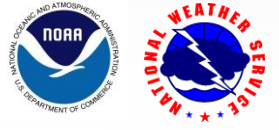
- Map on the left is valid 800 AM EDT Monday October 29th.
- Storm center is east of the DelMarVa.





HPC DAY 7 SFC PROG
 ISSUED: 1314Z TUE OCT 23 2012
 VALID: 12Z TUE OCT 30 2012
 FCSTR: CISCO
 DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/HPC

- Map on the left is valid 800 AM EDT Tuesday October 30th.
- Storm center is off the southern New England coast



Note about the preceding maps

- Remember that the forecast maps are guidance, not gospel.
- The storm center could easily track closer to the coast or further out to sea.
- The takeaway message is that our region could be close to the path of a very dangerous storm.



Things to focus on about this storm

- A very large region will be affected by very strong winds.
- Reflecting its tropical beginnings, very heavy rainfall will occur with the storm.
- The storm will be slow moving. This worsens the impact for coastal flooding as it will affect multiple high tide cycles. This worsens the potential for heavy rainfall inland and increases the risk of major river flooding.
- The area affected will be determined by the track of the storm. There is still considerable uncertainty about the track of the storm, but our region is clearly at risk.



Questions?

- For the latest information, visit our website at weather.gov/phi
- If you have any questions, please contact us.
- Gary.Szatkowski@noaa.gov
- Office 609-261-6602 x222
- Cell 609-320-7205

