



Tropical Update



11:00 AM EDT

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Tropical Storm Bertha Slowly Moving Westward Along the Northern Gulf Coast; Steady Weakening Expected This Week

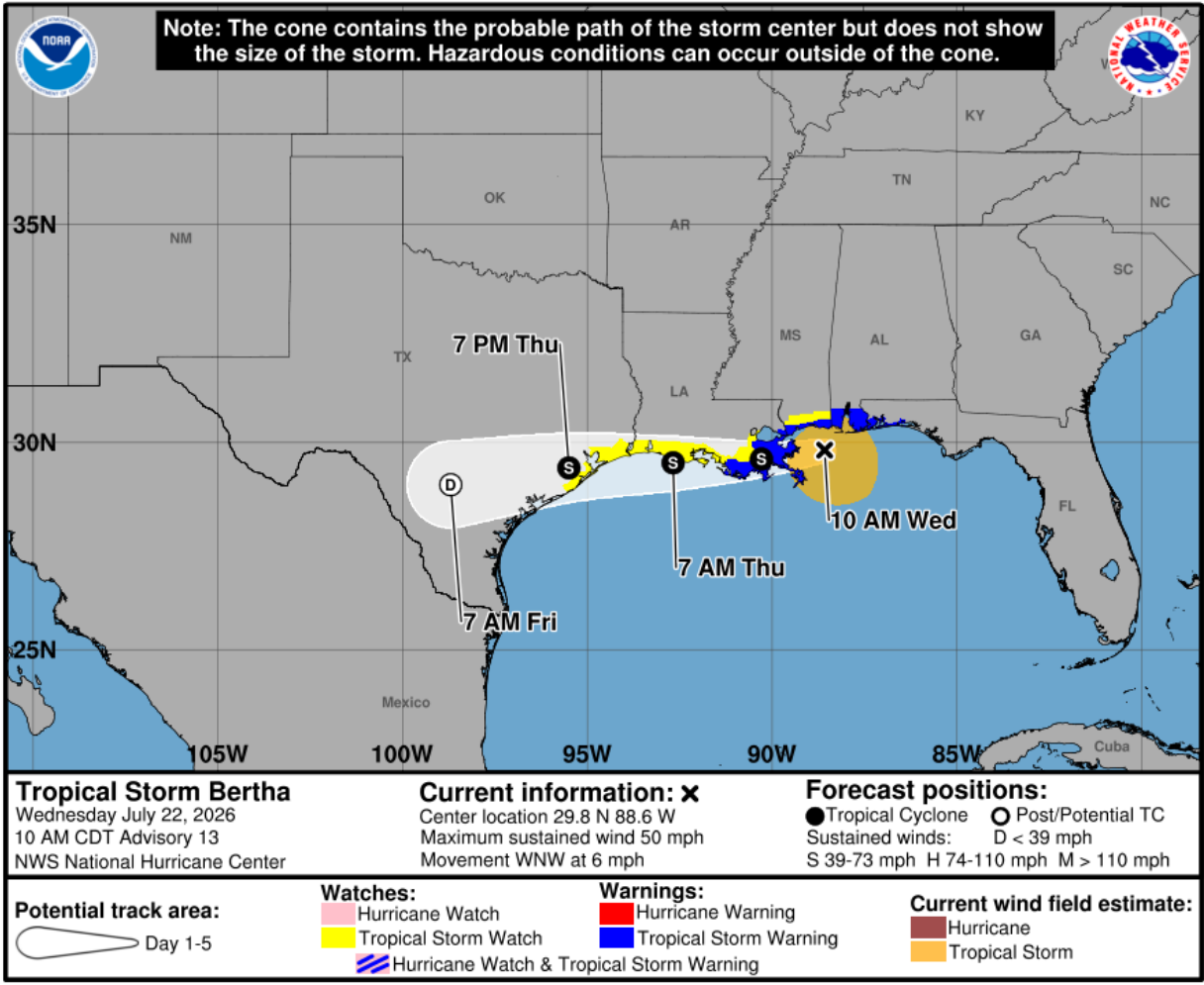
Periods of Heavy Rain, Gusty Winds, and Dangerous Beach Conditions Continue Along the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

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 Storm Bertha

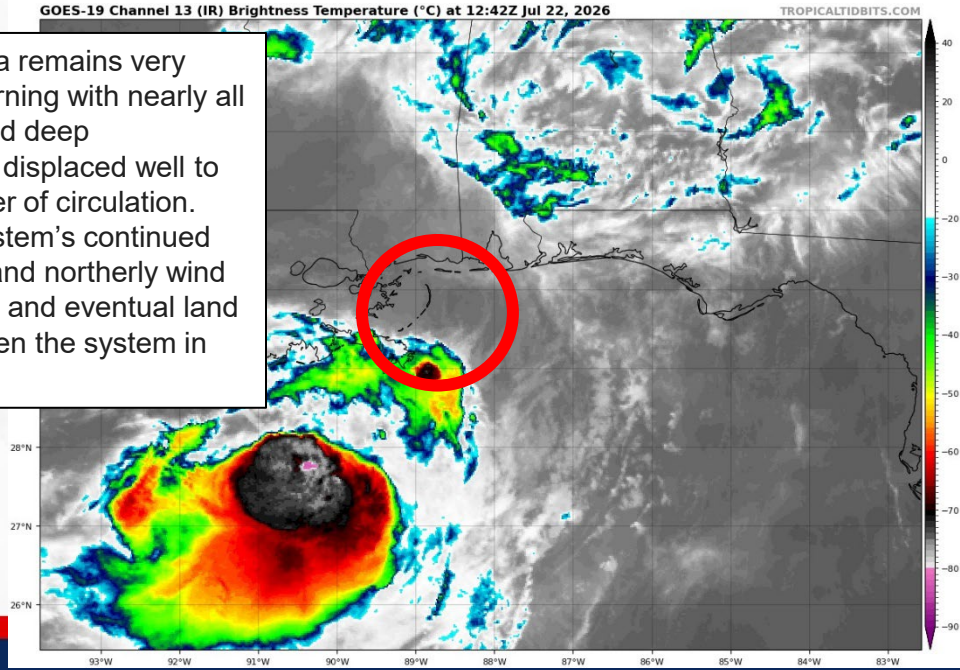
From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



- **Location:** 55 miles NNE of the mouth of the Mississippi River
- **Maximum Sustained Winds:** 50 mph
- **Current Movement:** WNW at 6 mph
- **FL Watches/Warnings:** **Tropical Storm Warnings** from the Walton/Okaloosa County line to the FL/AL border.

A westward motion with an increase in forward speed is expected to resume later today and continue through Friday. On the forecast track, the center of Bertha will move near or along the Louisiana and upper Texas coasts through Thursday, and then move farther inland into Texas on Friday. Weakening is forecast during the next couple of days, but Bertha could maintain tropical storm intensity through late Thursday. ***Bertha will continue to bring periods of heavy rainfall, gusty winds, dangerous surf, and life-threatening rip currents to the Florida Gulf Coast this week.***

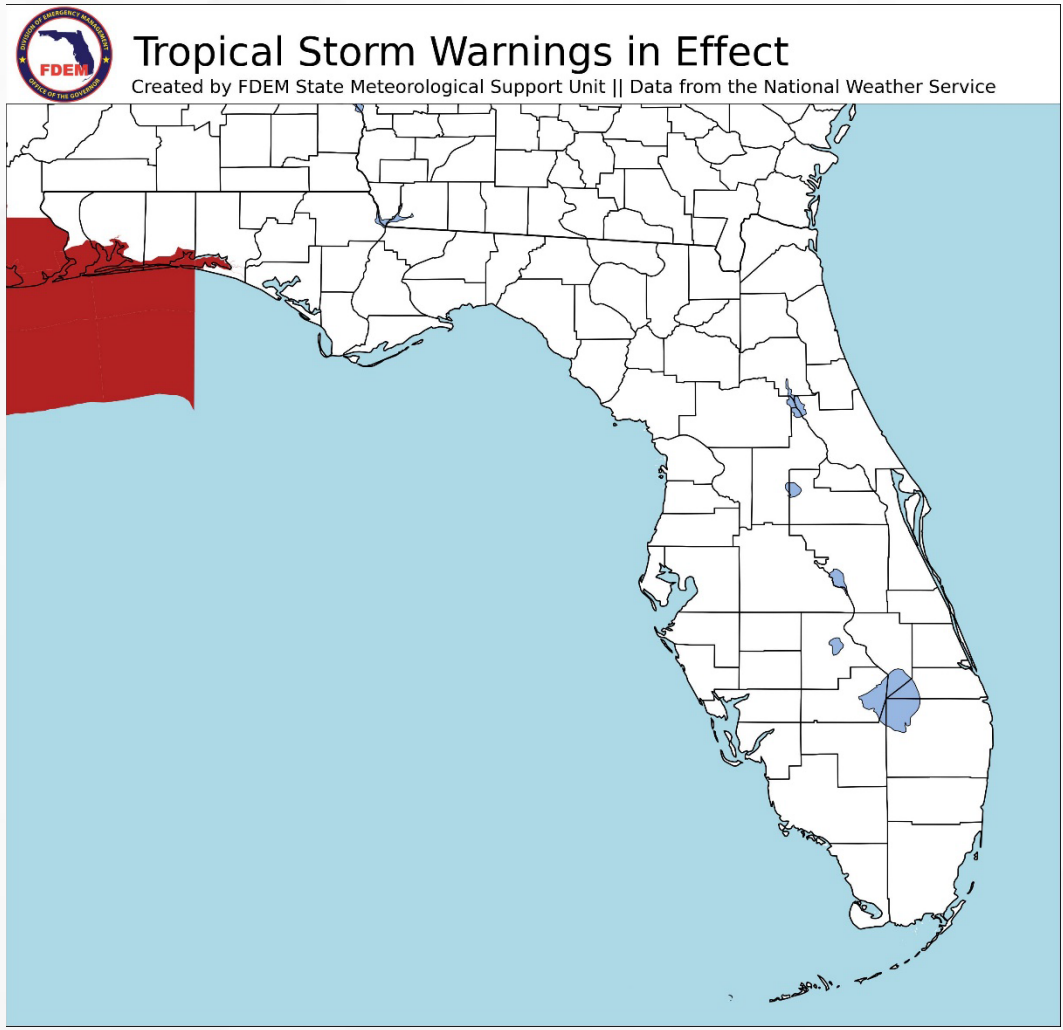
Tropical Storm Bertha remains very disorganized this morning with nearly all the storm's associated deep thunderstorm activity displaced well to the south of the center of circulation. This indicates the system's continued struggle with dry air and northerly wind shear. These factors, and eventual land interaction, will weaken the system in the coming days.





Tropical Storm Warnings in Effect

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



Tropical Storm Warnings remain in effect for coastal locations from the Okaloosa/Walton County line to the FL/AL border.

Okaloosa	Santa Rosa	Escambia
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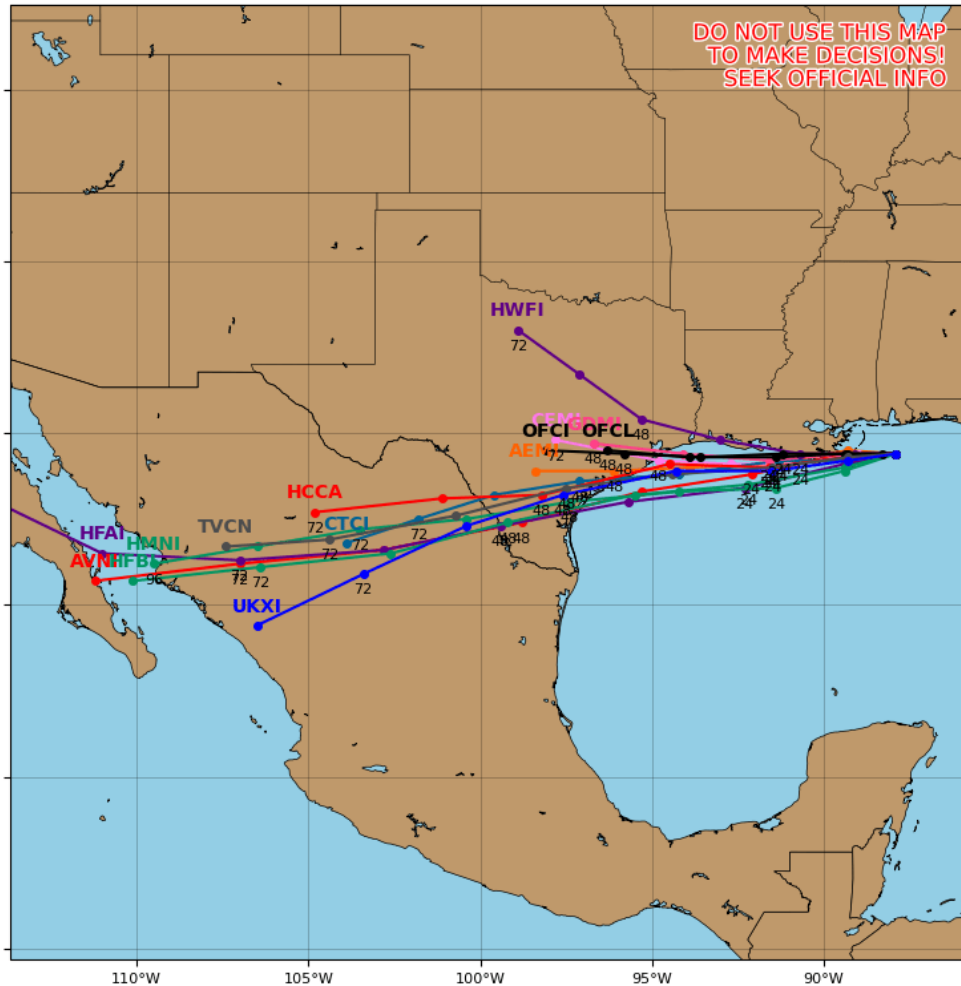
Computer Models (Deterministic)

Tropical Storm Bertha – Next 3 Days

Tropical Storm BERTHA Model Track Guidance

Initialized at 06z Jul 22 2026

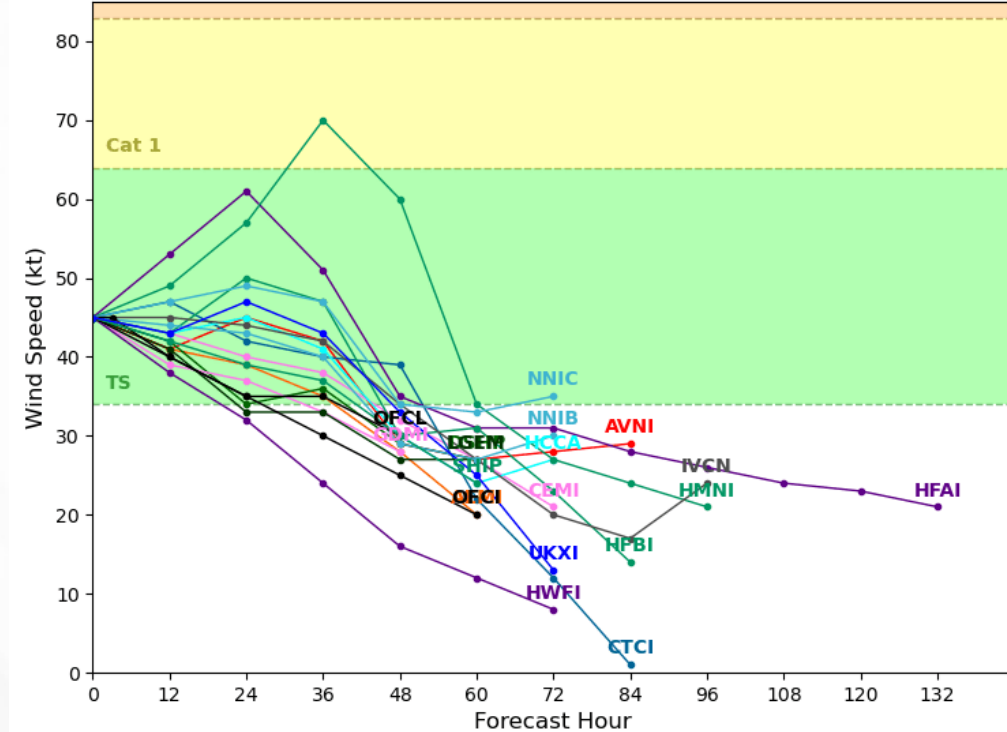
Levi Cowan - tropicaltidbits.com



Tropical Storm BERTHA Model Intensity Guidance

Initialized at 06z Jul 22 2026

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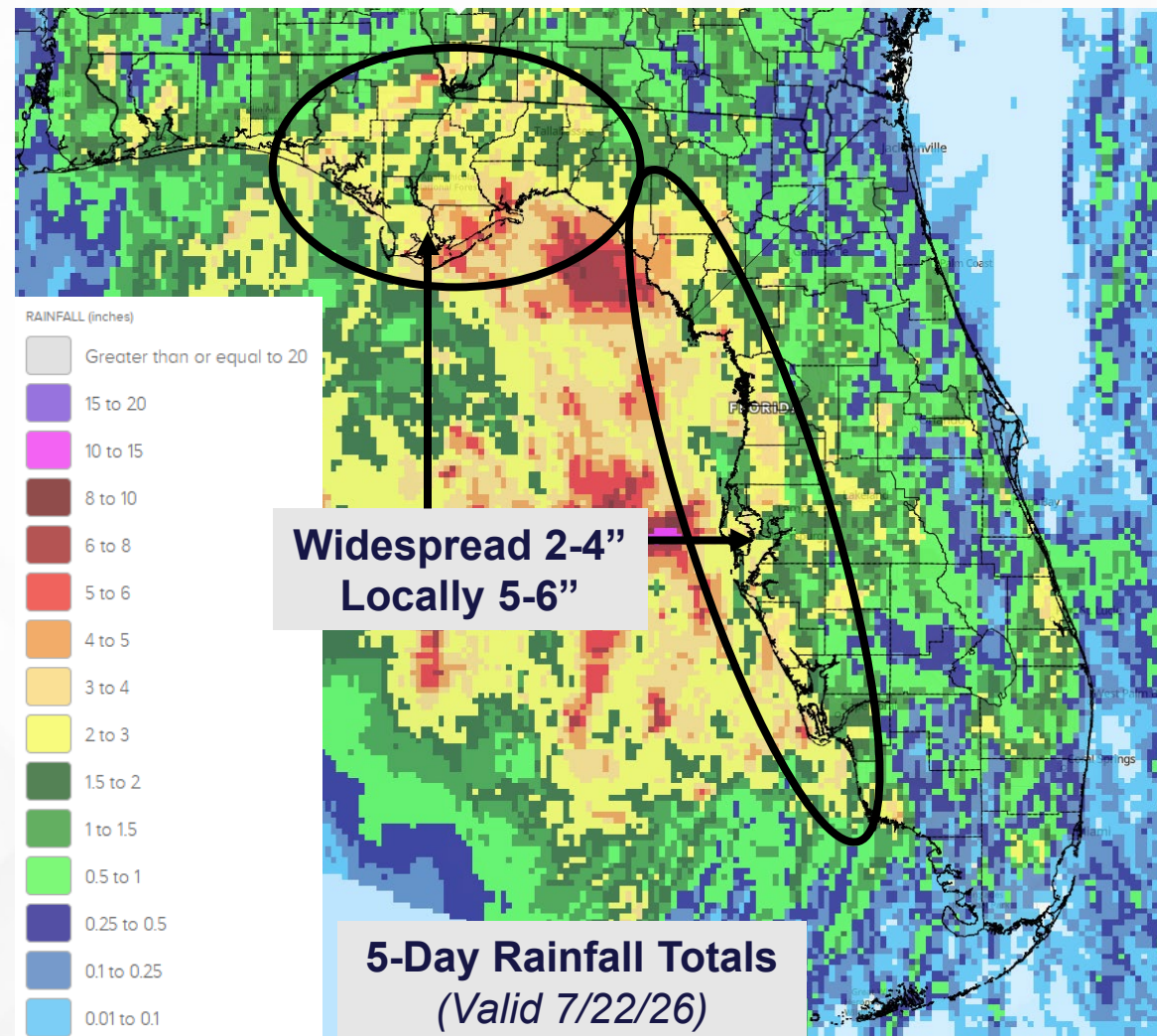
- Bertha will continue along west to west-southwestward through the next two days as it tracks along the northern Gulf Coast.
- Computer forecast models are in general agreement that Bertha will remain near its intensity over the next 24 hours before slowly weakening as it approaches the Texas coast. Bertha is expected to become a remnant low pressure system once it reaches Texas.



Observed Rainfall Totals – Last 5 Days

From the National Water Prediction Service (NWPS)

- A general **2-4"** of rainfall has been observed over the past 5 days along the Florida Gulf Coast associated with Tropical Storm Bertha.
- Locally higher totals **upwards of 5-6"** has been observed across portions of coastal Wakulla and Franklin counties where repeated rounds of heavy downpours occurred within the outer rain bands of Tropical Storm Bertha.
- A general 1-2" was observed otherwise throughout interior portions of the Panhandle, Big Bend, and West Coast of Florida.
- Daily scattered showers and thunderstorms along the sea breezes and on the outer periphery of Tropical Storm Bertha throughout the Peninsula brought a general 0.5-1.5" of rainfall.





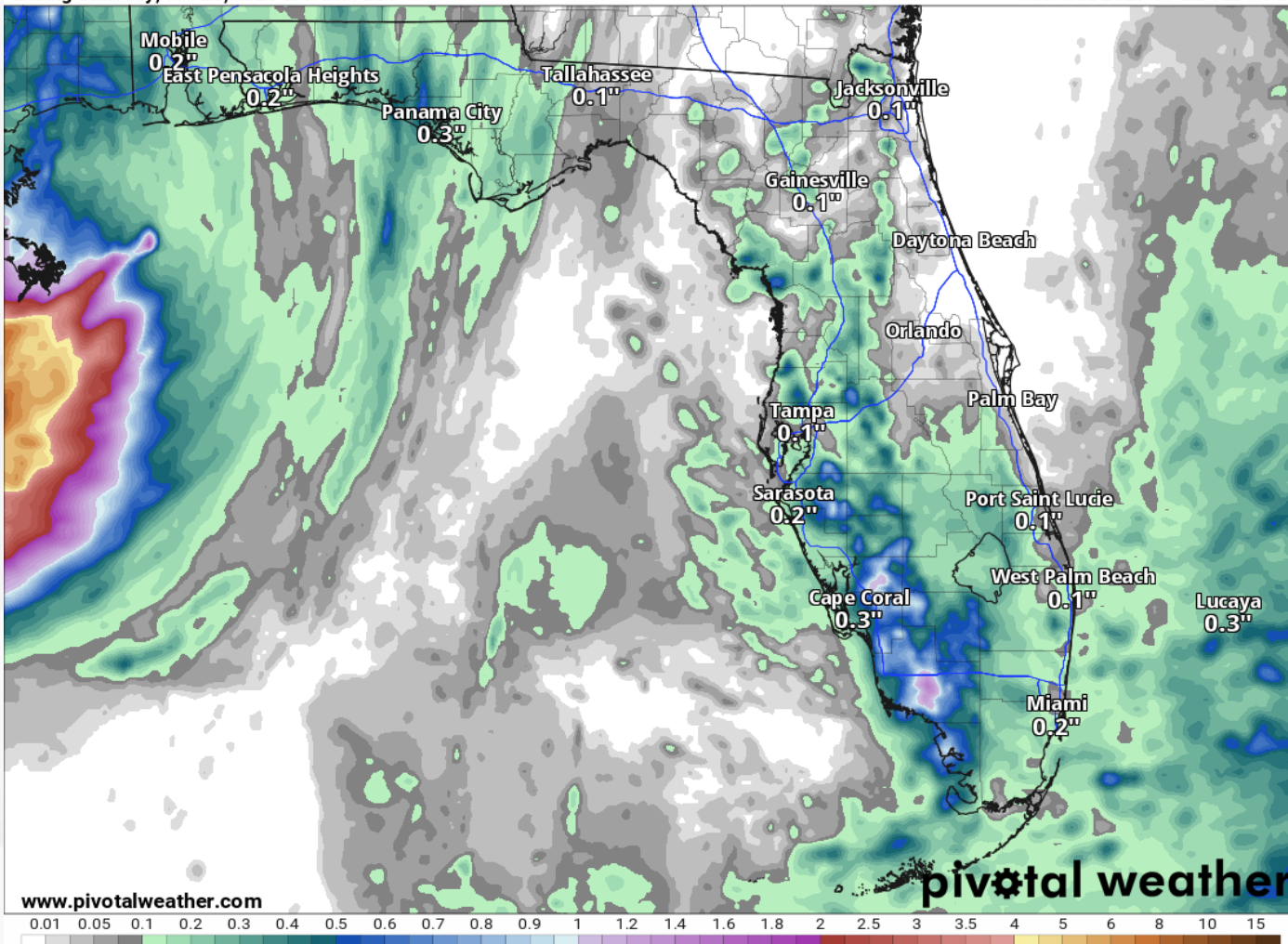
Forecast Rainfall Totals – Next 3 Days

From the Weather Prediction Center (WPC)

72-Hour Precipitation (in)

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

Init: Wed 2026-07-22 12z WPC



High pressure will begin to build across the state today, filtering drier air into the region as Tropical Storm Bertha pulls away. The outer rain bands associated with Bertha will continue to rotate onshore across the Big Bend and Panhandle today where a few **locally heavy downpours** cannot be ruled out and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is outlooked. By Thursday and Friday, mostly dry conditions will prevail across North Florida. Rainfall totals will generally remain below 1" across the Panhandle and Big Bend associated with the outer rain bands of Bertha, however locally higher totals **upwards of 1-2"** cannot be ruled out in areas that receive multiple rounds of heavy rain.

High pressure and drier air will suppress most shower and thunderstorm activity across Northeast and Central Florida through the end of the week. A few isolated to widely scattered showers or storms could bring brief **locally heavy downpours** to parts of the region Thursday and Friday. Across South Florida, enough moisture will be present to encourage scattered showers and storms along the sea breezes each afternoon, focused mainly across Southwest Florida. Rainfall amounts will generally remain below 1" here as well, however any **locally strong** thunderstorms could produce a quick **1-2"** of rain in localized areas.



Gusty Winds Continue Throughout the Panhandle

From the National Weather Service (NWS)

Wind ADVISORY [TODAY - JULY 22]

Gusts up to 40 mph



When: Through 2pm EDT Franklin/Wakulla.
Through 5pm CT Panhandle coast.



Where: Coastal Walton, Bay, Gulf, Franklin, Wakulla Counties

- Sustained winds: 20-30 MPH
- Peak gusts: 35 to 40 MPH
- Spotty power outages possible.



Secure Loose Objects



Difficult driving
In high-profile vehicles

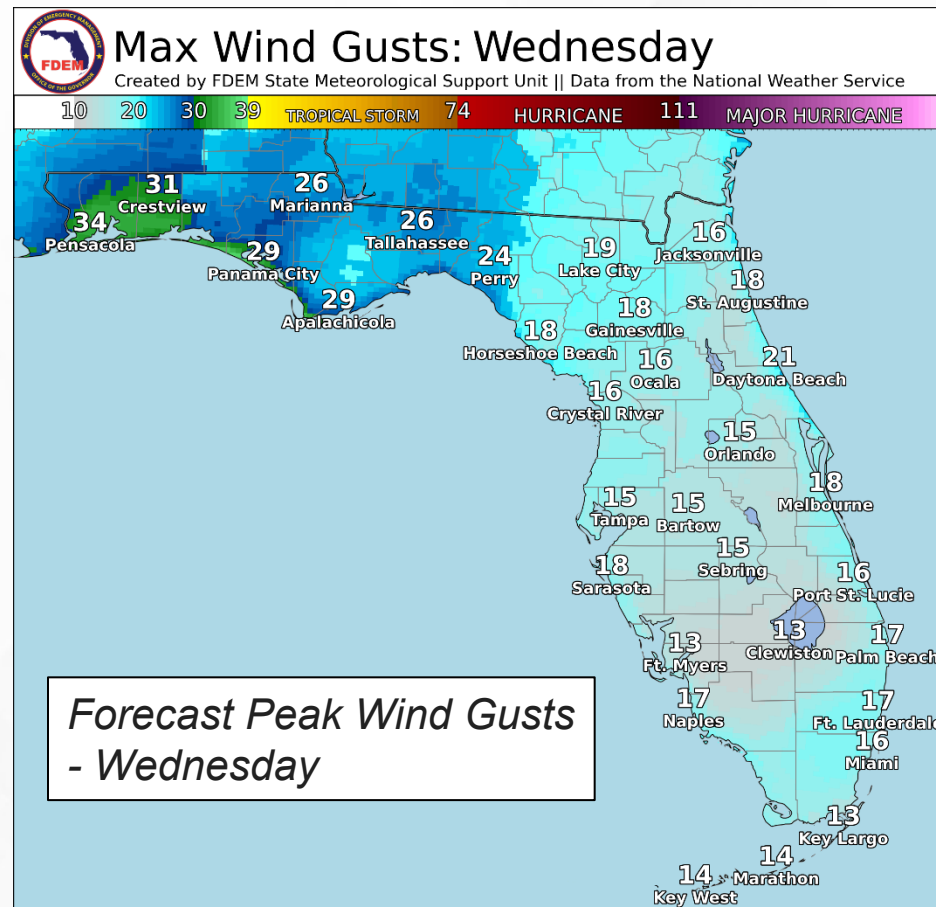


NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Tallahassee Florida
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Updated: 4:05 AM ET July 22, 2026



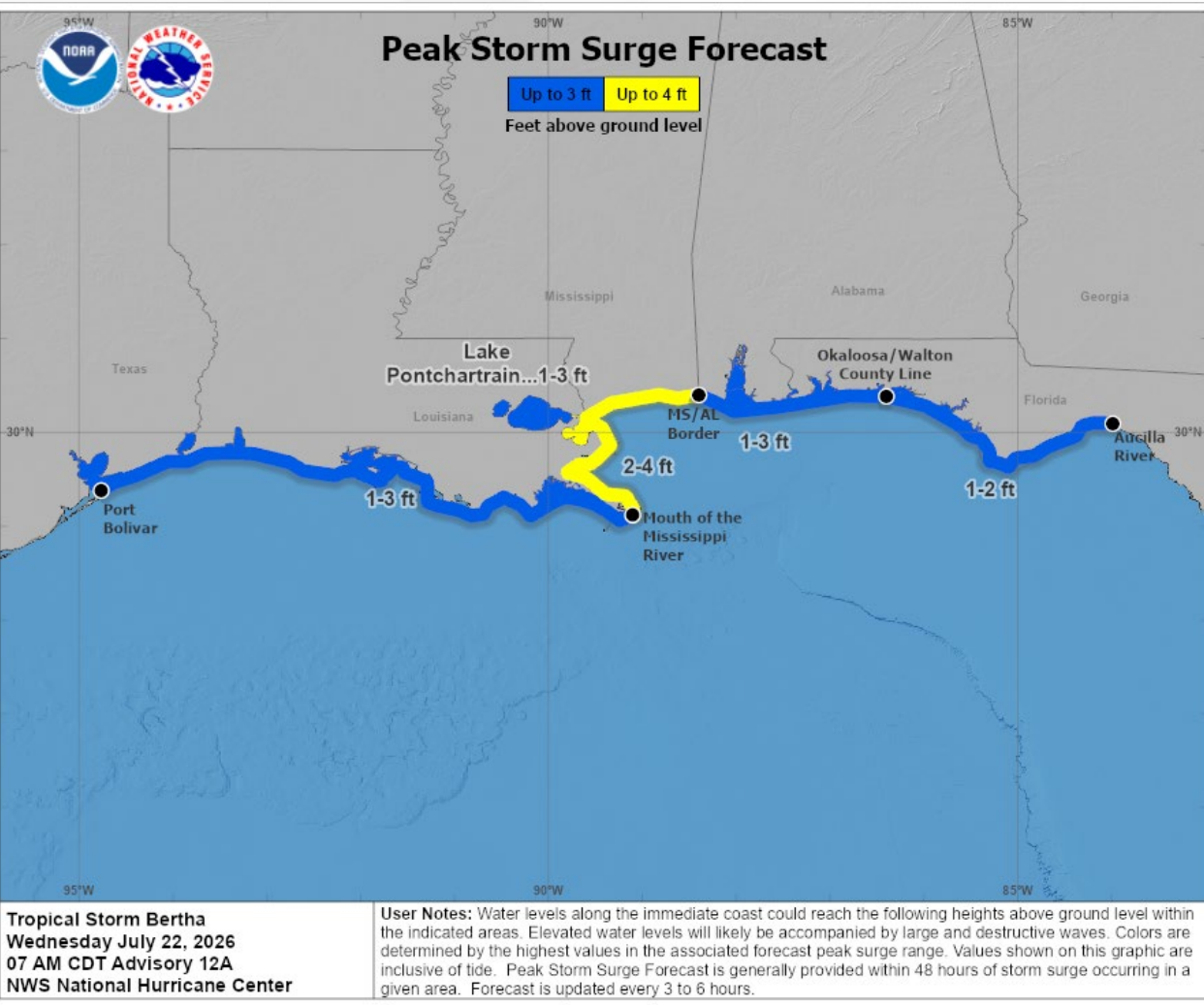
Periods of breezy to gusty winds will continue today throughout much of the Panhandle and Big Bend as Tropical Storm Bertha slowly pulls away from the state. Winds are expected to be highest along the immediate coast, with sustained winds near **20-30 mph** and some gusts, outside of thunderstorm activity, reaching **upwards of 30-40 mph**. A **Wind Advisory** is in effect from coastal Wakulla County to Walton County. The **Tropical Storm Warning** in effect for the western Panhandle covers areas where frequent wind gusts **upwards of 45 mph** are possible. Stronger winds may accompany any heavier shower and thunderstorm activity within the rotating bands around Tropical Storm Bertha.





Storm Surge & Coastal Flooding

From the National Hurricane Center (NHC)



Tropical Storm Bertha
Wednesday July 22, 2026
07 AM CDT Advisory 12A
NWS National Hurricane Center

User Notes: Water levels along the immediate coast could reach the following heights above ground level within the indicated areas. Elevated water levels will likely be accompanied by large and destructive waves. Colors are determined by the highest values in the associated forecast peak surge range. Values shown on this graphic are inclusive of tide. Peak Storm Surge Forecast is generally provided within 48 hours of storm surge occurring in a given area. Forecast is updated every 3 to 6 hours.

Coastal Flood Advisory

Minor Coastal Flooding



When:
Through this morning's high tides



Where:
From Jefferson County westward across the Florida Panhandle



Potential Impacts:

- 1 to 2 feet inundation of normally dry ground near the shore
- Flooding of low-lying parks and roads along the immediate coast



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Tallahassee, Florida
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@NWSTallahassee

Updated: 5:00 AM ET July 22, 2026

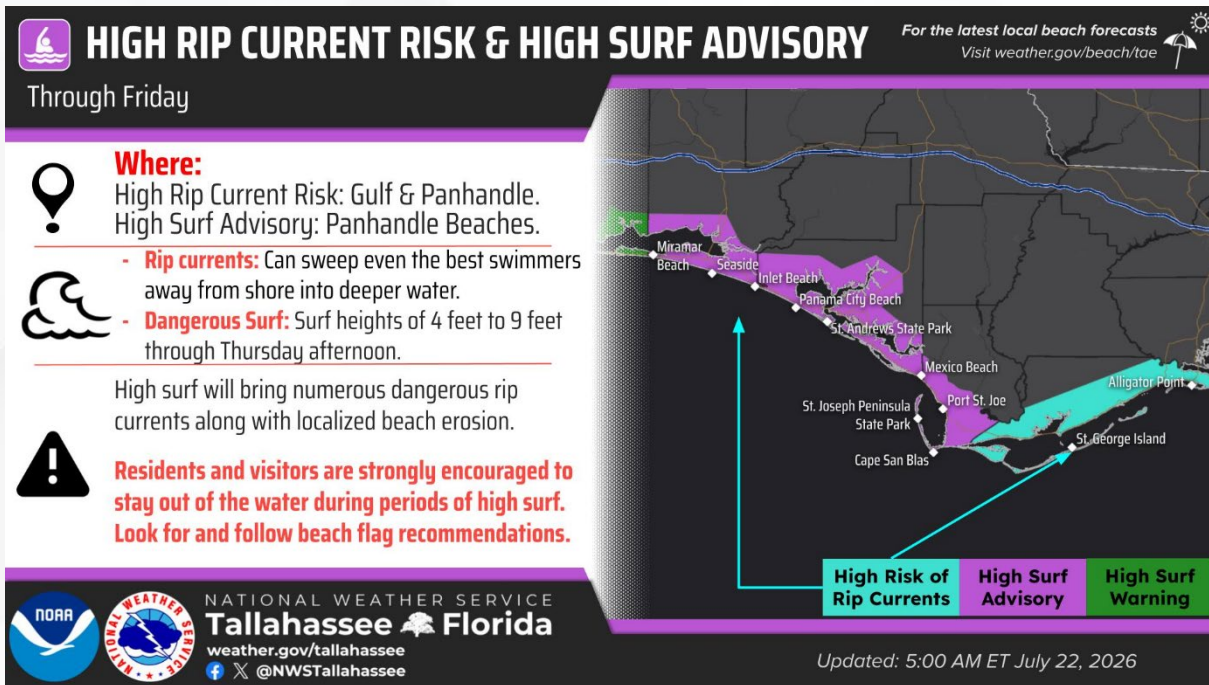
Storm surge is forecast to peak at **1-2'** across much of the Big Bend and Panhandle associated with Tropical Storm Bertha today. This may lead to areas of nuisance to **minor coastal flooding** near and during times of high tide. A **Coastal Flood Advisory** is in effect for much of the Panhandle and Big Bend coast from Jefferson County to the FL/AL border.

No storm surge watches or warnings are in effect.

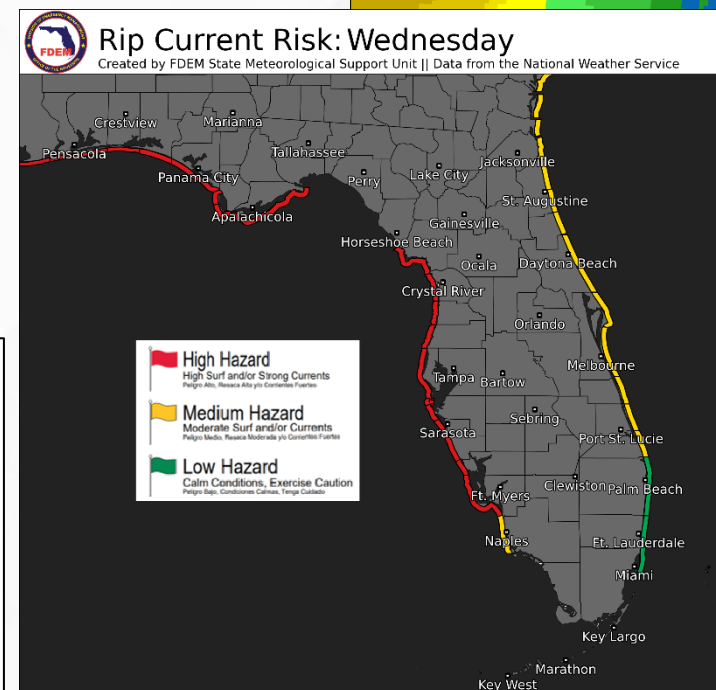
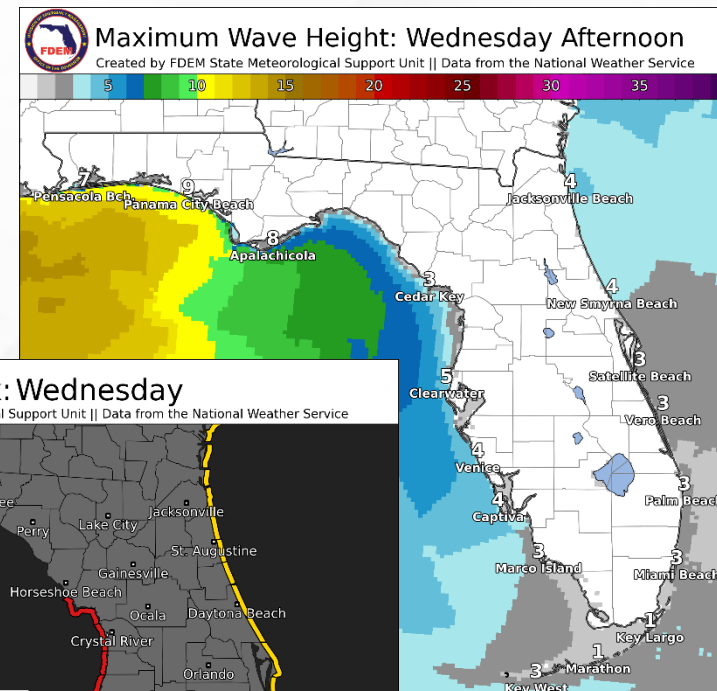


Dangerous Beach Conditions Continue

From the National Weather Service (NWS)



- **High Surf Warnings** remain in effect through tonight for coastal Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties with a **High Surf Advisory** in effect for coastal Walton, Bay, and Gulf counties through Thursday afternoon.
- Instances of **minor beach erosion** are possible for susceptible Panhandle beaches today as Tropical Storm Bertha brings surf near **6-10'** for all beaches. A few waves **upwards of 12'** cannot be ruled out in the surf zone.
- Waves will begin to subside tomorrow for all Panhandle beaches, down to **4-6'** for most beaches.
- Surf near **4-6'** is expected for Big Bend and West Coast beaches today, diminishing through the end of the week as Bertha moves away from the state.
- 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 and Friday.





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

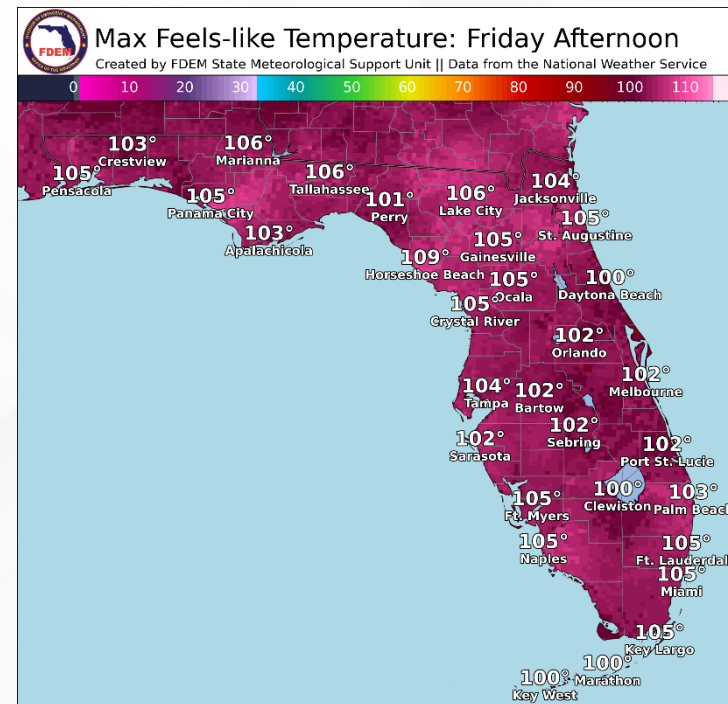
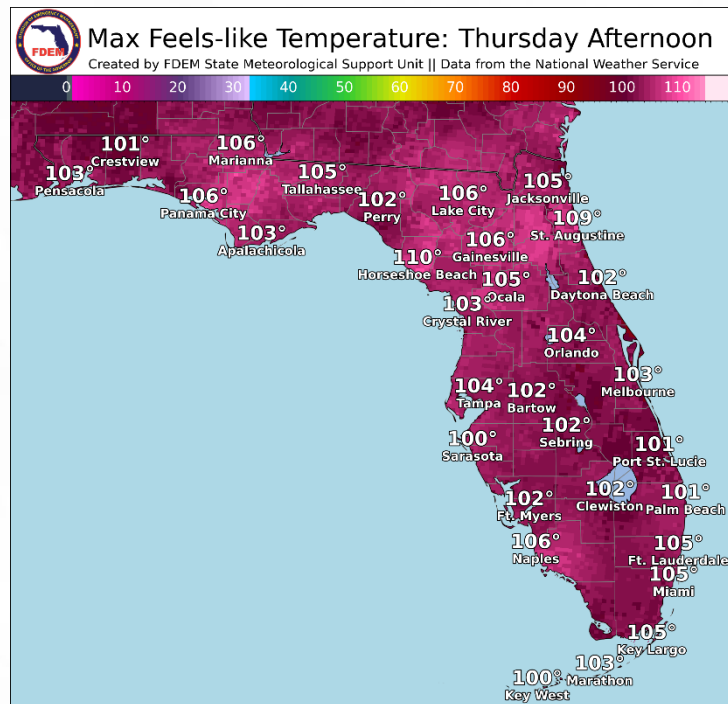
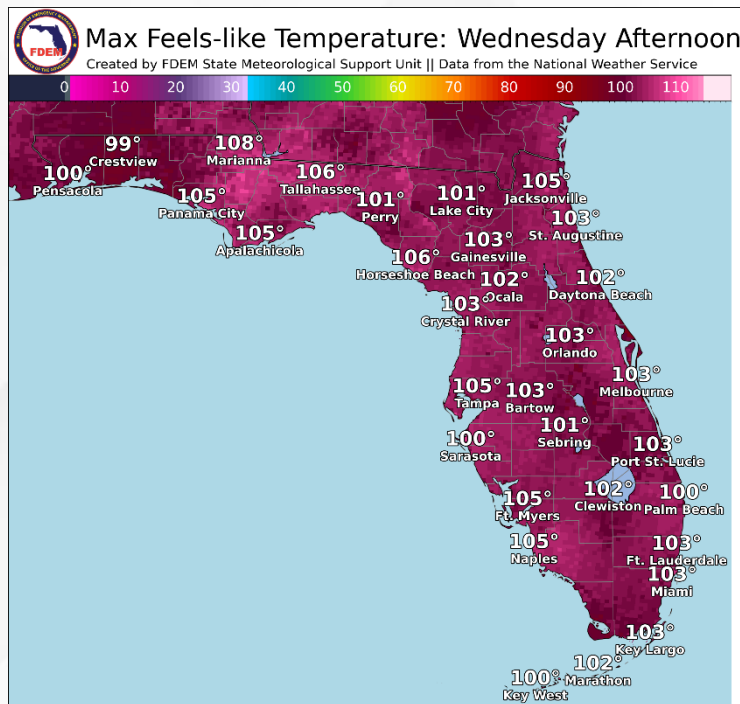


weather.gov/beach



Hot and Humid Conditions to End the Week

From the National Weather Service (NWS)



High pressure will continue to build across the Florida Peninsula and into the Gulf in the wake of Tropical Storm Bertha to end this week. Pockets of drier air will also filter into the region associated with this area of high pressure, helping to suppress most shower and thunderstorm activity across North and Central Florida below normal levels for July. As such, ample sunshine will bring high temperatures each afternoon into the **middle to upper 90s** throughout the state. A bit more cloud coverage today associated with Bertha will keep highs in the upper 80s to lower 90s across the Panhandle and Big Bend. Afternoon feels-like temperatures will soar into the **lower to middle 100s** throughout much of the state each afternoon, with **upper 100s** possible across portions of Northeast Florida Thursday and Friday. Urban areas throughout the state may also briefly touch the **upper 100s** Thursday and Friday and **Heat Advisories** may be issued as conditions warrant. Scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms will focus mainly across interior South Florida to end the week, which may bring some relief from the heat. However, conditions will remain **warm and muggy** each night with low temperatures only falling into the middle 70s to lower 80s statewide.



Summary

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Tropical Storm Bertha:

- As of the 11:00 AM EDT advisory, Tropical Storm Bertha is located 55 miles north-northeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River and is moving west-northwestward at 6 mph.
- A general westward motion is expected to resume later today through Friday with some acceleration.
- On the forecast track, Bertha will move near or along the northern Gulf coast during the next several days.
- Maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph with higher gusts.
- Gradual weakening is forecast over the next several days.
- ***Bertha 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 along the northern Gulf Coast this week.***

Florida Outlook:

- **Tropical Storm Warnings** remain in effect from the Walton/Okaloosa County line to the FL/AL border.
- Breezy to gusty winds are expected today along much of the Panhandle and Big Bend coast with sustained winds of **20-30 mph** and wind gusts **upwards of 35-40 mph**. A **Wind Advisory** covers coastal Wakulla to Walton counties while the **Tropical Storm Warning** covers the remainder of the coastal Panhandle for these gusty winds.
- Stronger wind gusts **upwards of 45-50 mph** may accompany the strongest embedded thunderstorm activity within the outer rain bands of Bertha.
- A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** remains outlooked across the Panhandle and Big Bend today for periods of **heavy rainfall** associated with the outer rain bands of Bertha.
 - Most locations will receive below 1" of rainfall still to come associated with Bertha across the Panhandle and Big Bend. Locally higher totals **upwards of 1-2"** cannot be ruled out in areas that receive multiple rounds of heavy downpours within the outer rain bands of Bertha.
- Storm surge is forecast to peak at **1-2'** across much of the Panhandle and Big Bend today. This may lead to areas of nuisance to **minor coastal flooding** near and during times of high tide and a **Coastal Flood Advisory** is in effect for much of the Panhandle and Big Bend coast.
- **High Surf Warnings** remain in effect for Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties for dangerous high surf near **8-12'** through tonight. A **High Surf Advisory** remains in effect for Walton, Bay, and Gulf counties through Thursday afternoon where waves will reach **4-9'**, with a few waves **upwards of 10'** possible within 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.
- Hot and humid conditions will prevail throughout the state to end the week as Bertha departs the region. Afternoon heat index values will peak in the **lower to middle 100s** for most locations, with **upper 100s** possible in localized areas. **Heat Advisories** cannot be ruled out as conditions warrant.
- The next name on the list is **Cristobal** (*krees-TOH-bahl*).

The next scheduled briefing packet will be issued on Thursday. For the latest information, please visit the National Hurricane Center website.



Severe Weather Update



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State Meteorological Support Unit

Florida Division of Emergency Management

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