

Current Watches and Warnings

A **Storm Surge Warning** is in effect from east of Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana to the Mississippi/Alabama border; Vermilion Bay, Lake Borgne, Lake Pontchartrain, and Lake Maurepas

A **Hurricane Warning** is in effect from Intracoastal City, Louisiana to the Mouth of the Pearl River; Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas, and Metropolitan New Orleans

A **Storm Surge Watch** is in effect for Mobile Bay

A **Tropical Storm Warning** is in effect from Cameron, Louisiana to west of Intracoastal City, Louisiana; Mouth of the Pearl River to the Alabama/Florida border

Current Details from the National Hurricane Center (NHC)

COORDINATES: 24.8° north, 86.1° west

LOCATION: 350 miles (565 kilometers) south-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River

MOVEMENT: northwest at 16 mph (26 kph)

WINDS: 85 mph (140 kph) with gusts to 105 mph (165 kph)

RADIUS OF TROPICAL STORM-FORCE WINDS: 125 miles (205 kilometers)

RADIUS OF HURRICANE-FORCE WINDS: 30 miles (45 kilometers)

MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE: 984 millibars

SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE RANKING: Category 1

24-HOUR LANDFALL POTENTIAL: HIGH (Louisiana, United States)

Latest Satellite Picture



Source: NOAA / NASA / Colorado State University (RAAMB)

Discussion

Hurricane Ida, located approximately 350 miles (565 kilometers) south-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River, is currently tracking northwest at 16 mph (26 kph). The satellite presentation of Ida has continued to improve this morning as the center is now clearly embedded within a symmetric Central Dense Overcast (CDO) feature and hints of the eye in both visible and infrared satellite imagery. Earlier high-resolution scans revealed a well-defined low- to mid-level eye and excellent convective spiral banding over the northern semicircle. However, both NOAA and Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft has yet to find a rapidly deepening tropical cyclone at this stage. Given that the core structure of the system continues to quickly improve, it is anticipated that an increase in wind speeds and a drop in minimum central pressure are likely to begin soon. Based on the latest measured aircraft data, the NHC has kept Ida as an 85 mph (140 kph) Category 1 hurricane for this advisory. One notable increase already seen is that Ida's wind field has started to expand in spatial size.

Given the improved inner-core structure Ida appears poised to rapidly intensify during the next 12 to 24 hours as it remains within a favorable environment of low vertical wind shear and traversing very warm water. Although the model intensity guidance has lowered somewhat since Ida has not significantly strengthened to this point, the forecasts continue to support significant deepening, and the most dependable models indicate Ida will reach Category 4 strength before landfall in Louisiana. The new NHC intensity forecast calls for rapid intensification to Category 4 strength during the next 24 hours. After that time, fluctuations in intensity are possible due to eyewall replacement cycles as Ida approaches the northern Gulf Coast. After landfall, rapid weakening is expected, and Ida is forecast to weaken to a tropical depression by Monday night, and become a post-tropical cyclone as it moves over the Tennessee Valley by mid-week.

Ida has been moving steadily northwestward. A steering ridge of high pressure near the U.S. Southeast coast is forecast to shift westward during the next 24 hours, and this should continue to steer Ida northwestward through landfall on Sunday. The track guidance remains in remarkably good agreement through 36 hours, and the new NHC track forecast is essentially unchanged during that time. It continues to indicate that Ida will reach the coast of Louisiana on Sunday. After landfall, Ida will be near the western extent of the ridge and should turn northward and then northeastward as it recurves into the southern portion of the mid-latitude westerlies. The model track guidance has shifted slightly westward beyond 48 hours, and the track forecast over the southern U.S. and the Tennessee Valley has been adjusted.

The NHC again reminds users not to focus on the exact details of the track forecast as storm surge, wind, and rainfall impacts will extend far from the center. Wind and rainfall impacts will also penetrate inland through early next week after Ida makes landfall.

Key Messages from the National Hurricane Center

1. There is a danger of life-threatening storm surge inundation Sunday along the coasts of Louisiana and Mississippi within the Storm Surge Warning area. Extremely life-threatening inundation of 9 feet or greater above ground level is possible somewhere within the area from Morgan City, Louisiana, to the coast of Mississippi. Overtopping of local levees outside of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System is possible where local inundation values may be higher. Interests throughout the warning area should follow any advice given by local officials.
2. Ida is expected to be an extremely dangerous major hurricane when it reaches the coast of Louisiana. Hurricane-force winds are expected Sunday in portions of the Hurricane Warning area along the Louisiana coast, including metropolitan New Orleans, with potentially catastrophic wind damage possible where the core of Ida moves onshore. Actions to protect life and property should be rushed to completion today in the warning area.
3. Ida is likely to produce heavy rainfall Sunday and Monday across the central Gulf Coast from southeast Louisiana to coastal Mississippi, resulting in life-threatening flash and urban flooding and significant river flooding impacts. As Ida moves inland, significant flooding impacts are likely across portions of the Lower Mississippi and Tennessee Valleys Monday and Tuesday.

Additional Information

STORM SURGE: The combination of a dangerous storm surge and the tide will cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by rising waters moving inland from the shoreline. The water could reach the following heights above ground somewhere in the indicated areas if the peak surge occurs at the time of high tide:

Morgan City, LA to Mouth of the Mississippi River: 10-15 feet

Mouth of the Mississippi River to Ocean Springs, MS, including Lake Borgne: 7-11 feet

Intracoastal City, LA to Morgan City, LA including Vermilion Bay: 6-9 feet

Ocean Springs, MS to MS/AL border: 4-7 feet

Lake Pontchartrain: 4-7 feet

Lake Maurepas: 3-5 feet

Pecan Island, LA to Intracoastal City, LA: 3-5 feet

MS/AL border to AL/FL border including Mobile Bay: 2-4 feet

Sabine Pass to Pecan Island, LA: 1-3 feet

Overtopping of local levees outside of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System is possible where local inundation values may be higher than those shown above.

The deepest water will occur along the immediate coast near and to the east of the landfall location, where the surge will be accompanied by large and dangerous waves. Surge-related flooding depends on the relative timing of the surge and the tidal cycle and can vary greatly over short distances.

WIND: Hurricane conditions are expected in the Hurricane Warning area along the Louisiana coast beginning Sunday with tropical storm conditions expected to begin by late tonight or early Sunday morning. These conditions will spread inland over portions of Louisiana and Mississippi Sunday night and Monday.

RAINFALL: Heavy rainfall from Ida will begin to impact the Louisiana coast Sunday morning, spreading northeast into the Lower Mississippi Valley later Sunday into Monday. Total rainfall accumulations of 8 to 16 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 20 inches are possible across southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi through Monday. This is likely to result in life-threatening flash and urban flooding impacts and significant riverine flooding impacts.

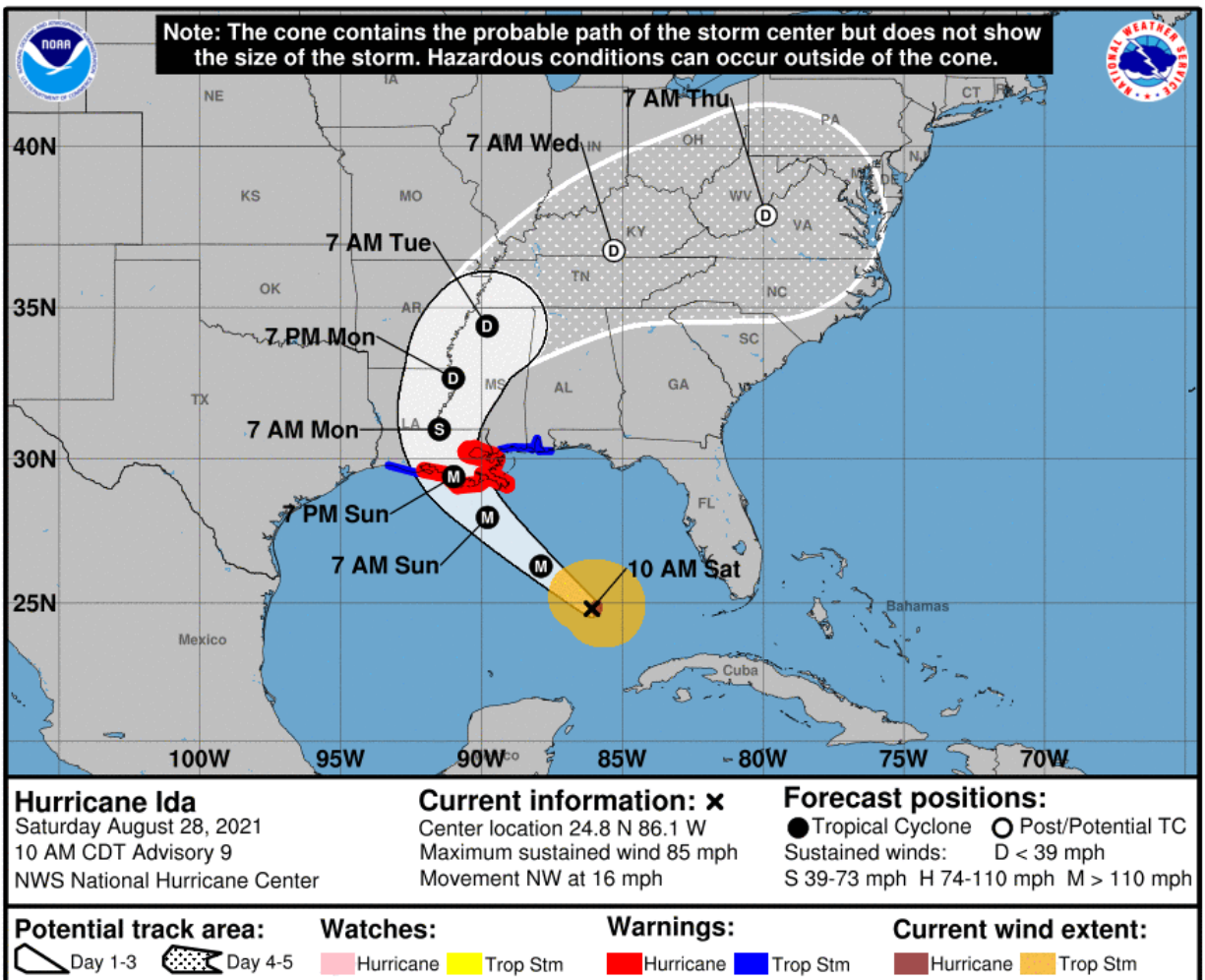
Ida is forecast to turn northeast later Monday, with rainfall totals of 4 to 8 inches possible from northeastern Louisiana and central Mississippi into the Tennessee Valley. This is likely to result in considerable flash and riverine flooding impacts.

Rainfall impacts from Ida will diminish across western Cuba today as the storm continues to lift northward away from the island. An additional 1 to 2 inches of rain with isolated maximum amounts of 4 inches are possible across western Cuba through today. These rainfall amounts may produce flash floods and mudslides.

TORNADOES: Tornadoes will be possible Sunday into Monday across the northern Gulf coast states including parts of eastern Louisiana, Mississippi, central and southern Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle. The longest duration tornado threat will exist across southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi.

SURF: Swells generated by Ida will continue to affect western Cuba through today. Swells will begin reaching portions of the northern Gulf coast later today and continue through Monday. These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions.

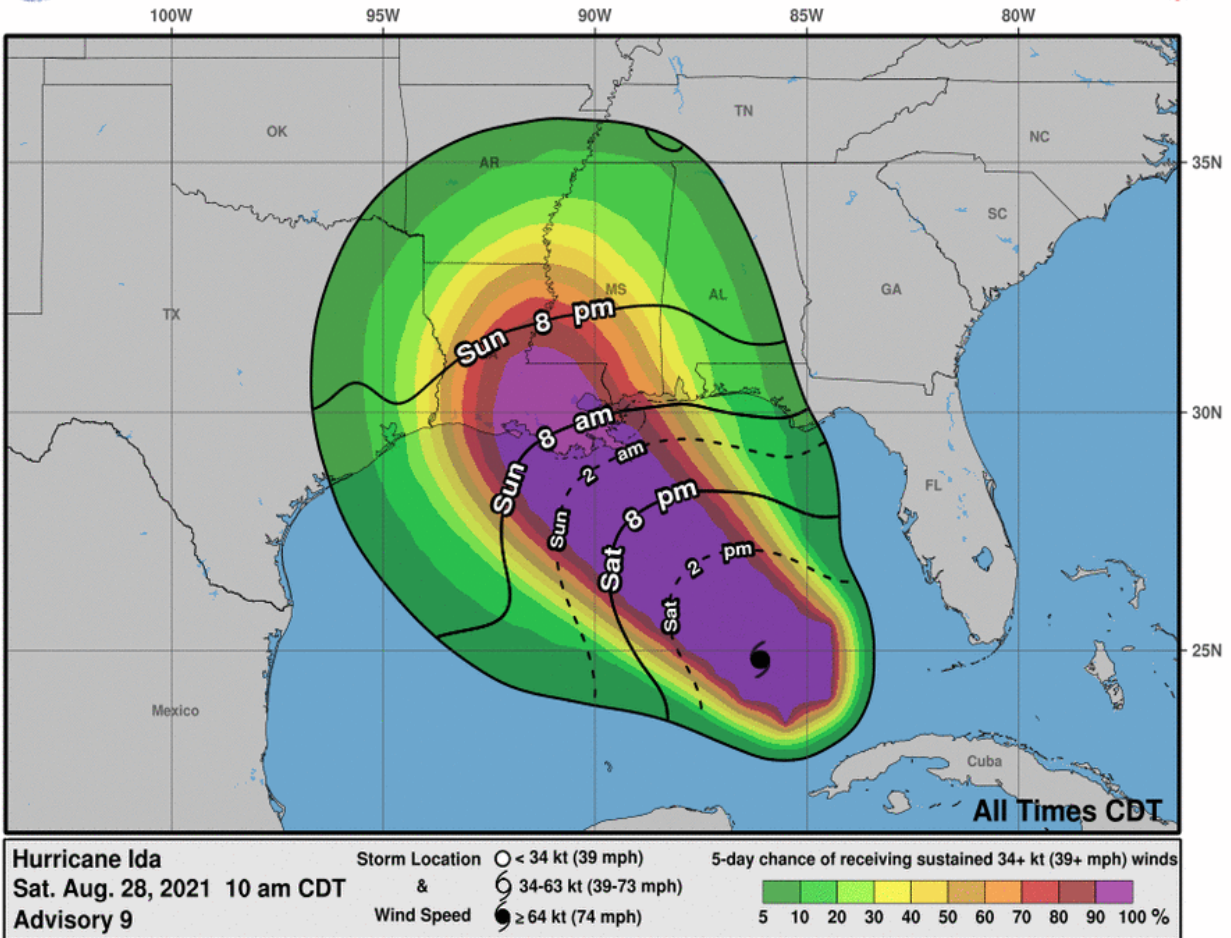
National Hurricane Center (NHC) Forecast



Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical Storm-Force Winds

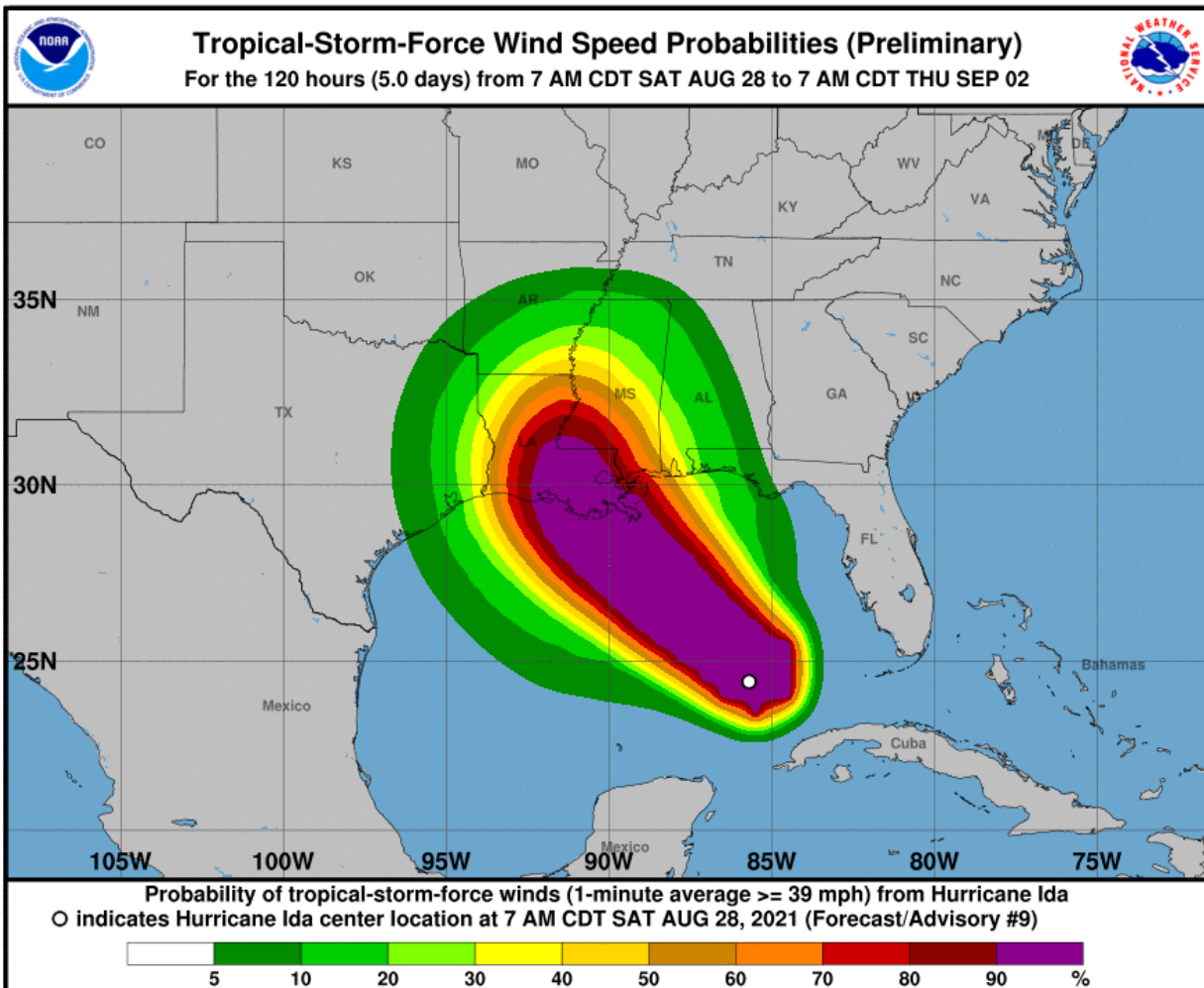


Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds

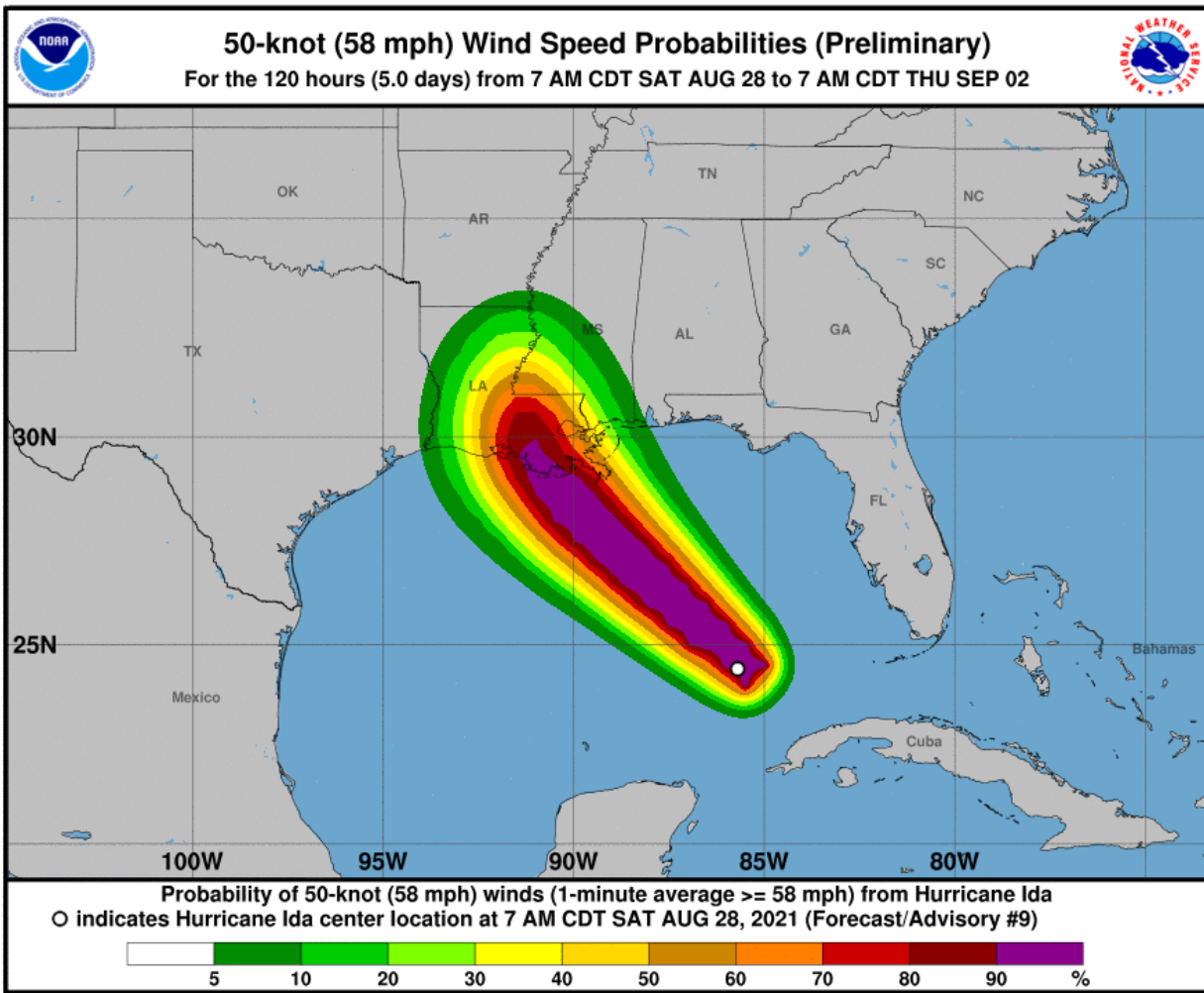


National Hurricane Center: Wind Speed Probabilities

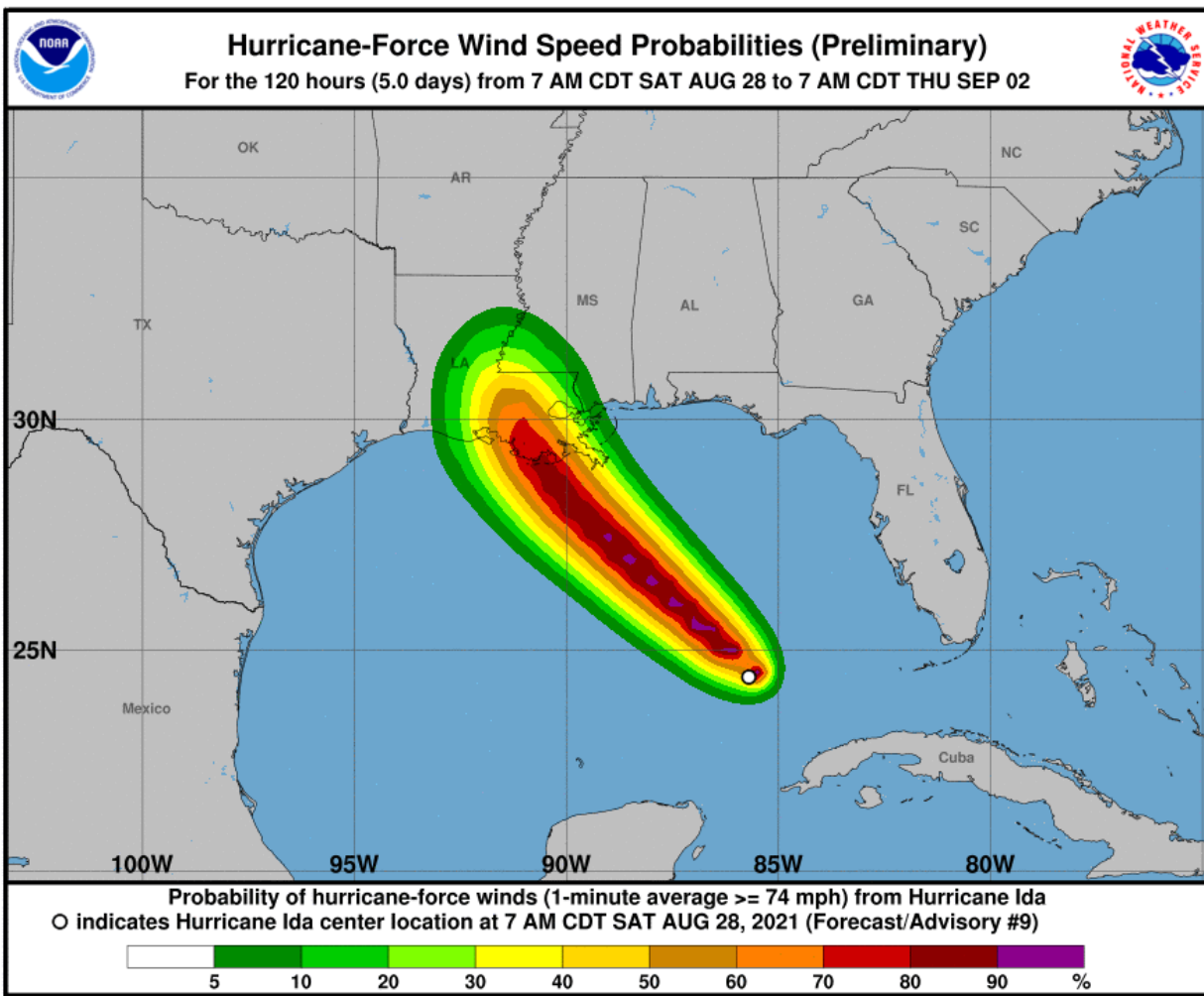
Tropical Storm-Force Wind Probabilities (≥ 40 mph (65 kph))



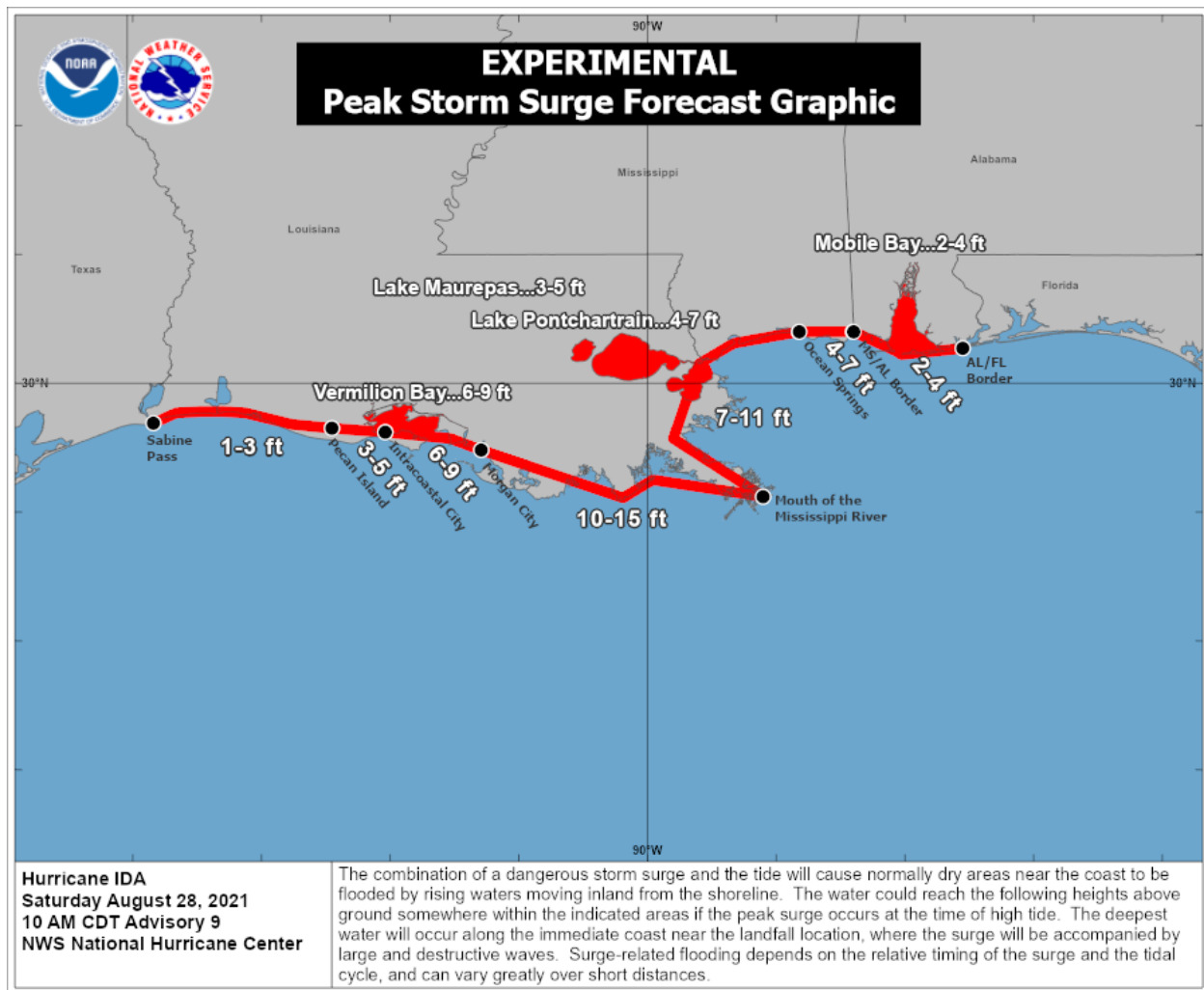
Wind Probabilities (≥ 60 mph (95 kph))



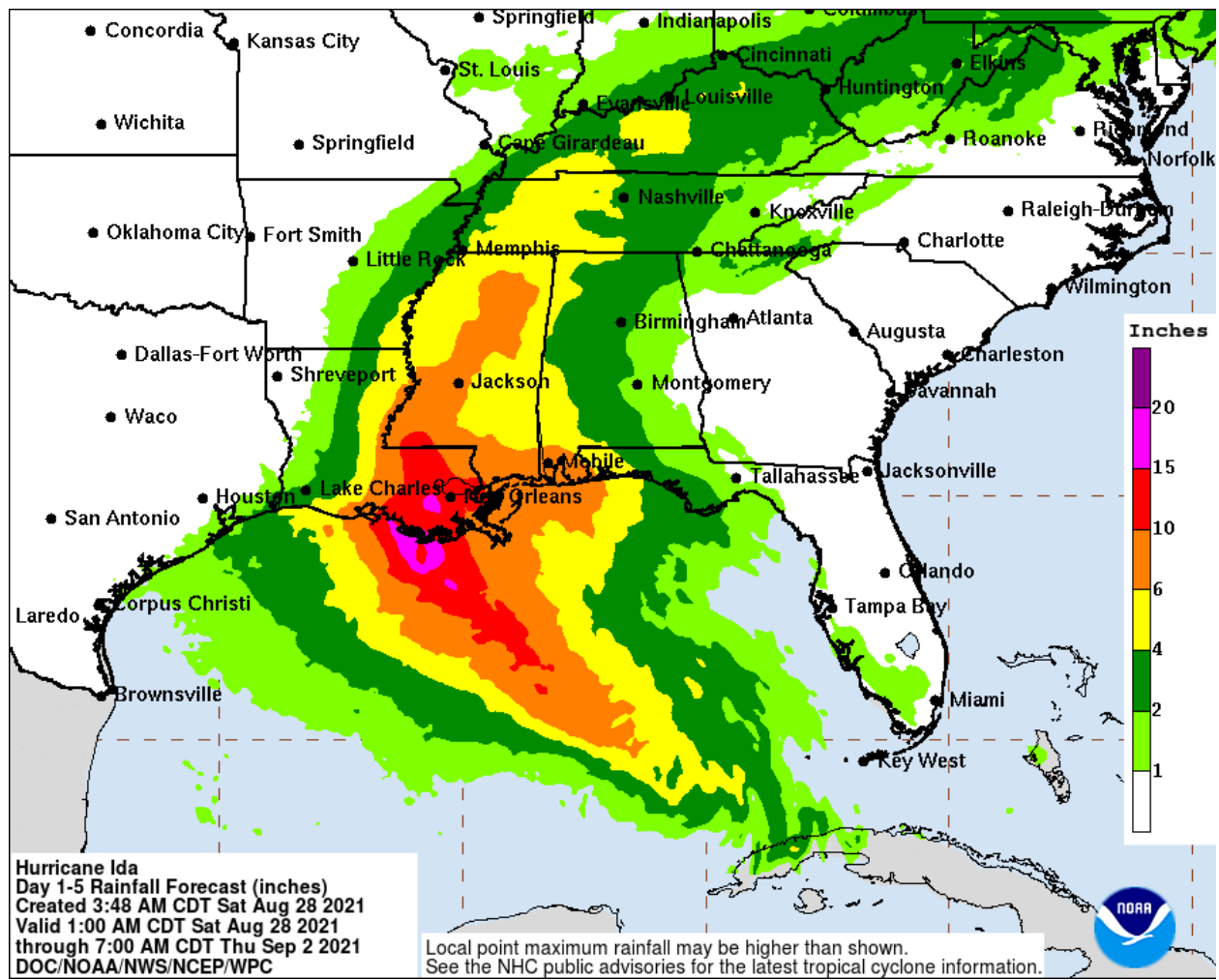
Hurricane-Force Wind Probabilities (≥ 75 mph (120 kph))



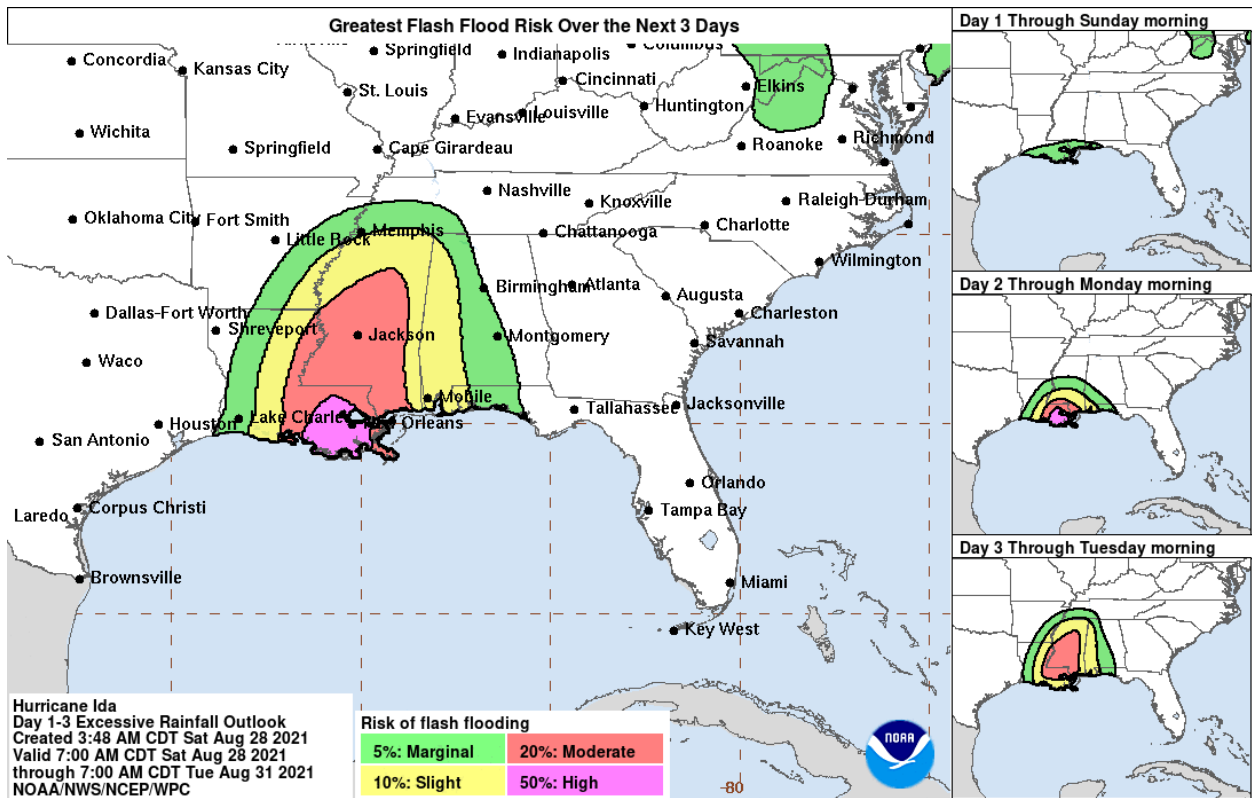
NHC: Storm Surge Inundation Graphic



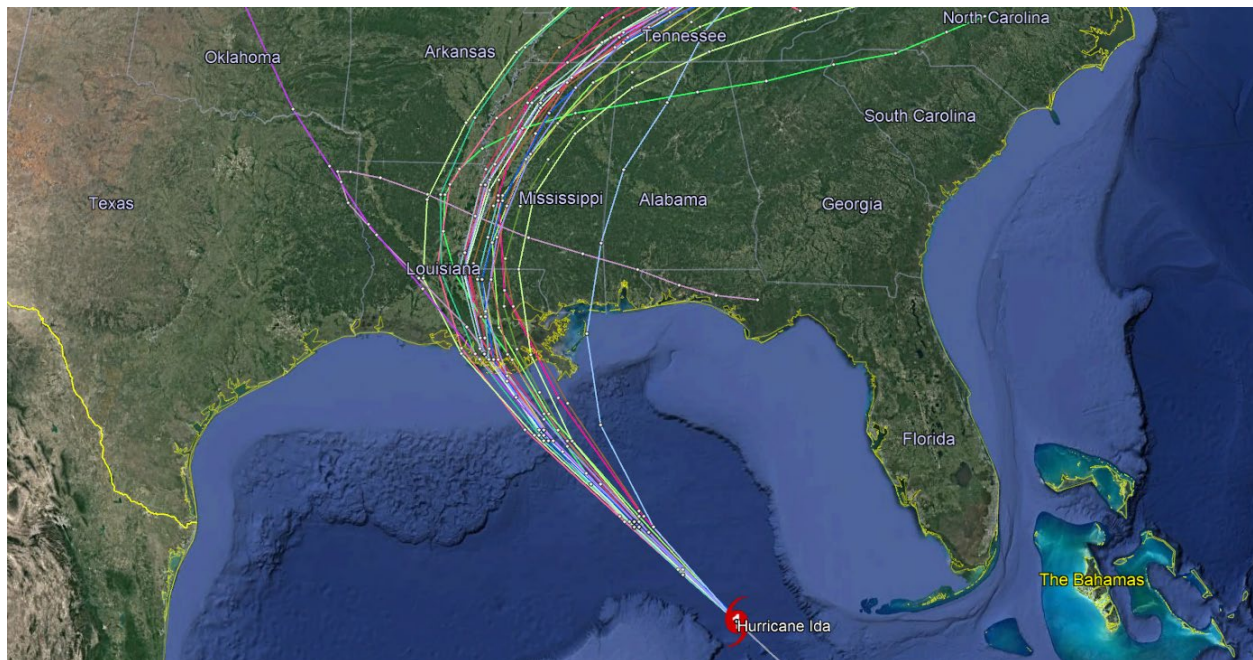
Weather Prediction Center: Rainfall Potential



Weather Prediction Center: Flash Flood Potential

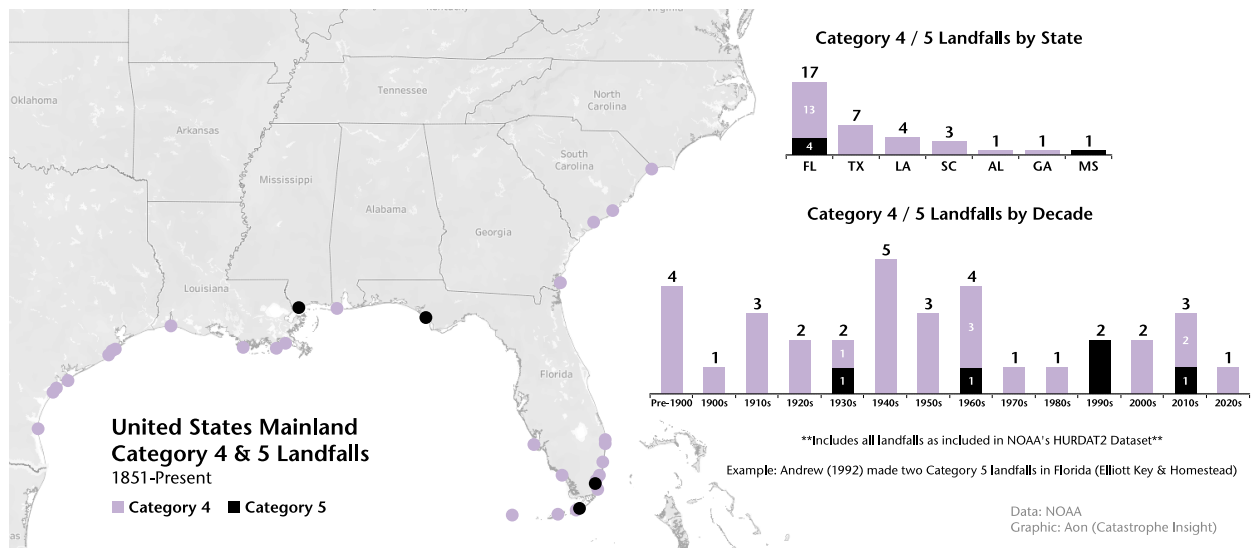


Current 'Spaghetti' Model Output Data



Source: NHC

U.S. Mainland Hurricane Landfalls: Category 4 or 5



Additional Information and Update Schedule

Wind intensity forecasts and forecast track information can be found via the National Hurricane Center at www.nhc.noaa.gov

NEXT CAT ALERT: Saturday afternoon after 4:00 PM Central Time (21:00 UTC).

Tropical Cyclone Intensity Classifications for Global Basins

| WIND SPEED | | | BASINS AND MONITORING BUREAU | | | | | | | |
|------------|------|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| KT | MPH | KPH | NE Pacific, Atlantic | NW Pacific | NW Pacific | SW Pacific | Australia | SW Indian | North Indian | |
| | | | National Hurricane Center (NHC) | Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) | Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) | Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) | Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) | Meteo-France (MF) | India Meteorological Department (IMD) | |
| 30 | 35 | 55 | Tropical Depression | Tropical Depression | Tropical Depression | Tropical Depression | Tropical Low | Tropical Depression | Deep Depression | |
| 35 | 40 | 65 | Tropical Storm | Tropical Storm | Tropical Storm | Cat. 1 Tropical Cyclone | Cat. 1 Tropical Cyclone | Moderate Tropical Storm | Cyclonic Storm | |
| 40 | 45 | 75 | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | 50 | 85 | | | Severe Tropical Storm | Cat. 2 Tropical Cyclone | Cat. 2 Tropical Cyclone | Severe Tropical Storm | Severe Cyclonic Storm | |
| 50 | 60 | 95 | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | 65 | 100 | | | | | | | | |
| 60 | 70 | 110 | | | | | | | | |
| 65 | 75 | 120 | Cat. 1 Hurricane | Typhoon | Typhoon | Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone | Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone | Tropical Cyclone | Very Severe Cyclonic Storm | |
| 70 | 80 | 130 | | | | | | | | |
| 75 | 85 | 140 | | | | | | | | |
| 80 | 90 | 150 | | | | | | | | |
| 85 | 100 | 160 | Cat. 2 Hurricane | | | Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone | Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone | Intense Tropical Cyclone | | |
| 90 | 105 | 170 | | | | | | | | |
| 95 | 110 | 175 | | | | | | | | |
| 100 | 115 | 185 | Cat. 3 Major Hurricane | | | Super Typhoon | Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone | Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone | Very Intense Tropical Cyclone | Super Cyclonic Storm |
| 105 | 120 | 195 | | | | | | | | |
| 110 | 125 | 205 | | | | | | | | |
| 115 | 130 | 210 | | | | | | | | |
| 120 | 140 | 220 | Cat. 4 Major Hurricane | | Super Typhoon | | Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone | Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone | Very Intense Tropical Cyclone | Super Cyclonic Storm |
| 125 | 145 | 230 | | | | | | | | |
| 130 | 150 | 240 | | | | | | | | |
| 135 | 155 | 250 | | | | | | | | |
| 140 | 160 | 260 | Cat. 5 Major Hurricane | | Super Typhoon | | Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone | Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone | Very Intense Tropical Cyclone | Super Cyclonic Storm |
| >140 | >160 | >260 | | | | | | | | |

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