



Active Weather Threat Halloween Week Nor'easter October 28th – 31st 2012

Prepared 1145 AM EDT – Thursday, October 25, 2012

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NOAA's National Weather Service

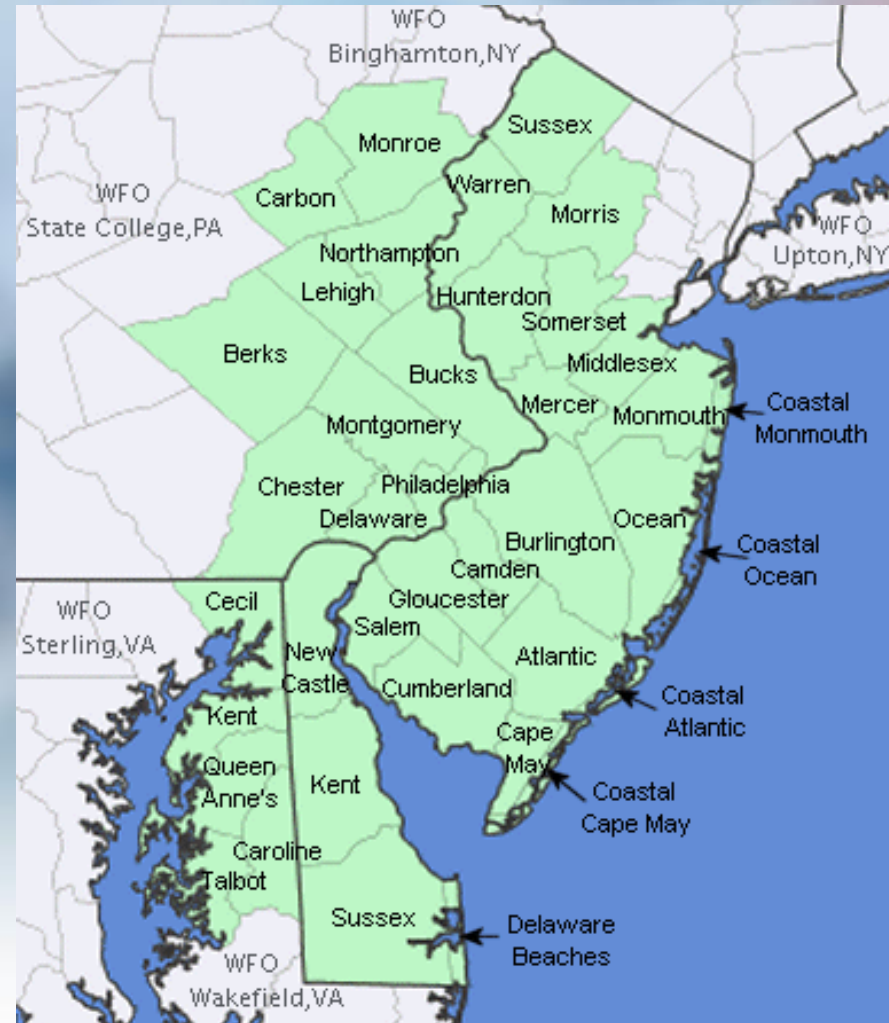
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly NJ Forecast Office

Weather.gov/phi



Purpose of Briefing

- Briefing #3 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



Changes from previous briefing

- **The likelihood of the storm affecting our region has once again increased over the past 24 hours.**
- **The potential for the storm to still retain tropical characteristics (e.g., extremely heavy rainfall rates, a core of very strong winds) when it reaches our region has increased over the past 24 hours.**

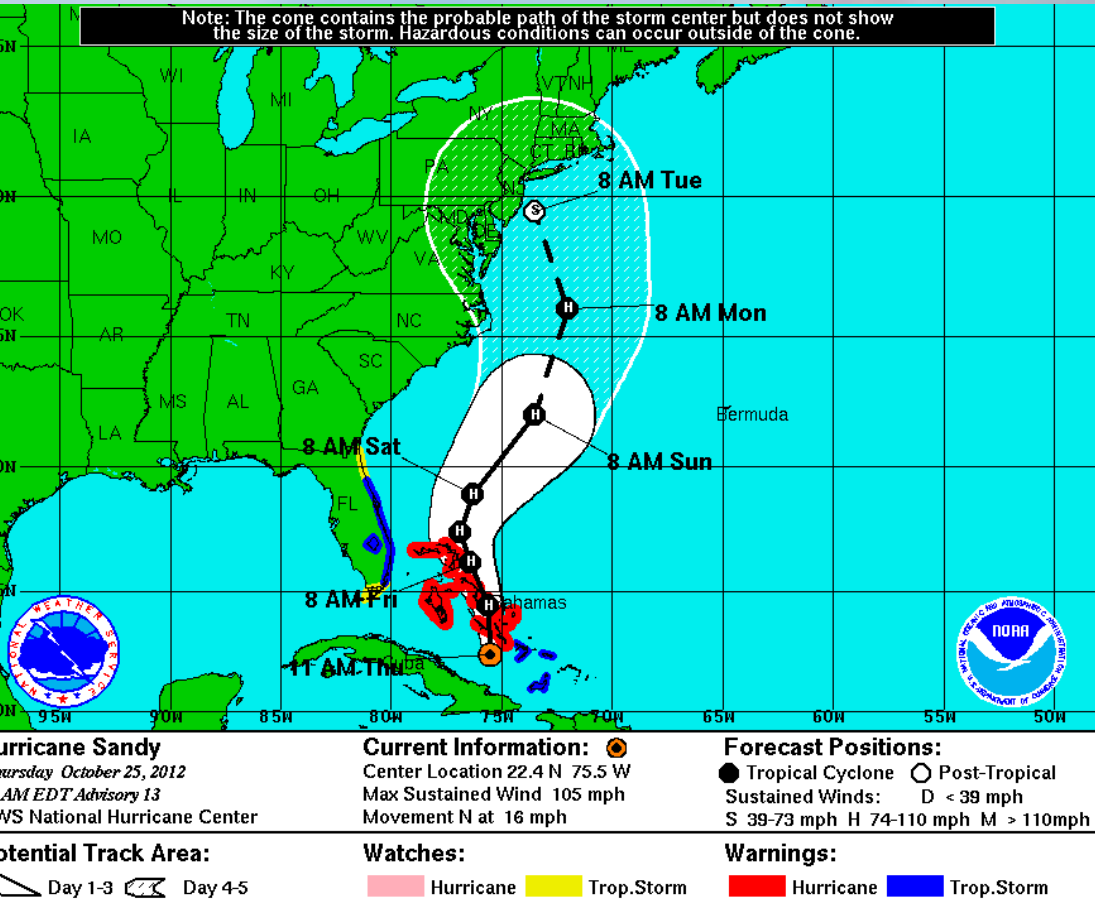


Executive Summary

- Potential continues for a very dangerous autumn storm system to affect the region early next week.
- This storm will be associated with what is currently Hurricane Sandy. This storm, if it moves toward us, will bring multiple threats to the region:
 - Strong damaging wind gusts
 - Extremely heavy rainfall
 - Major flooding along streams and rivers
 - Major coastal flooding (full moon occurs on October 29)
- The eventual track of this storm will determine the area which is impacted. This far out in time, there is still some uncertainty with the storm track. **However, the likelihood of the storm affecting our region has once again increased over the past 24 hours.**
- Next briefing package will be issued on Friday, October 26th.
- Monitor our website at weather.gov/phi.

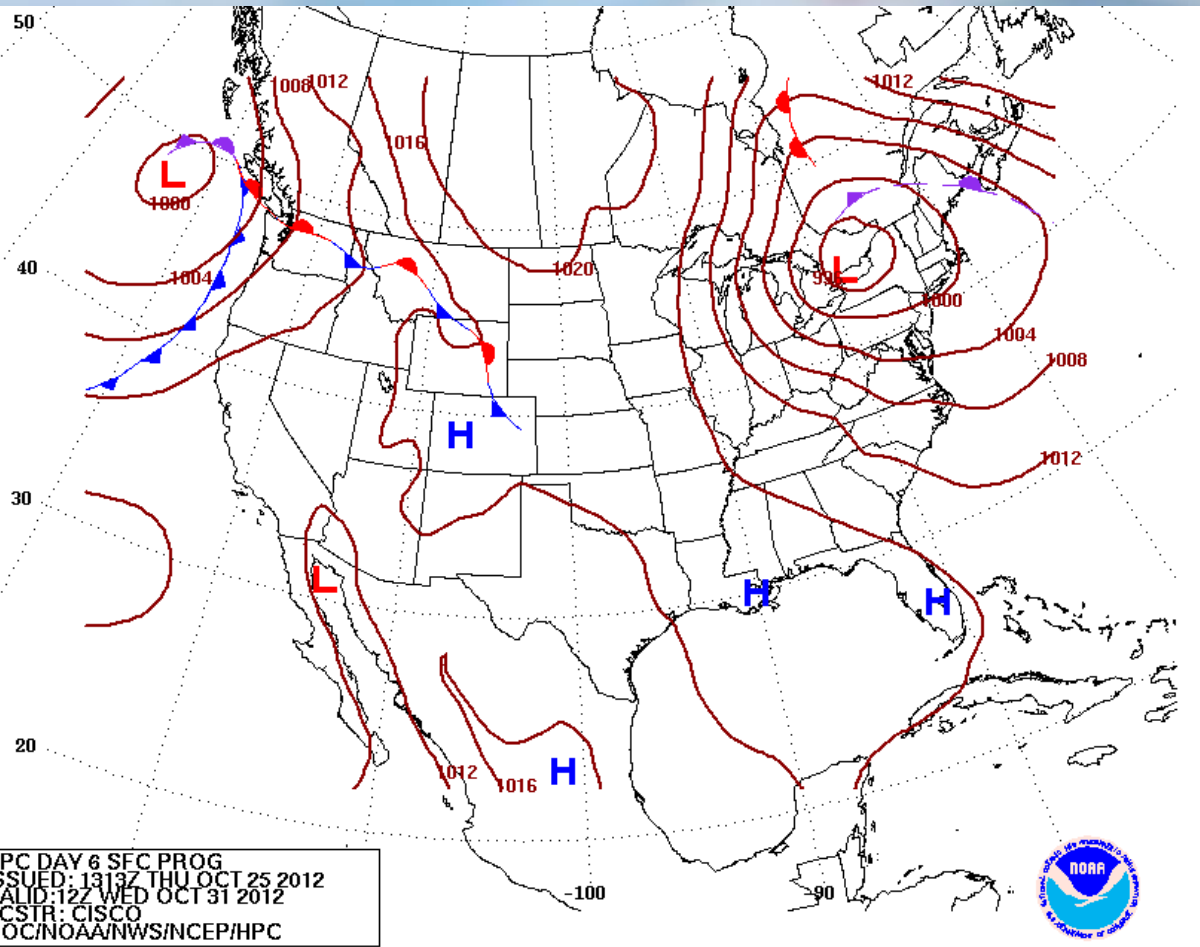


Current status of Hurricane Sandy



- Sandy is currently a Category II hurricane.
- Its forecast track now poses a direct threat to our region.
- It is forecast to still have sustained winds of 70 mph with higher gusts as it approaches our region.
- This is a very dangerous scenario.

The following maps show the latest forecast for the storm system after it makes landfall



- Map on the left is valid 800 AM EDT Wednesday October 31st.
- Storm center is near Lake Ontario and continuing to move northward.

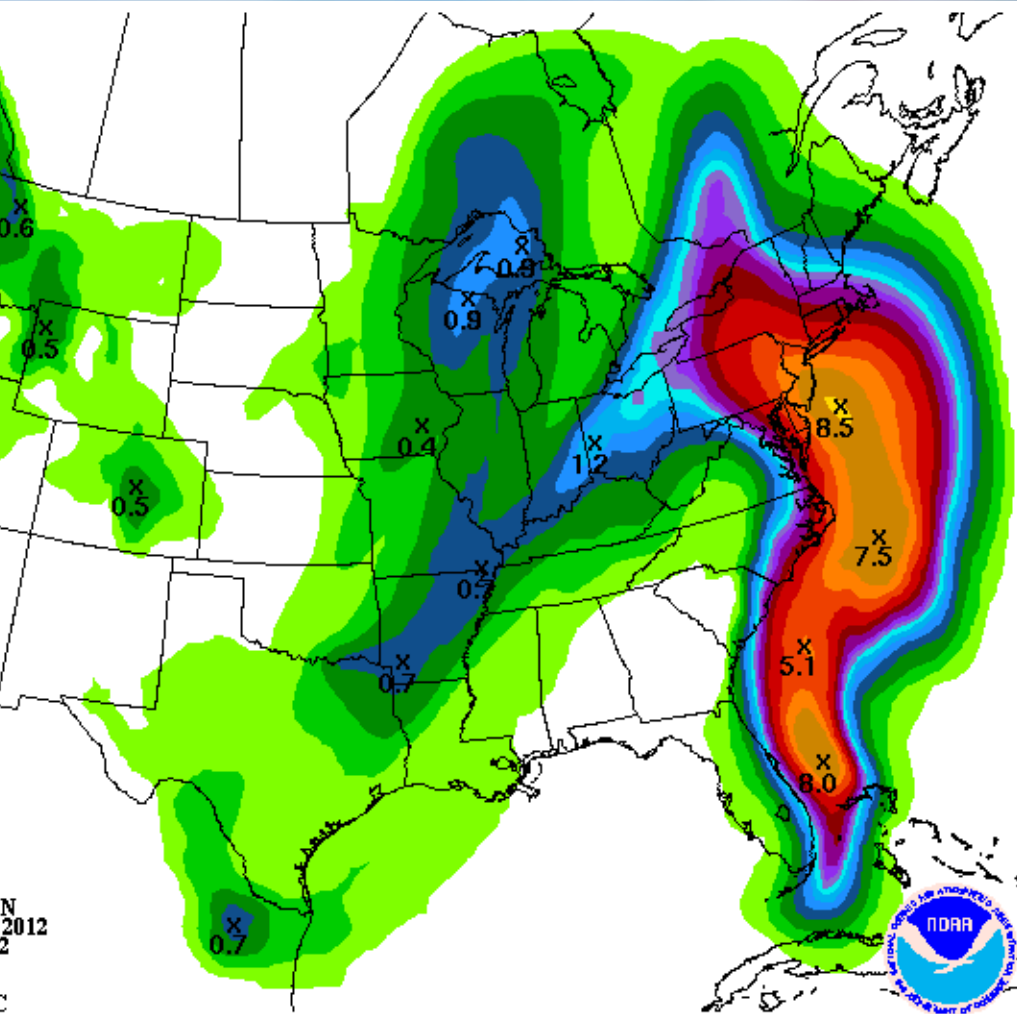


Note about the preceding maps

- Remember that the forecast maps are guidance, not gospel.
- The storm center could track closer to the coast or further out to sea, but opportunities for it to do so are diminishing.
- The takeaway message is that our region is increasingly likely to be close to the path of a very dangerous storm.



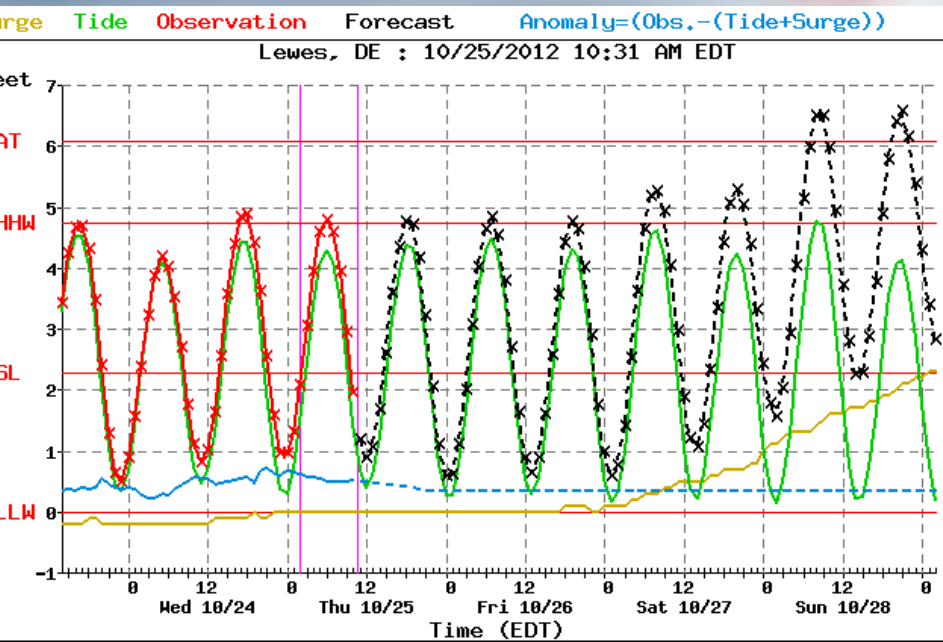
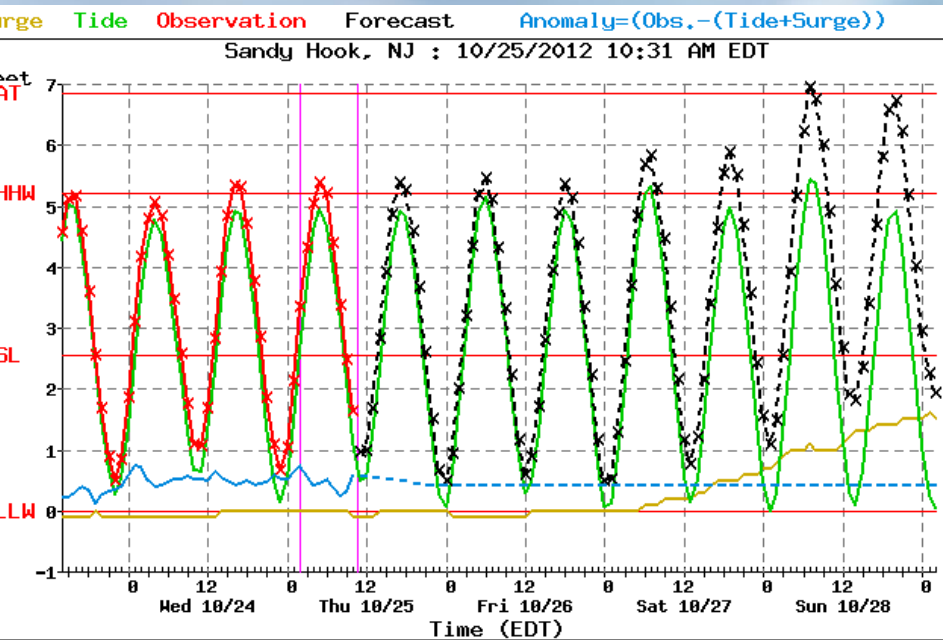
Inland flooding threat



- Map on the left is forecast total rainfall over next 5 days.
- Flash flooding is extremely likely.
- Major river flooding is likely.
- **Record river flooding is possible**

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Coastal flooding tools



- Yesterday, we showed you some of the inland flooding forecast tools.
- Today, here are some of our coastal flooding forecast tools.
- They go out 96 hours, which does not yet capture the full impacts of Sandy, but they are clearly starting to react to the approach of the storm.
- Major coastal flooding is likely. **If the center of the storm makes landfall along the New Jersey or Delaware coast, record coastal flooding is possible.**

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 some uncertainty about the track of the storm. **However, the threat to our region has once again increased over the past 24 hours. The potential for the core of the storm to have extremely strong winds and torrential rainfall has also increased.**



Things you need to think about now

- Engage in preparedness activities. Review your Family Emergency Plan and update as needed.
- Be prepared to evacuate if local officials instruct you to do so.
- Be prepared for potential long-term power outages.
- Leaves! There a lot of leaves on the ground. Leaves are excellent material to clog/block storm drains, worsening local/neighborhood flooding. Get leaves and any other obstructing materials away from storm drains before this storm arrives.



Questions?

- For the latest information, visit our website at weather.gov/phi
- If you have any questions, please contact us.
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