

# Hurricane Sandy

## October 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> 2012

Prepared 1000 AM EDT – Saturday October 27, 2012

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NOAA's National Weather Service

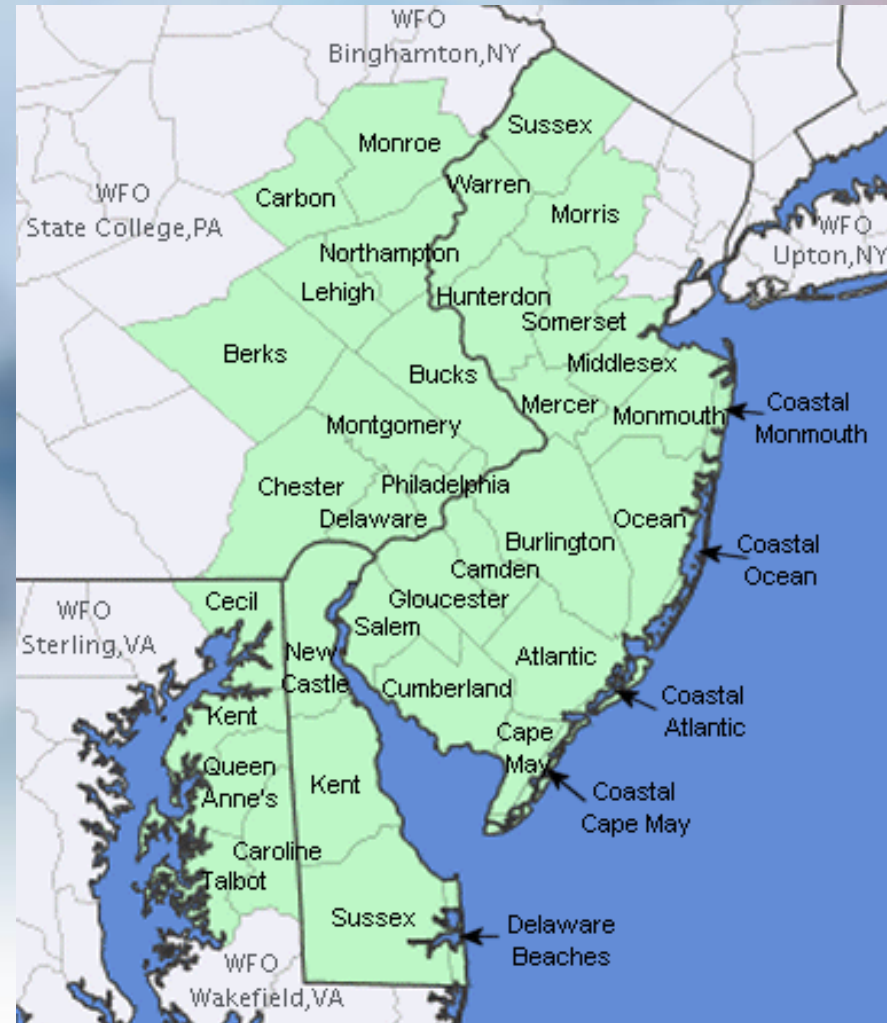
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly NJ Forecast Office

[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



# Changes from previous briefing

- **The path of the storm has moved slightly north and east from previous track.**
- **High Wind Watches, Flood Watches, Coastal Flood Watches have been posted for our area.**
- **Confidence continues to increase that our region will see very severe impacts from this storm.**

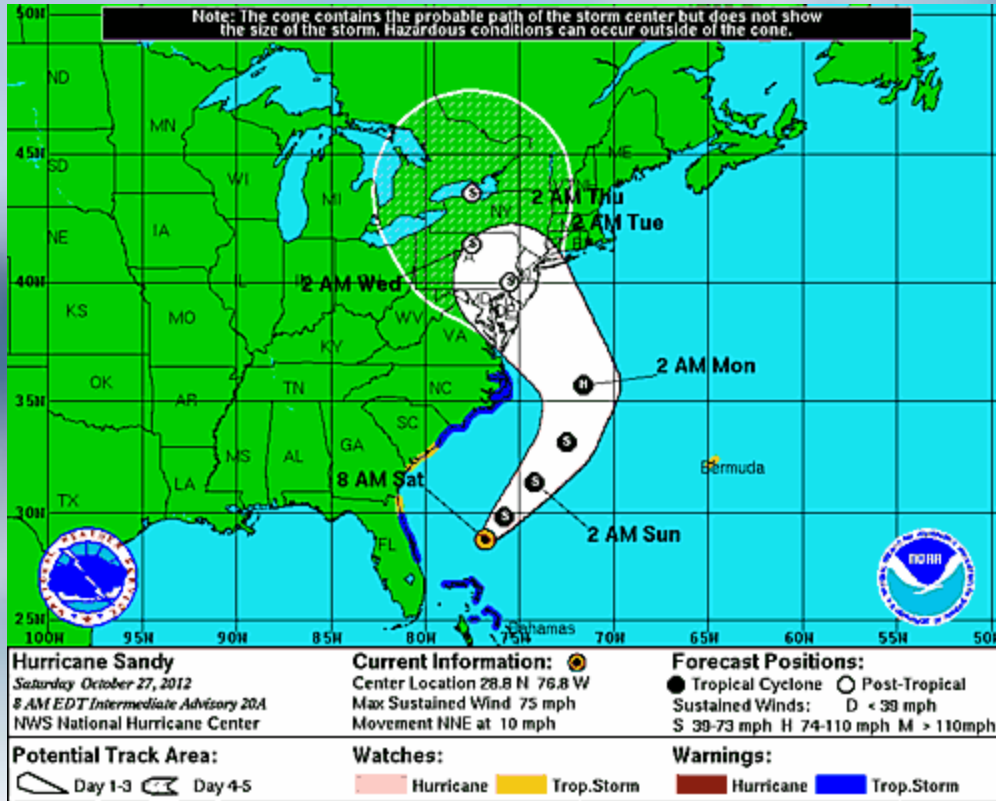


# Executive Summary

- A hurricane or strong tropical storm will affect the mid-Atlantic region later Sunday into early next week. Sandy will bring multiple dangers to our area:
  - Strong damaging sustained winds 35 to 45 mph over a prolonged period of time (24 to 48 hours), with gusts up to near hurricane strength. Strongest winds are expected south and east of the I-95 corridor.
  - 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 which areas get hit the worst from this event. Information contained in this briefing package is based on the most recent forecast from the National Hurricane Center (8 AM Saturday).
- Next briefing package will be issued by 6 PM Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Monitor our website at [weather.gov/phi](http://weather.gov/phi).



# Current status of Hurricane Sandy



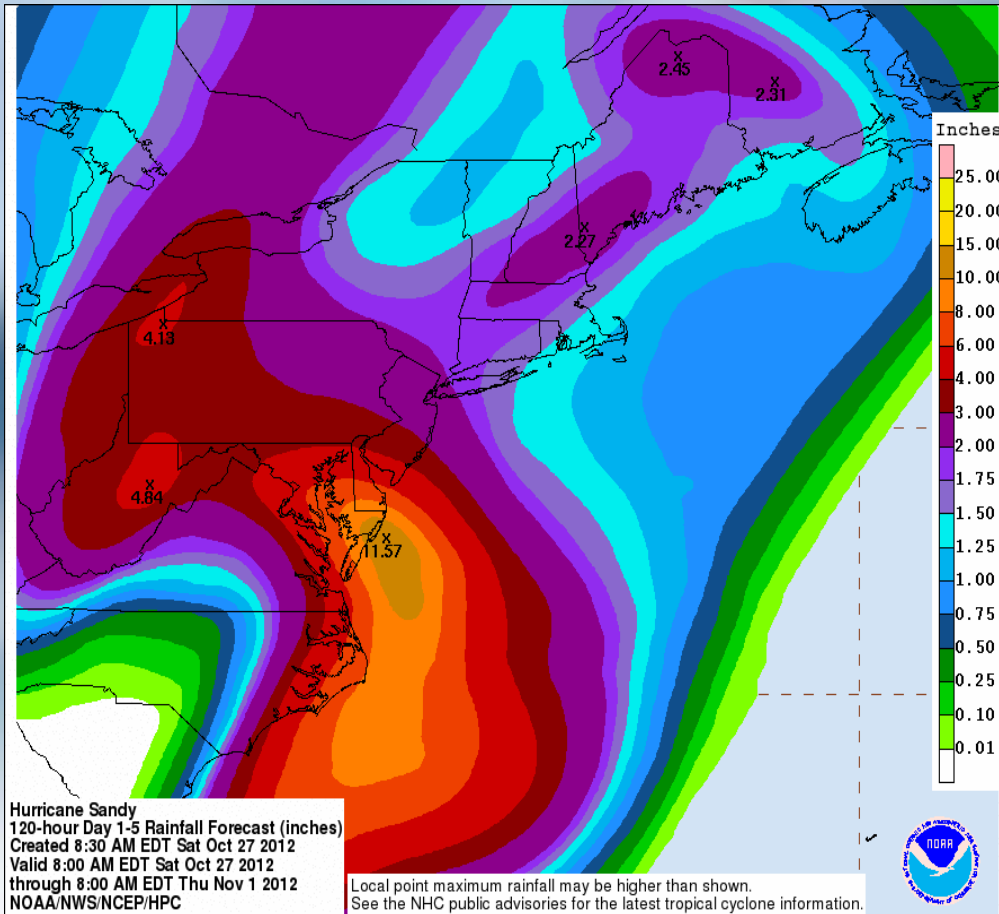
- Sandy is currently a Category I hurricane. Sandy is expected to remain at or near hurricane strength for the next several days.
- Its forecast track poses a direct threat to our region.
- It is forecast to still have sustained winds of 70 mph with higher gusts as it approaches our region.
- This is a very dangerous scenario.

# Note about the preceding maps

- Remember that the forecast maps are guidance, not gospel.
- The storm center forecast track is still subject to minor changes, 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.



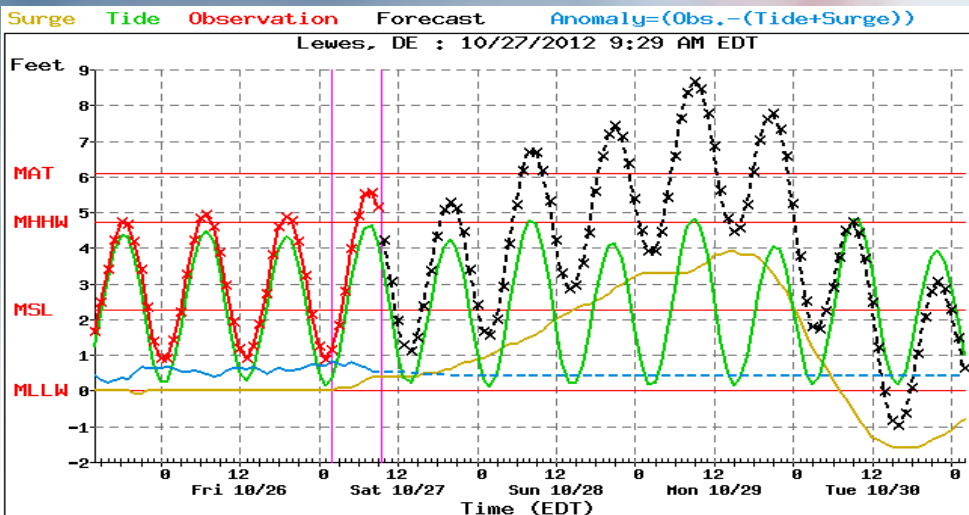
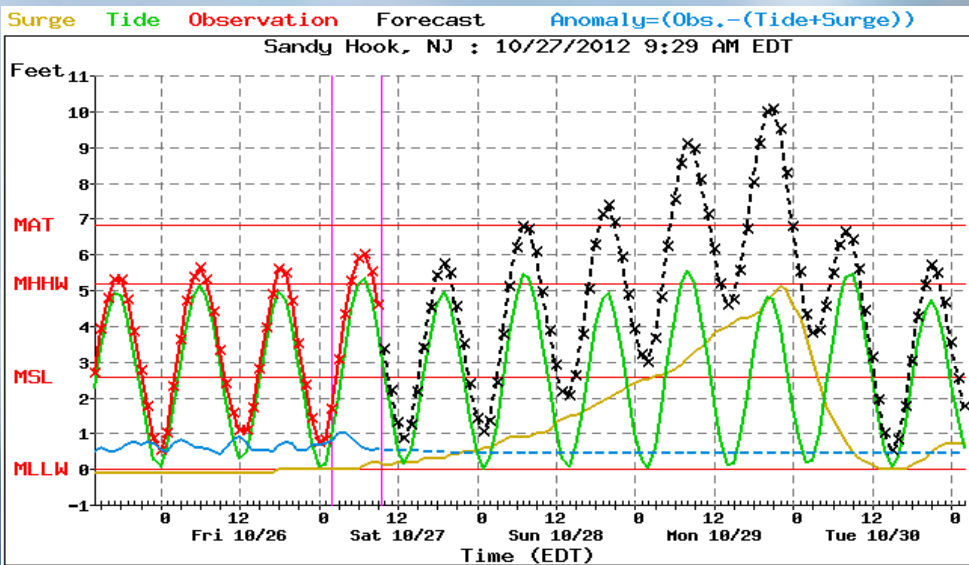
# Inland flooding threat



- Map on the left is forecast total rainfall over next 5 days. Rain is expected to move from south to north starting Sun night, with the heaviest rain Monday.
- Flash flooding is extremely likely.
- Major river flooding is likely.
- **Record river flooding is possible in the areas of heaviest rain.**

# 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. Major flooding is not expected in the Chesapeake Bay based on current predicted storm path.





# 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 between 35 and 45 mph with gusts up to 65 mph are expected east and south of the I-95 corridor. High wind watches have been posted.
- Reflecting its tropical beginnings, very heavy rainfall will occur with the storm. The core of heaviest rain, four to eight inches, is expected south and east of the I-95 corridor, with the period of heaviest rain expected on Monday. Flood watches have been posted.
- 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 Chesapeake Bay may see moderate flooding, but the coastal areas, and the Delaware Bay, could see major flooding. Record flooding is possible in northern New Jersey. Coastal Flood Watches have been posted.
- The area affected will, of course, be determined by the eventual track of the storm.



# 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](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/briefing/packages/current_briefing.pdf)



# Questions?

- For the latest information, visit our website at [weather.gov/phi](http://weather.gov/phi)
- If you have any questions, please contact us.
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