

Hurricane Sandy

October 28th – 31st 2012

Prepared 1030 AM EDT – Friday October 26, 2012

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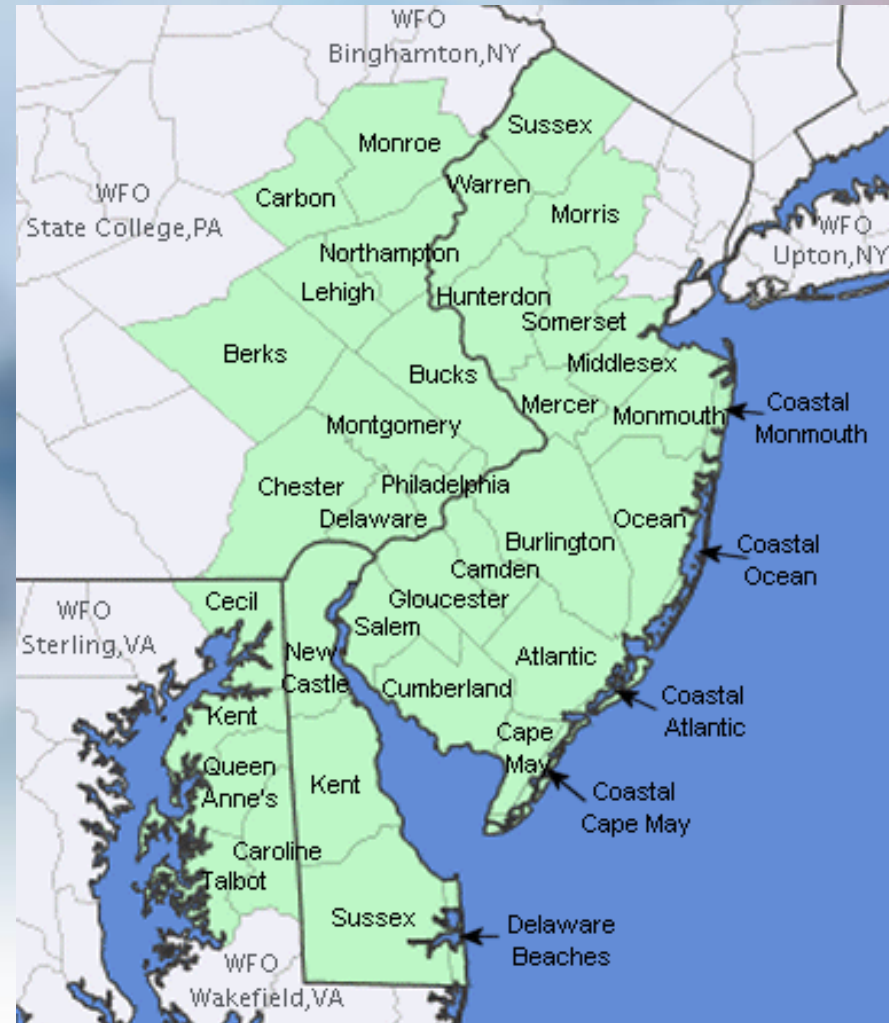
Weather.gov/phi



National Weather Service
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly

Purpose of Briefing

- Briefing #4 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

- **A Hurricane or strong Tropical Storm will affect our area late this weekend into early next week.**
- **Confidence has increased that the storm will have major impacts on our region.**

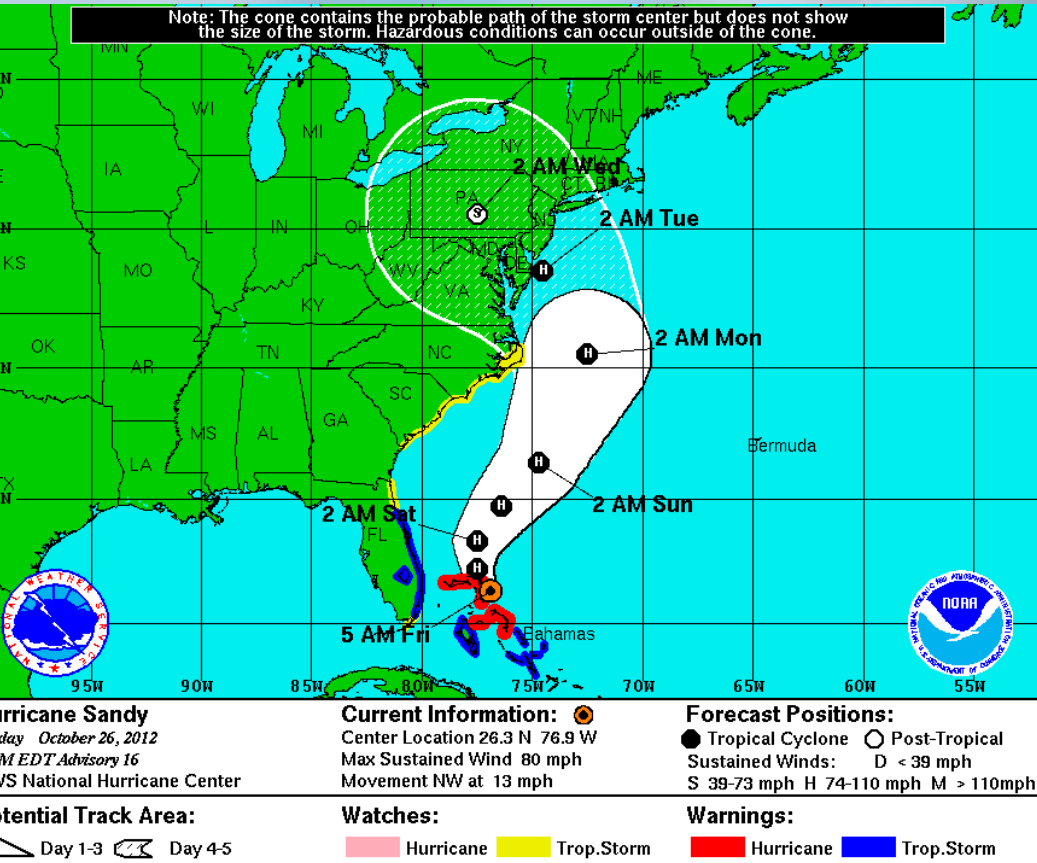


Executive Summary

- A hurricane or strong tropical storm will affect the mid-Atlantic region late this weekend into early next week. Sandy will bring multiple dangers to our area:
 - Strong damaging sustained winds up to or exceeding hurricane strength (74 mph) over a prolonged period of time (24 to 48 hours). Gusts will be higher.
 - Extremely heavy rainfall.
 - Major flooding along streams and rivers.
 - Major coastal flooding. The full moon on October 29 just makes things worse.
- The eventual track of this storm will determine the area which is impacted. While Sandy could still track a little further to our north, or a little further to our south, we will be feeling her effects one way or the other starting late this weekend (Sunday), continuing into Tuesday of next week.
- Watches may be issued later today.
- Next briefing package will be issued around 600 PM Friday, October 26th.
- Monitor our website at weather.gov/phi.

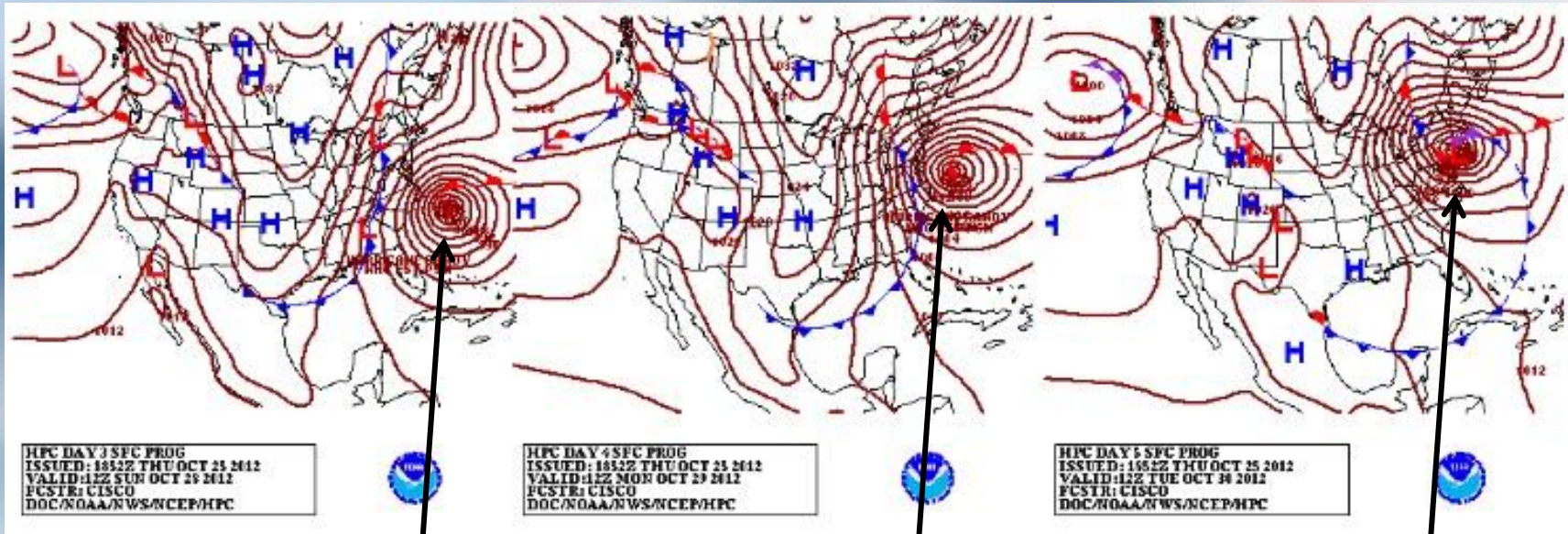


Current status of Hurricane Sandy



- Sandy is currently a Category I hurricane, with some further weakening possible. However, Sandy is expected to remain a hurricane for the next several days.
- Its forecast track 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.

This map shows the latest forecast for the storm system as it approaches our area and makes landfall



8 AM Sunday

8 AM Monday

8 AM Tuesday

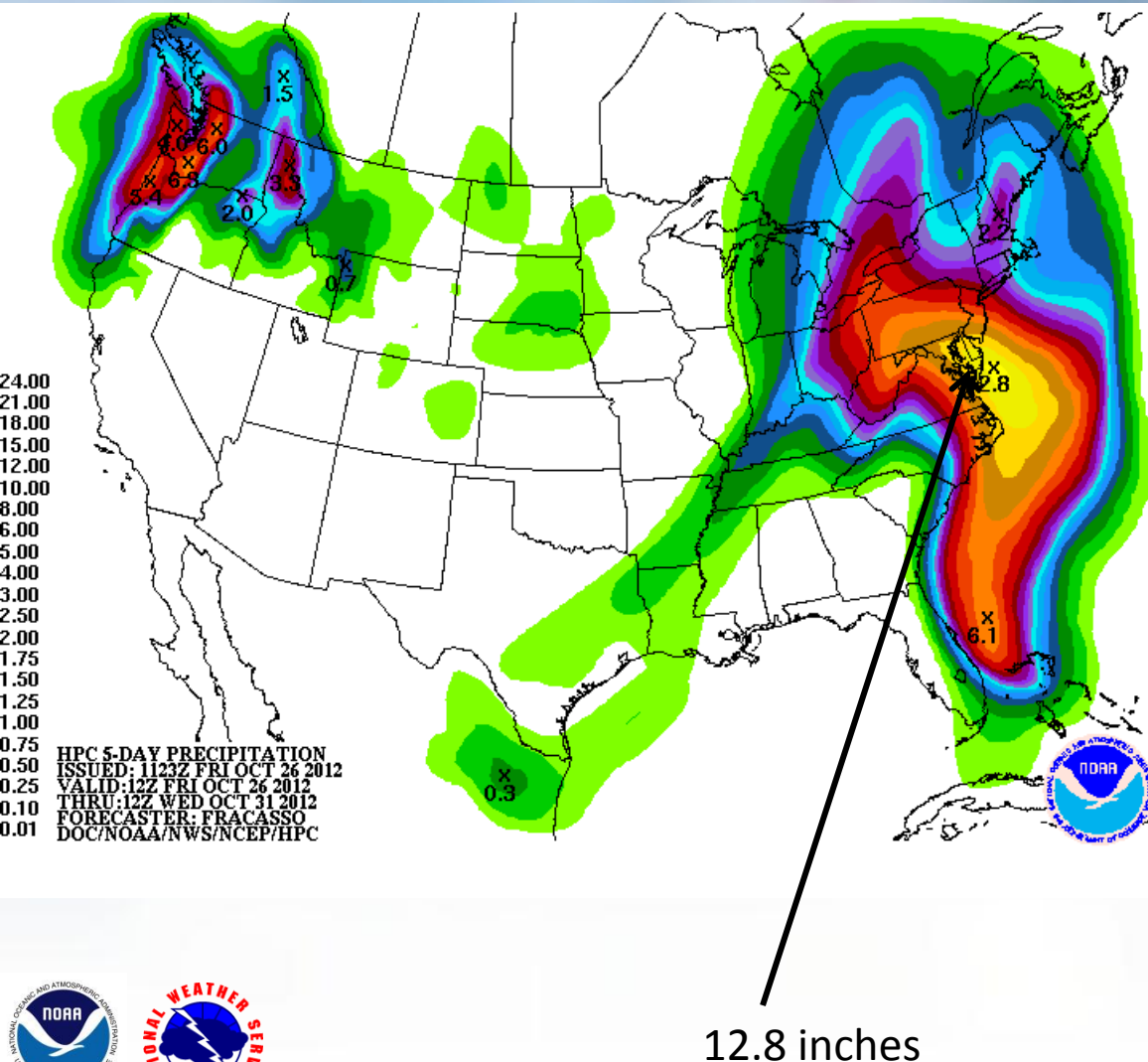


Note about the preceding maps

- Remember that the forecast maps are guidance, not gospel.
- The storm center could track further to our north or further to our south which would change these forecast scenarios, some for the better, some for the worse.
- The takeaway message is that our region is currently in the path of a very dangerous storm. Even if the eventual path changes, we will still feel dire effects from this storm.

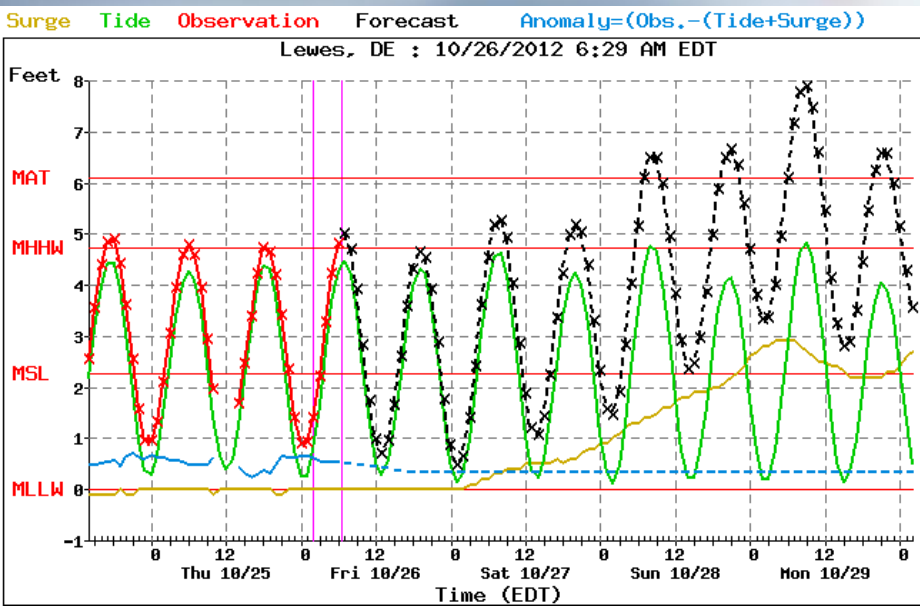
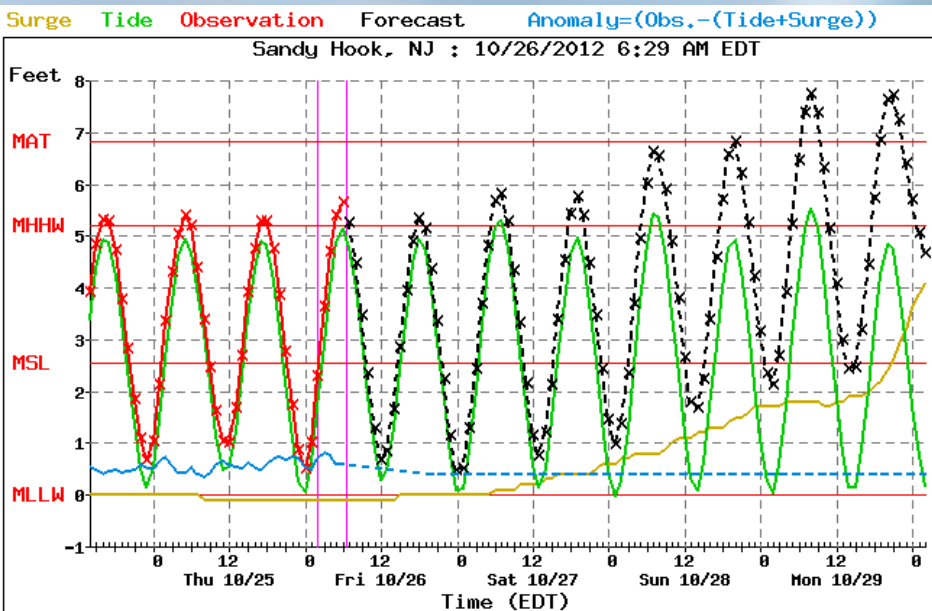


Inland flooding threat



- 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**

Coastal flooding tools



- Major coastal flooding is expected based on the current track forecast. **Record coastal flooding is possible.**
- A ten foot storm tide (surge + astronomical tide) is possible along the Atlantic Coast and in the Delaware Bay based on where the storm center comes ashore. This would result in record coastal flooding in some areas.
- A 3 to 5 foot storm tide (surge + astronomical tide) is possible in the Chesapeake Bay based on where the storm center comes ashore.

Things to focus on about this storm

- A very large portion our region will be affected by very strong winds over a prolonged period of time (24 to 48 hours). Sustained winds could reach or exceed 74 mph for a prolonged period of time, especially closer to the coast.
- Reflecting its tropical beginnings, very heavy rainfall will occur with the storm.
- The storm will be slow moving. This worsens the impact for tidal flooding along the ocean front, back bays, Delaware Bay and Chesapeake Bay as water builds up over multiple high tide cycles. The slow moving storm also worsens the potential for heavy rainfall inland and increases the risk of major river flooding.
- The area affected will, of course, be determined by the eventual track of the storm. While there is still a chance the path of this storm may move a little further to our north, or a little further to our south, we will be feeling its effects one way or the other.



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.
- Secure outside items or bring them inside as it appears increasingly likely we will see very strong wind gusts.



Housekeeping

- Thank you for the very positive feedback on these briefing packages.
- However, we are simply unable to accommodate the magnitude of requests to be added to an email distribution list. Our list is frozen during this event as it is essentially maxed out.
- We are transitioning to using social media for this event and future events where we issue briefing packages.
- We are on Facebook at US National Weather Service Philadelphia/Mount Holly
- We are on Twitter at @NWS_MountHolly
- We will post notification of briefing package issuance on both Facebook & Twitter.
- Please 'like' us on Facebook or 'follow' us on Twitter to receive the notification when we issue a briefing package.
- You can always download the latest briefing package at:
http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/briefing/packages/current_briefing.pdf



Questions?

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