



Tropical Update



5:00 PM EDT

Monday, July 20, 2026

**Tropical Depression Two Continuing to Meander Over the
Northeastern Gulf; Expected to Become Tropical Storm Bertha Later
Tonight or Early Tomorrow**

**Periods of Heavy Rain, Gusty Winds, and Dangerous Beach Conditions
Continue Along the Florida Gulf Coast**

This update is intended for government and emergency response officials, and is provided for informational and situational awareness purposes only. Forecast conditions are subject to change based on a variety of environmental factors. For additional information, or for any life safety concerns with an active weather event please contact your County Emergency Management or Public Safety Office, local National Weather Service forecast office, or visit the National Hurricane Center website at www.hurricanes.gov.



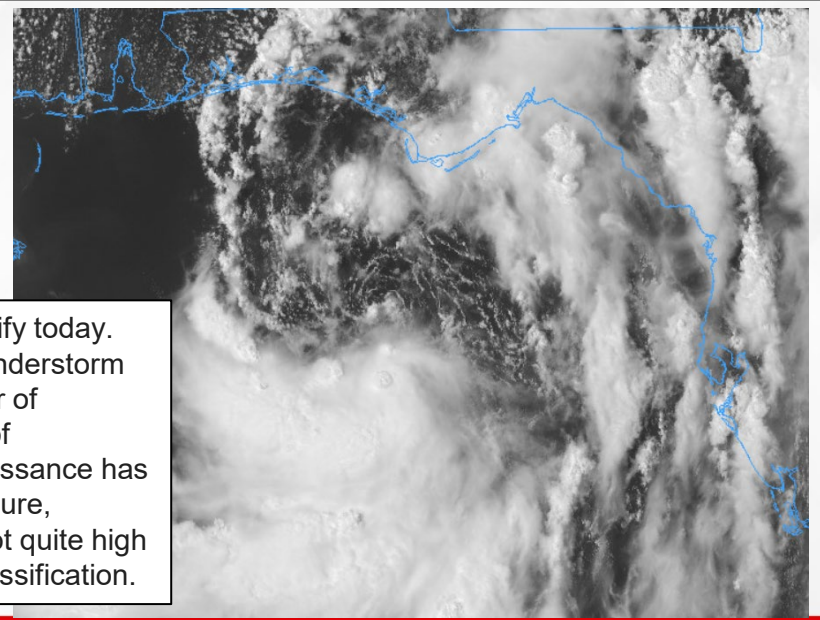
Tropical Depression Two (TD 2)

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



- **Location:** 105 miles S of Panama City, Florida
- **Maximum Sustained Winds:** 35 mph
- **Current Movement:** NW at 3 mph
- **FL Watches/Warnings:** **Tropical Storm Watches** from the Ochlockonee River to the FL/AL border.

A slow northwestward motion is expected through tonight, followed by a turn toward the west-northwest or west later tomorrow. On the forecast track, the depression will move near or along the northern Gulf coast during the next several days. Aircraft data indicates that maximum sustained winds are near 35 mph with higher gusts. Gradual strengthening is forecast, and the depression is expected to become a tropical storm as early as tonight. ***TD 2 will continue to bring periods of heavy rainfall, gusty winds, dangerous surf, and life-threatening rip currents to the Florida Gulf Coast as it moves off to the northwest early this week.***

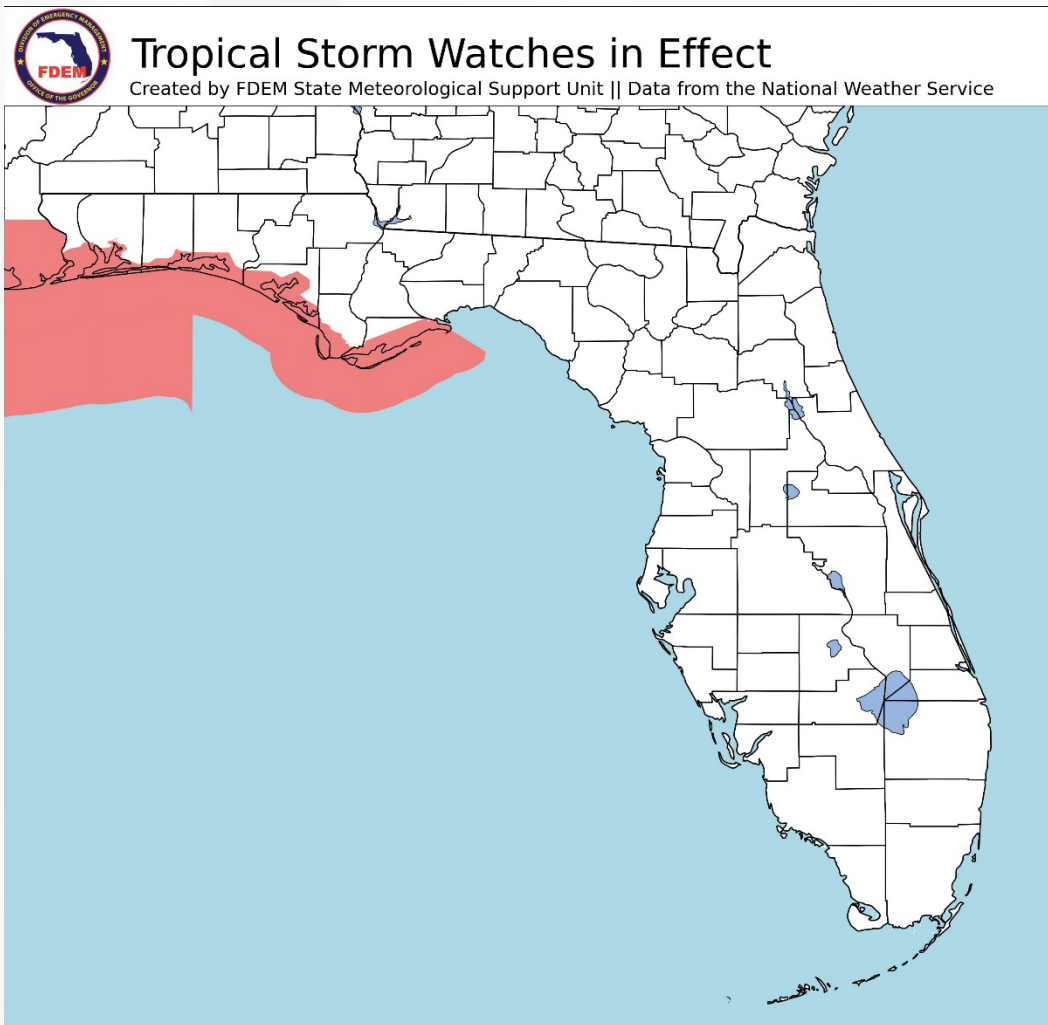


TD 2 has struggled to intensify today. Dry air continues to limit thunderstorm development, with the center of circulation currently devoid of convection. Aircraft reconnaissance has found a steadily falling pressure, however wind speeds are not quite high enough for tropical storm classification.



Tropical Storm Watches in Effect

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



Tropical Storm Watches remain in effect until further notice from the Ochlockonee River to the FL/AL border along the Panhandle and Big Bend coastline.

Franklin	Gulf	Bay
Walton	Santa Rosa	Okaloosa
Escambia		



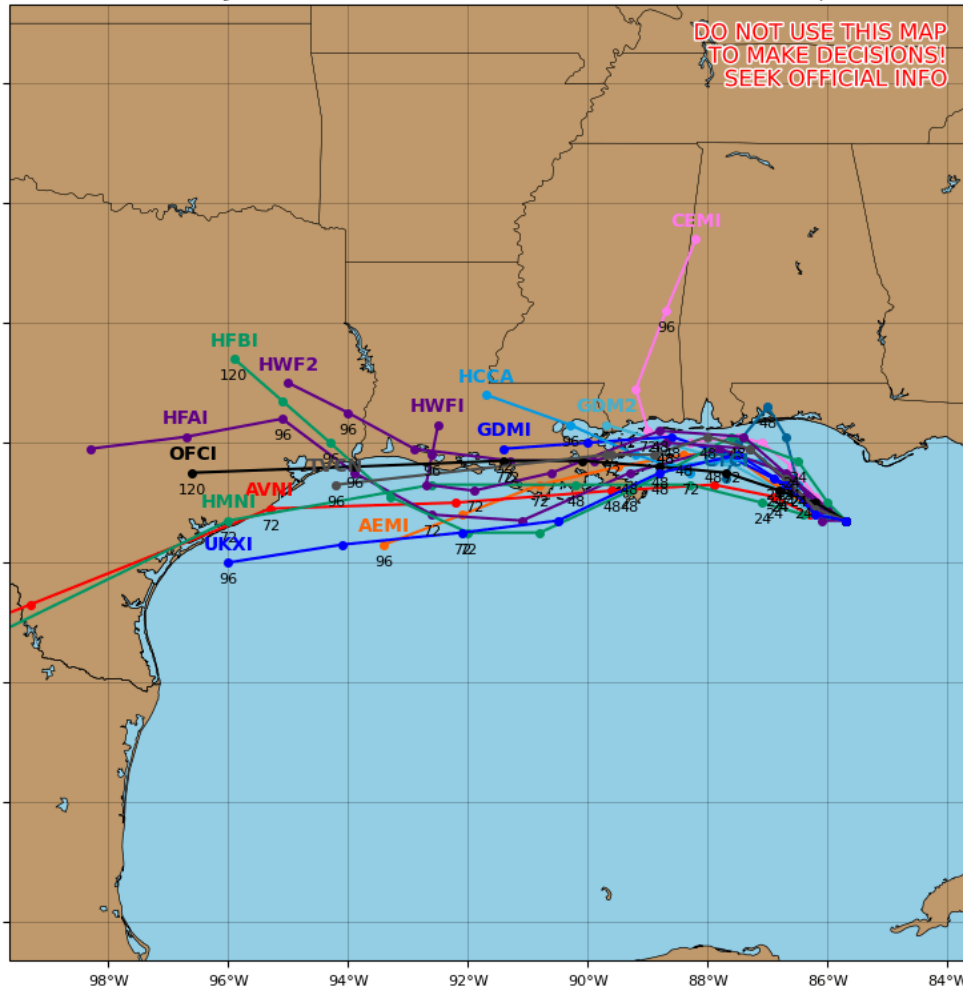
Computer Models (Deterministic)

Tropical Depression Two – Next 5 to 7 Days

Tropical Depression 02L Model Track Guidance

Initialized at 18z Jul 20 2026

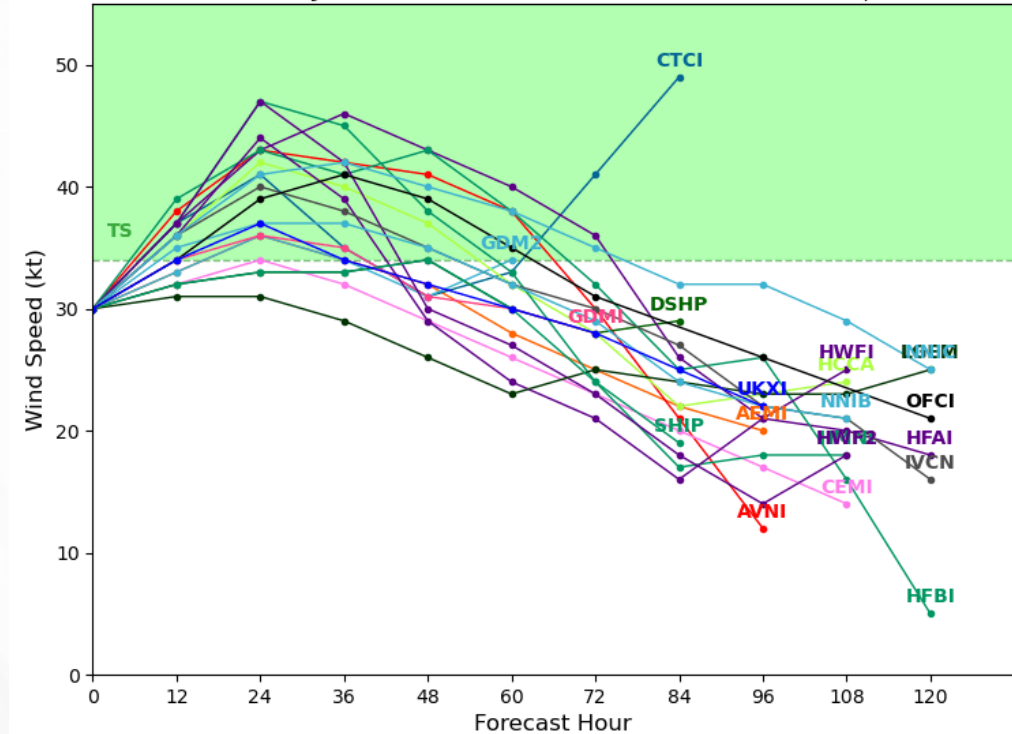
Levi Cowan - tropicaltidbits.com



Tropical Depression 02L Model Intensity Guidance

Initialized at 18z Jul 20 2026

Levi Cowan - tropicaltidbits.com



- A short term north/northwesterly storm motion will be followed by a sharp turn to the west. Chances for a direct FL landfall, while still possible, are becoming increasingly unlikely.
- Intensification should be slow in the short term as some nearby dry air and northeasterly shear impact the system. However, some gradual strengthening of TD 2 is expected as it moves off to the west towards the middle and latter portions of this week.



TD 2 is expected to continue drifting west-northwestward through the beginning portions of this week before turning sharply to the west by Wednesday near or around Southeast Louisiana. The chances for a **direct Florida landfall** remain low, however periods of heavy rainfall, gusty winds, and rough surf are still expected along all Gulf facing locations regardless of TD2's exact track.



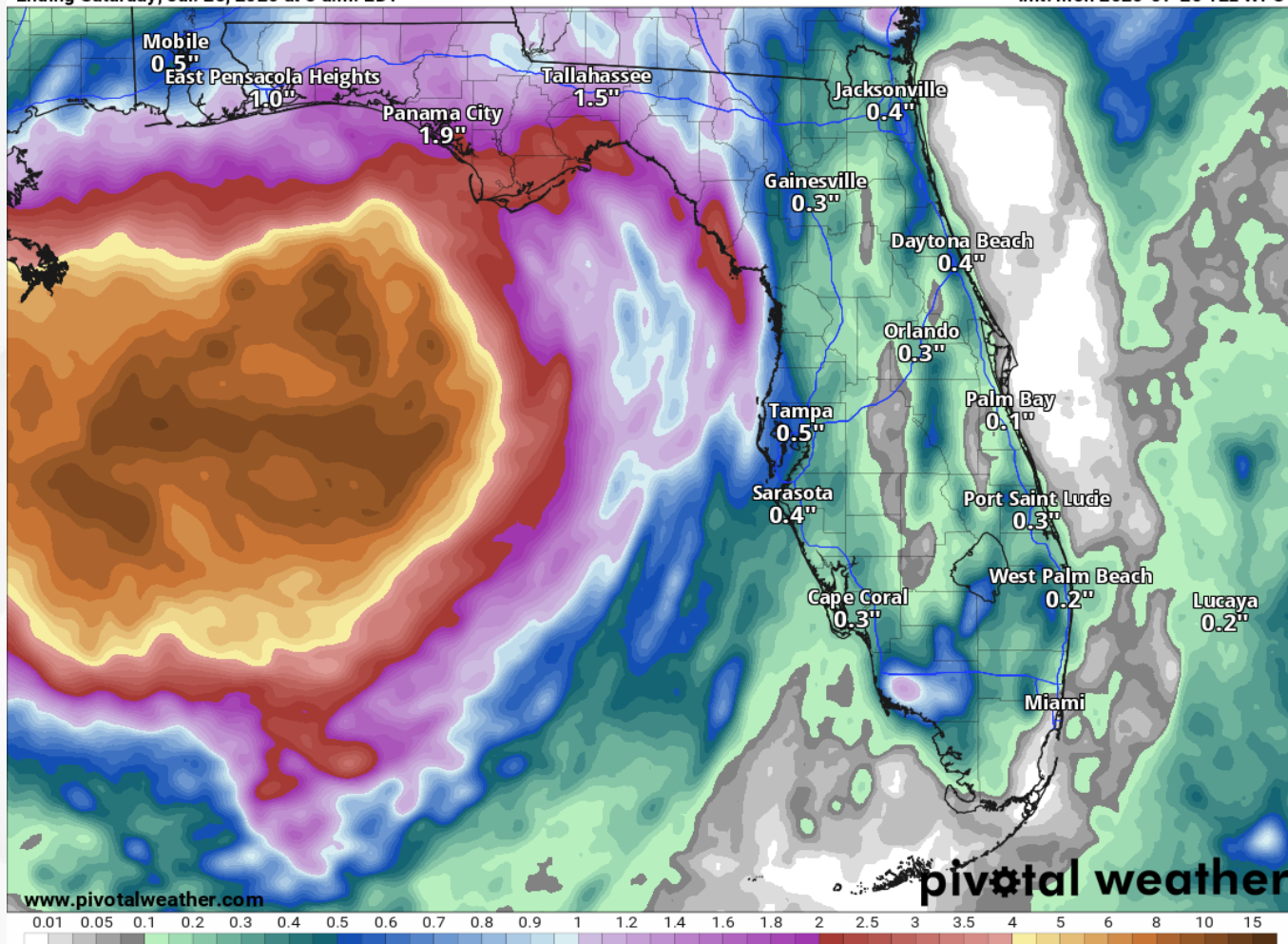
Forecast Rainfall Totals – Next 5 Days

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

120-Hour Precipitation (in)

Ending Saturday, Jul. 25, 2026 at 8 a.m. EDT

Init: Mon 2026-07-20 12z WPC



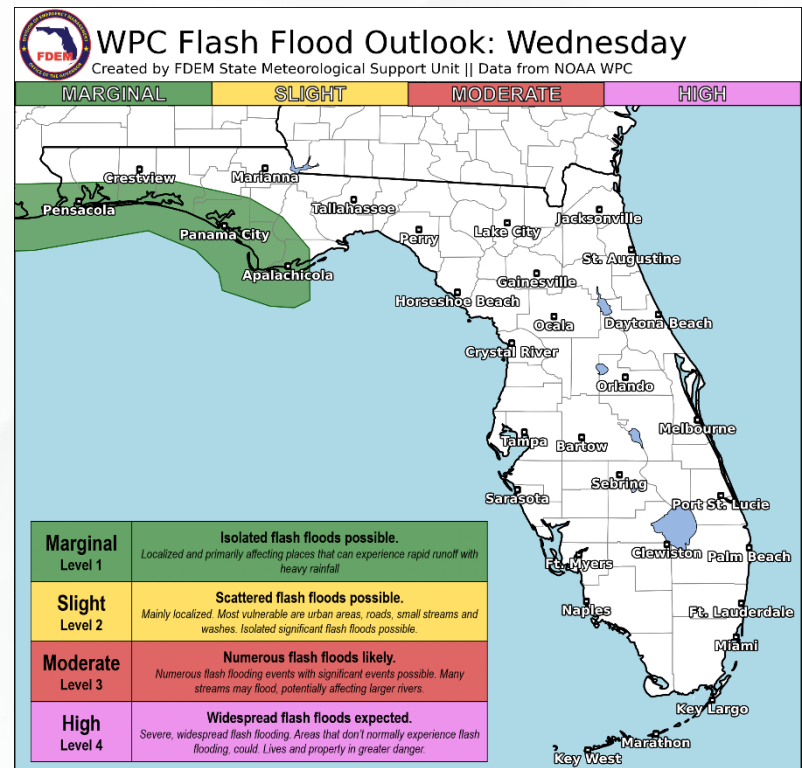
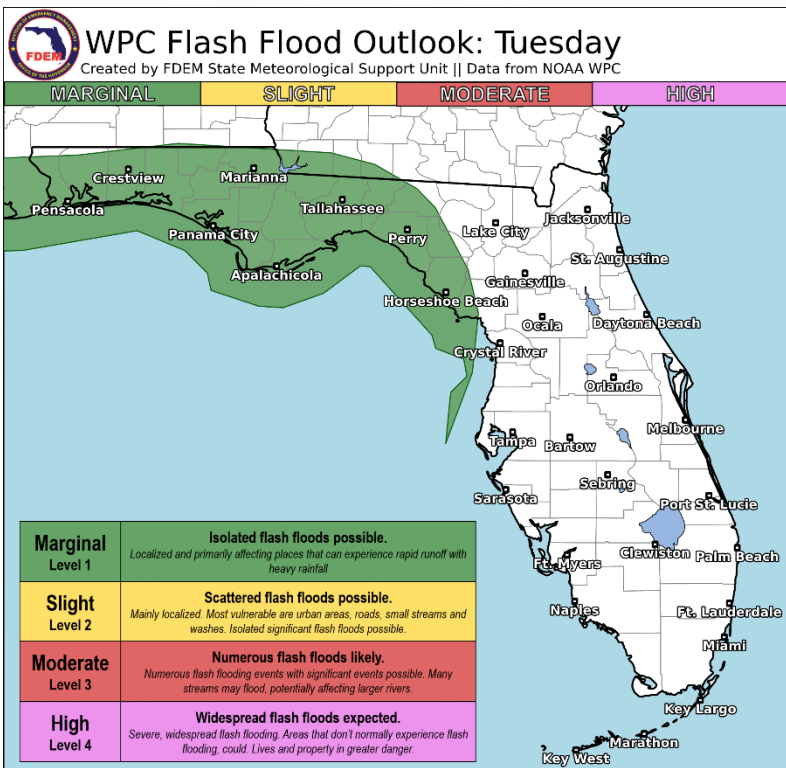
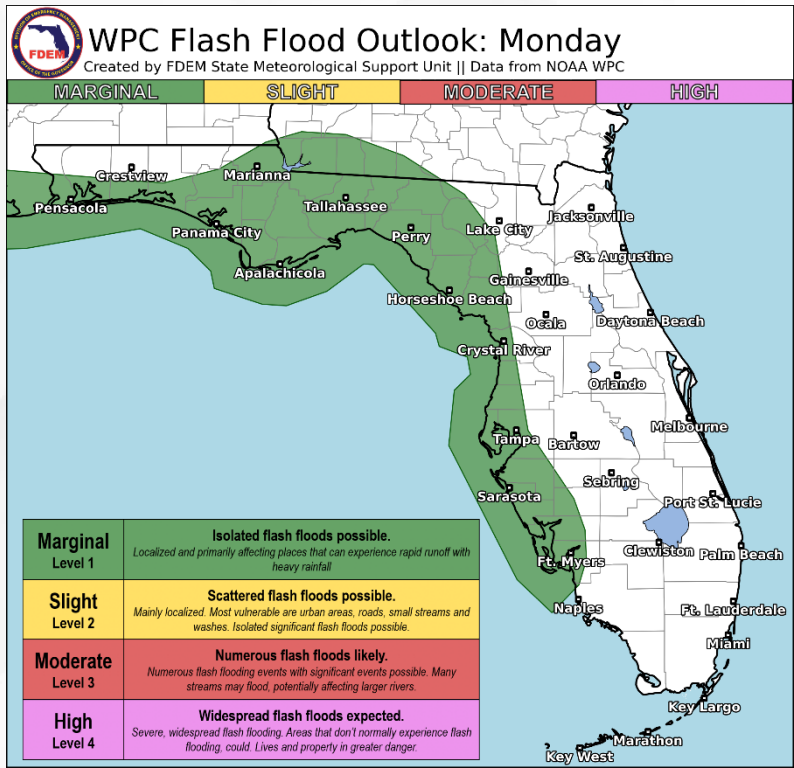
A general 1-3" of rainfall has already been observed over the past 3 days across the West Coast of Florida, Nature Coast, and throughout the Big Bend. The heaviest rain bands associated with TD 2 will continue to shift westward through the week as the system drifts towards the north-central Gulf. An additional **1-3 inches of rain** is expected across the Big Bend and Panhandle through the next 5 days, with some of this rainfall being enhanced by an approaching cold front on Thursday and Friday. Locally higher totals **upwards of 3-5"** cannot be ruled out, especially along the Big Bend and Panhandle coast where multiple rounds of heavy rainfall are possible within bands of showers and thunderstorms rotating around TD 2. *The sharp gradient of forecast rainfall totals makes the forecast especially sensitive to the exact track of TD2. A track closer to the coastline will expand higher rainfall totals farther inland.* Lesser rainfall amounts are forecast through the remainder of the Peninsula, where a general 1-2" is expected in areas that do receive scattered rainfall from sea breeze showers and storms. Flash flooding may be more prone to occur over the West Coast and Big Bend given the ongoing long-term drought conditions.

Marginal Risks (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding remain outlooked across various portions of the state through the week.



Flash Flood Outlook – Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)



The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) has outlooked a **Marginal Risk (Level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across various Gulf-facing Florida locations in anticipation of **multiple rounds of heavy rainfall** associated with TD2. As is often the case with multi-day flash flooding events, further revisions to these outlooks may be needed as forecasts become more clear and previous days' rainfall totals influence future day's flash flooding risk.



Excessive Rainfall Outlook

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

Understanding WPC Excessive Rainfall Risk Categories				
No Area/Label	MARGINAL (MRGL)	SLIGHT (SLGT)	MODERATE (MDT)	HIGH (HIGH)
Flash floods are generally not expected.	Isolated flash floods possible	Scattered flash floods possible	Numerous flash floods likely	Widespread flash floods expected
www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov @NWSWPC	Localized and primarily affecting places that can experience rapid runoff with heavy rainfall.	Mainly localized. Most vulnerable are urban areas, roads, small streams and washes. Isolated significant flash floods possible.	Numerous flash flooding events with significant events possible. Many streams may flood, potentially affecting larger rivers.	Severe, widespread flash flooding. Areas that don't normally experience flash flooding, could. Lives and property in greater danger.
Flash flooding near me?	Flash Flooding NO Flash Flooding			
 WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER				



Flash Flood Safety

From the National Weather Service (NWS)

3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR **FLASH FLOOD SAFETY**

During a flood, water levels and the rate at which the water is flowing can quickly change. Remain aware and monitor local radio and television.



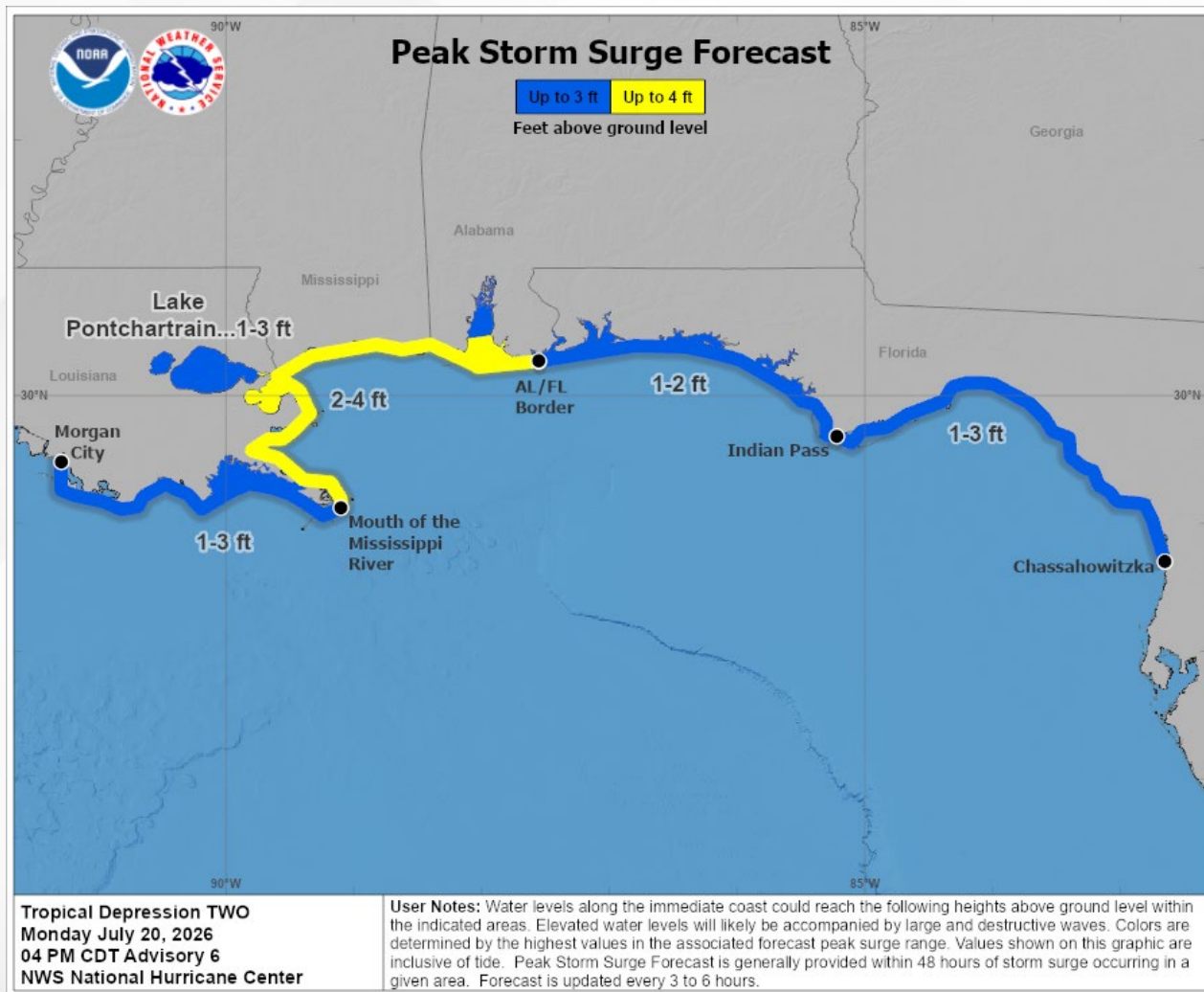
weather.gov/flood

- 1 GET TO HIGHER GROUND**
Get out of the areas subject to Flooding
- 2 DO NOT DRIVE INTO WATER**
Do NOT drive or walk into flooded areas. It only takes 6" of water to knock you off your feet.
- 3 STAY INFORMED**
Monitor local radar, television, weather radio, internet or social media for updates.



Peak Storm Surge

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



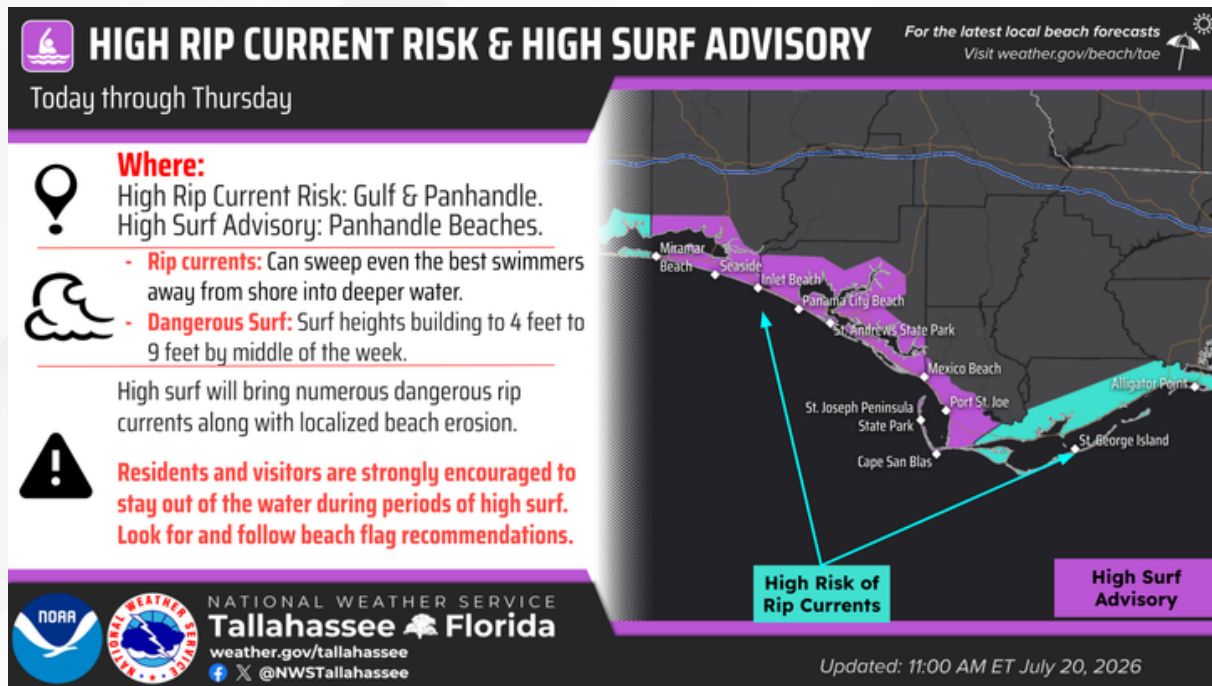
Storm surge is forecast to peak at **1-3'** across portions of the Big Bend coastline this week and **1-2'** for all Panhandle shorelines. This may lead to areas of nuisance to **minor coastal flooding** near and during times of high tide.

No storm surge watches or warnings are in effect at this point.

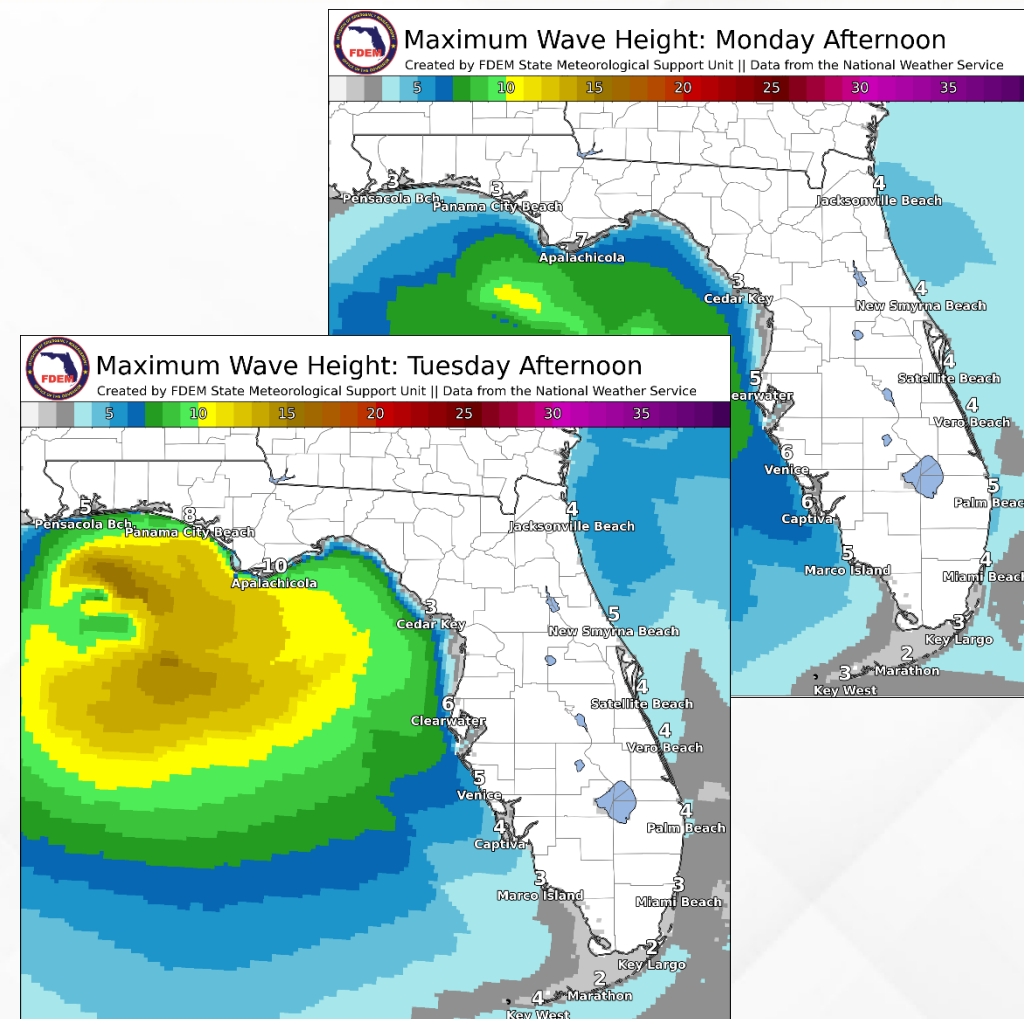


Dangerous Beach Conditions Expected

From the National Weather Service (NWS)



- **High Surf Advisories** have been issued for Walton, Bay, and Gulf County beaches beginning tomorrow at 8 AM EDT and lasting through 5 AM EDT Thursday.
- Surf will begin to significantly increase today to **4-6'** for most Panhandle and Big Bend beaches, increasing to **6-9'** on Tuesday. A few waves **upwards of 10'** cannot be ruled out within the surf zone.
- Instances of **minor beach erosion** are possible for susceptible Panhandle beaches through the week as TD 2 slowly moves off to the northwest in the northern Gulf.
- A **high risk for rip currents** will persist for all Panhandle beaches through the week, with West Coast beaches diminishing to a **moderate risk** by Thursday.





Rip Current Safety

From the National Weather Service (NWS)

Caught in a Rip Current? Here's How to Survive



Relax, stay calm and float to conserve energy



Do not swim against the current



Swim out of the current by following the shoreline or breaking waves, then at an angle toward the beach



If you can't reach shore, call or wave for help



weather.gov/beach



Summary

FOUO – For Government Official Use Only

Tropical Depression Two (TD 2):

- As of the 5:00 PM EDT advisory, Tropical Depression Two is located 105 miles south of Panama City, Florida and is moving northwestward at 3 mph.
- A slow northwestward motion is expected through mid-day tomorrow, followed by a turn toward the west-northwest or west late tomorrow.
- On the forecast track, TD 2 is expected to move near or along the northern Gulf coast during the next several days.
- Maximum sustained winds are near 35 mph with higher gusts, and some gradual strengthening is forecast.
- TD 2 is expected to become a tropical storm later today. Its name would be **Bertha**.

Florida Outlook:

- **Tropical Storm Watches** remain in effect for much of the Panhandle and Big Bend coastline from the Ochlockonee River to the FL/AL border.
 - Periods of breezy to gusty winds are expected along much of the Gulf Coast, with wind gusts of **25-35 mph** expected and **upwards of 40-50 mph** possible within the heaviest rain bands. A brief waterspout or tornado cannot be ruled out across the Big Bend and Panhandle as these bands rotate onshore.
- A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked across much of the Panhandle, Big Bend, and West Coast through the week as periods of heavy rainfall spread onshore associated with the outer rain bands of TD 2.
 - A general **1-3 inches of rain** is expected still to come across the Big Bend and Panhandle through the next 5 days. Locally higher totals **upwards of 3-5"** cannot be ruled out, especially along the coast where multiple rounds of heavy rainfall are possible within bands of showers and thunderstorms rotating around TD 2.
- Storm surge is forecast to peak at **1-3'** across portions of the Big Bend this week and **1-2'** for all Panhandle shorelines. This may lead to areas of nuisance to **minor coastal flooding** near and during times of high tide.
- Dangerous beach and marine conditions are expected across much of the Florida Gulf Coast. A **High Surf Advisory** is in effect for Walton, Bay, and Gulf County beaches beginning tomorrow for surf of **4-9'**. A few waves **upwards of 10'** cannot be ruled out in the surf zone. Instances of **minor beach erosion** are possible for susceptible Panhandle beaches.
- A **high risk for rip currents** is expected for all Panhandle and Big Bend beaches through the week. A **high risk** across the West Coast will diminish to a **moderate risk** by Thursday and Friday.
- The next name on the list is **Bertha** (*BUR-thuh*).



Severe Weather Update



FOUO – For Government Official Use Only

Created by:

Ian Mutschler, Deputy State Meteorologist

Ian.Mutschler@em.myflorida.com

State Meteorological Support Unit

Florida Division of Emergency Management

Users wishing to subscribe (approval pending) to this distribution list, register at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?topic_id=SERT_Met_Tropics.

Other reports available for subscription are available at:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?preferences=true>