

Very Dangerous Hurricane Sandy

October 28th – 31st 2012

Prepared Noon EDT – Monday October 29, 2012

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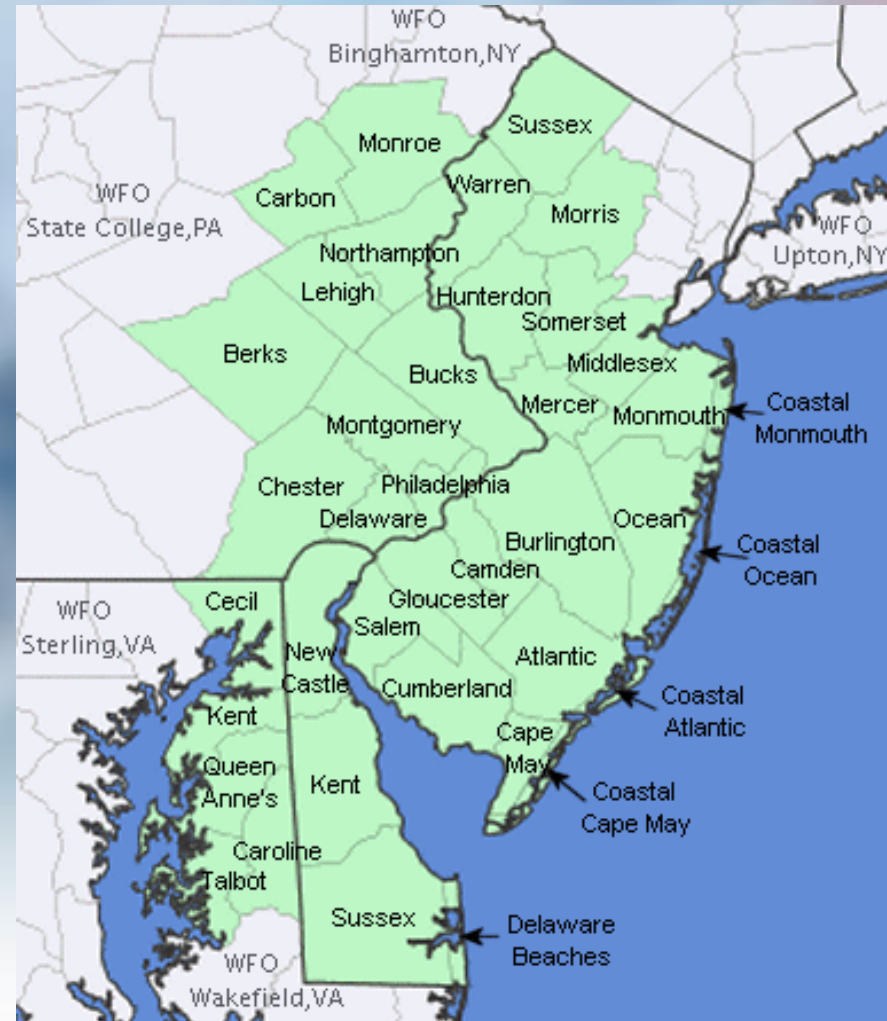
Weather.gov/phi



National Weather Service
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly

Purpose of Briefing

- Briefing #10 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

- **Hurricane Sandy will strike the region with devastating impacts.**

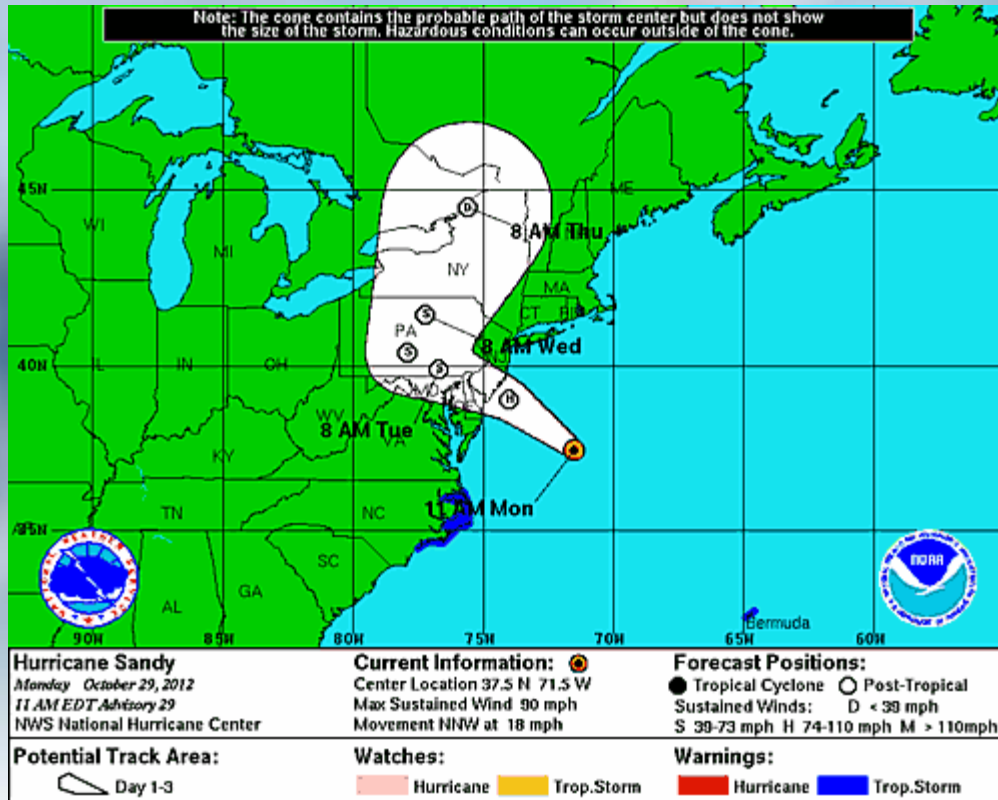


Executive Summary

- Hurricane Sandy has started to have a severe impact on our region and will continue to do so over the next several days:
 - Strong damaging sustained winds 40 to 55 mph over a prolonged period of time (24 to 48 hours), with gusts over 75 mph. Strongest winds are expected south and east of the I-95 corridor.
 - Extremely heavy rainfall.
 - Major to record inland flooding along streams and rivers.
 - Major to record coastal flooding. The full moon on October 29 just makes things worse.
- **Hurricane Sandy will strike our region directly. Options for it to miss us have run out. This is our worst case scenario.**
- Next briefing package will be issued by 600 PM EDT on Monday, October 29th.
- Monitor our website at weather.gov/phi.



Current status of Hurricane Sandy



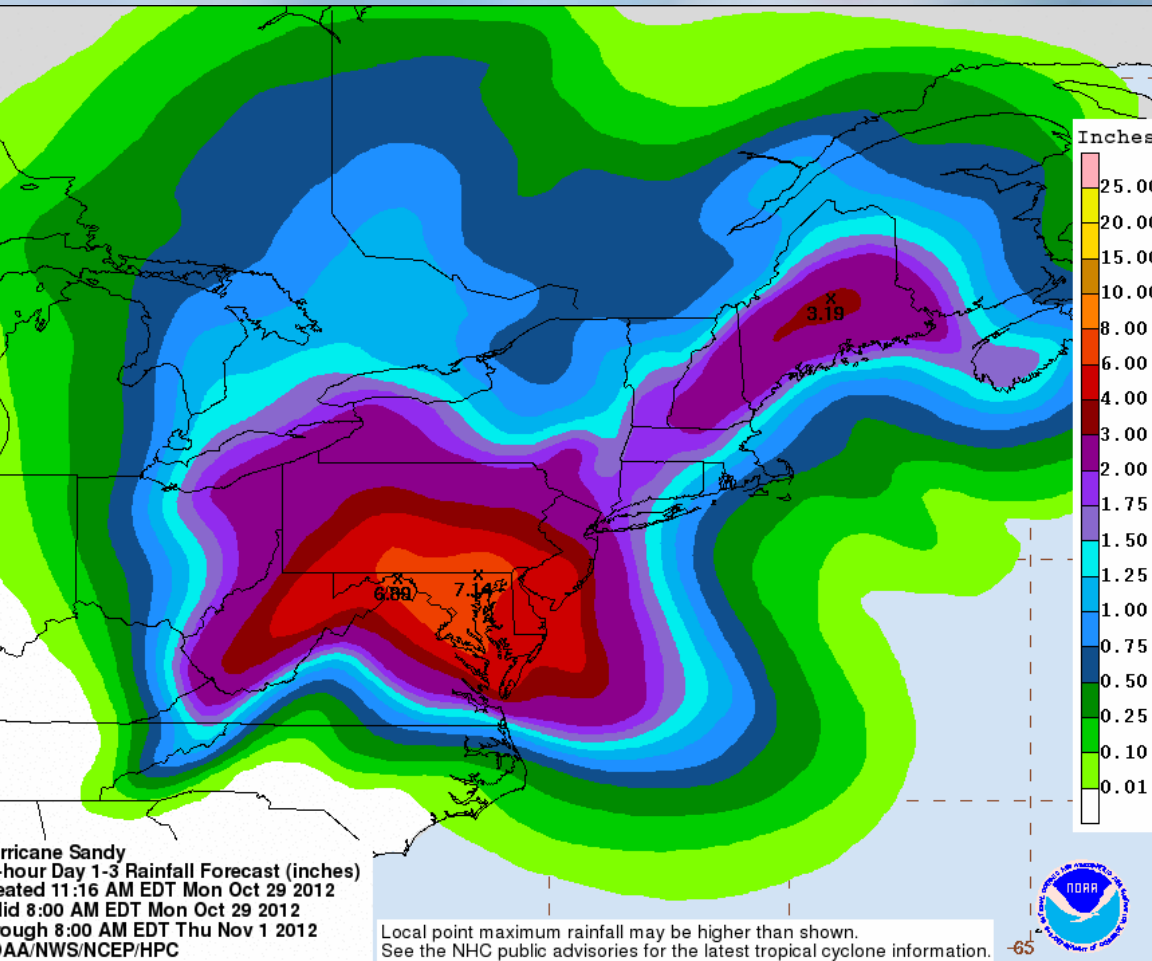
- Sandy is currently a Category I hurricane. Sandy is expected to remain at hurricane strength as it transitions into an extremely intense nor'easter.
- Its forecast track poses a direct threat to our region.
- It is forecast to still have wind gusts exceeding 75 mph as it approaches our region.
- This is a very dangerous scenario.

Terminology

- Hurricane Sandy has nearly completed the transition process toward becoming a very intense nor'easter.
- Since it is not expected to be a Hurricane when it comes ashore in our region, that is why no 'tropical' warnings have been issued for our region.
- We expect to continue with our nor'easter suite of watch/warning products (e.g., High Wind, Coastal Flood, Flash Flood, etc.) throughout the event.
- We have done this consciously so you would not be switching from a tropical to non-tropical set of warning products in the middle of the event. This event will be difficult enough without that unnecessary complication.



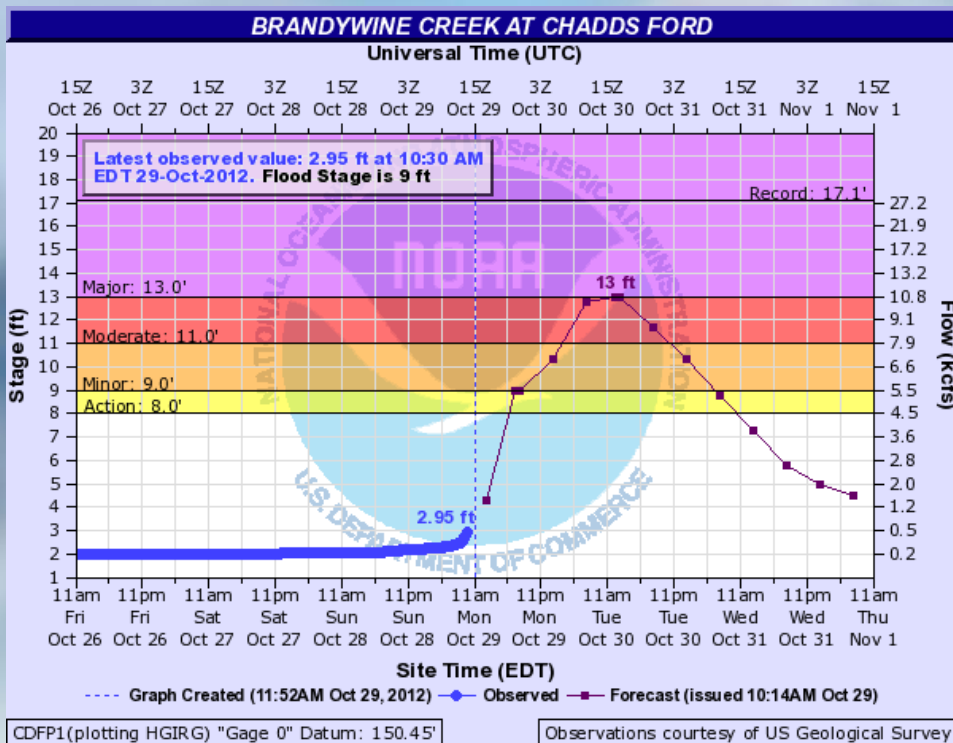
Inland flooding threat



- Map on the left is forecast total rainfall over next 3 days. Heavy rainfall has begun and will continue through the event.
- Flash flooding is extremely likely.
- Major river flooding is likely.
- **Record river flooding is possible in the areas of heaviest rain.**

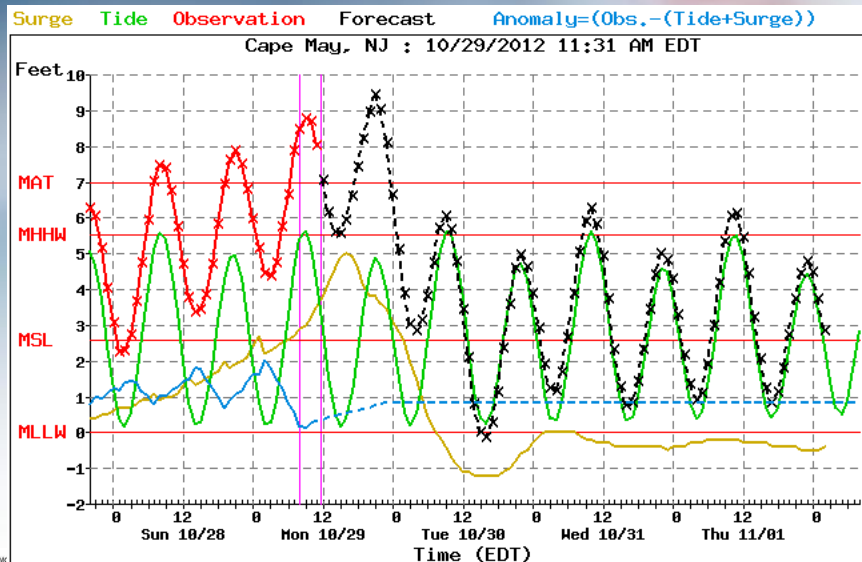
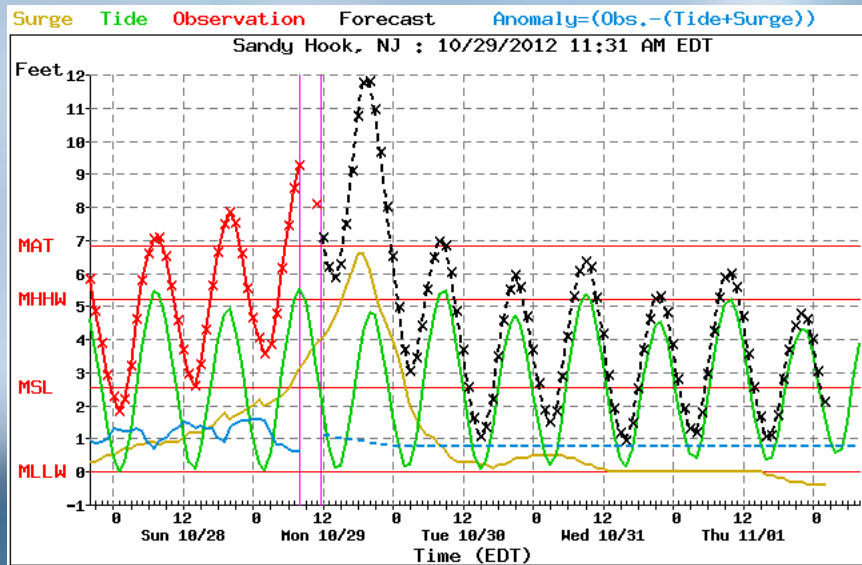


Inland flooding tools



- Our inland river flooding forecast tools now contain valuable information for this event, as they have forecast information going out 72 hours.
- Remember, these are based on forecast rainfall, and will be updated as the rainfall forecast is updated, and as actual rainfall is observed.
- **Tropical systems have brought some of the worst flooding events to our region. Please plan for the worst and hope for the best.**

Coastal flooding tools



- Major/record flooding has already occurred. This evening's high tide will bring more record coastal flooding, worse than anything we have seen so far.
- A 12 to 15 foot storm tide (surge + astronomical tide) is expected in the Raritan Bay. This would produce record coastal flooding.
- A 10 to 12 foot storm tide is expected along the Atlantic Coast and lower Delaware Bay, which will result in more record coastal flooding.
- A 8 to 10 foot storm tide is expected along the middle and upper portions Delaware Bay, which will result in moderate to major coastal flooding. Any shift of the storm track further south will result in record flooding up the Delaware Bay.
- A 3 to 5 foot storm tide is expected in the Chesapeake Bay. This will produce moderate coastal flooding.

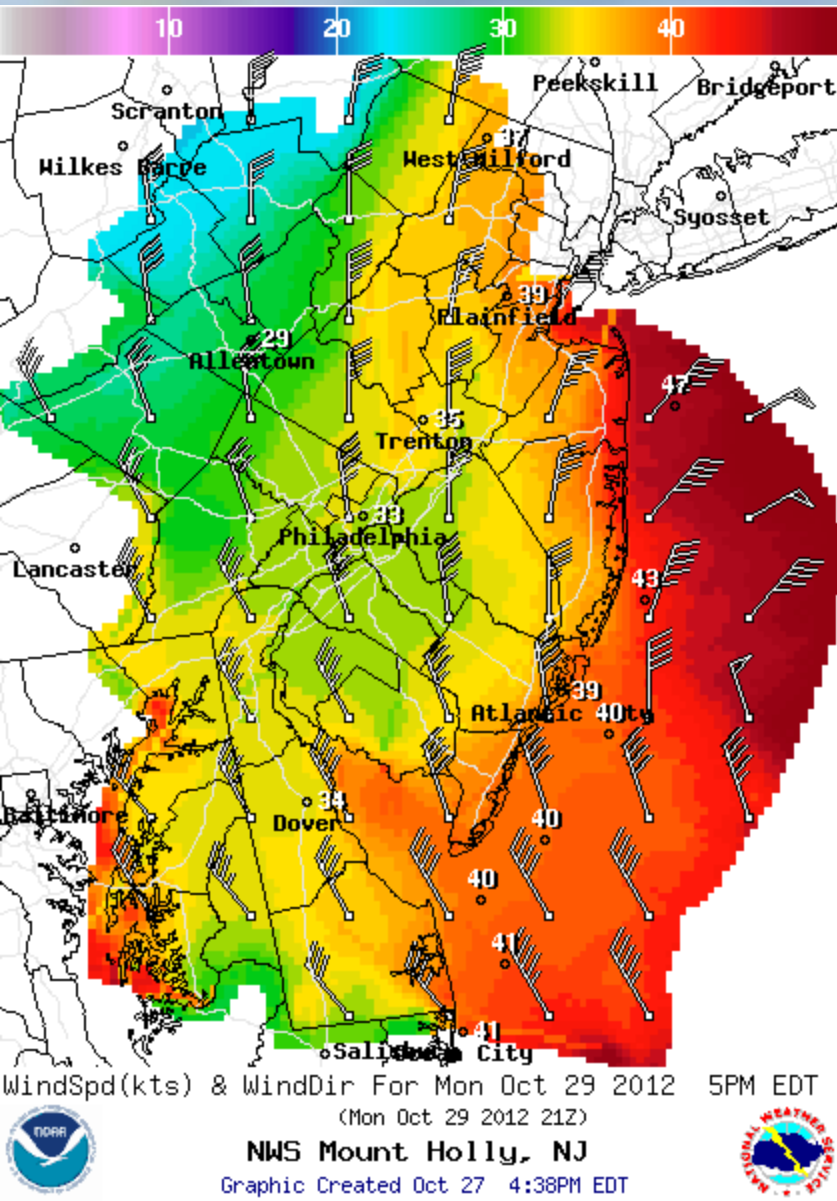
Things to focus on regarding coastal flooding for the Atlantic Coast, lower Delaware Bay & Raritan Bay

- We are now completing our third high tide cycle with Hurricane Sandy. This high tide cycle was very destructive with major to record coastal flooding occurring.
- The next high tide cycle will be even worse along the Atlantic Coast where Sandy comes ashore as well as points further north. The Atlantic Coast of New Jersey and the Raritan Bay will see even higher coastal flooding on this evening's high tide, at record levels. Any shift of the storm track further south will bring higher coastal flooding levels to the Atlantic Coast of Delaware and the Delaware Bay.
- Dangerous wave action will combine with the coastal flooding. 12 to 20 foot breakers will occur in the surf zone for the remainder of today and into tonight.
- **The barrier islands will be cut off from the mainland. Breaches in the barrier islands will likely occur during this evening's high tide, as the center of Sandy approaches.**
- **Water is the most life threatening aspect of this storm. Hurricane Sandy is already the deadliest hurricane of the 2012 season. Please respect its power and heed the advice of local and state officials regarding any evacuations.**



Winds

- Strong winds have overspread the region. Strong damaging winds will continue through today and tonight into Tuesday morning.
- Winds gusts over 80 mph are likely over coastal sections. Inland locations will see peak wind gusts of 65 to 75 mph at the height of the storm.



Forecast tool information

- Information on coastal flooding forecast tools can be found at:
 - <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/etsurge/index.php?page=map®ion=ne>
 - http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/estofs/estofs_surge_info.shtml
 - <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ofs/dbofs/dbofs.html>
- Information on inland flooding forecast tools can be found at:
 - <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=phi>
- Our complete set of forecast information can be found at:
 - <http://Weather.gov/phi>



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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- Office 609-261-6602 x222

