



## Piedmont Triad AmRRON ExSum Hurricane Florence (Update)

### Key Judgments:

All residents should continue to closely monitor weather services for updated forecasts regarding hurricane Florence. Conditions are developing very quickly. The storm predictions have grown more threatening as the situation develops. If the storm occurs anywhere close to the predictions, this could be one of the most devastating storms that NC has seen in decades.

All residents should be prepared with 5-7 days of supplies. (2 days leading up to storm and 3-5 days after the impact of the storm).

Everyone should top off fuel supplies (in vehicles and storage locations) as soon as possible. Fuel shortages have already been reported and are expected to become more prevalent as the storm impact approaches.

AmRRON members should continue preparations for hurricane conditions with consideration given to food, water, alternate power, first aid, and communications. Chain saws and tarps should be staged in the event of downed trees and damaged roofs. Any rechargeable equipment (flashlights, power packs, HT Radios, weather radios, etc.) should be charged in advance.

AmRRON members will begin conducting nets according to the AmRRON SOI on Wednesday morning. All equipment and backup power should be in place and testing completed on Tuesday evening.



### Introduction:

Tropical Storm Florence has strengthened to a category 4 hurricane as of September 10<sup>th</sup>. As of Tuesday morning, Florence was centered more than 900 miles east-southeast of Cape Fear, North Carolina, moving west-northwestward.

The National Hurricane Center said Monday the monster storm continues to intensify and will be close to Category 5 strength by Tuesday. A Category 5 storm has the potential to cause catastrophic damage.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper urged residents to evacuate the state's coastal areas as Florence moves closer to landfall.

### Substantiation:

**2018-09-10-0650Z – wxii12.com: President Trump approves North Carolina emergency declaration ahead of Florence**

<https://www.wxii12.com/article/president-trump-approves-north-carolina-emergency-declaration-ahead-of-florence/23073865>

President Donald Trump authorized the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to coordinate all disaster relief efforts in response to "the emergency conditions resulting from Hurricane Florence."

In a press release Monday night, the White House said the President had issued an Emergency Declaration that lets agencies provide measures to "lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in all 100 North Carolina counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians."



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**2018-09-11-0730Z – foxnews: Hurricane Florence could strengthen to 'life-threatening' Category 5, as about 1.5M people evacuate**

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/09/11/hurricane-florence-could-strengthen-to-life-threatening-category-5-as-about-1-5m-people-evacuate.html>

President Donald Trump late Monday approved an emergency declaration for North Carolina as 'life-threatening' Hurricane Florence barrels toward the Carolinas and is expected to strengthen to a Category 5 storm. The president's action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA to coordinate disaster relief efforts for "the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population," a White House statement said, according to South Carolina's The State.

Hurricane Florence continues to strengthen, max winds are now 140 mph. Further strengthening is forecast and it is expected to be a large and powerful hurricane as it nears the East Coast. Florence is expected to make landfall on Thursday and could become one of the most catastrophic hurricanes to hit the Eastern Seaboard in decades.

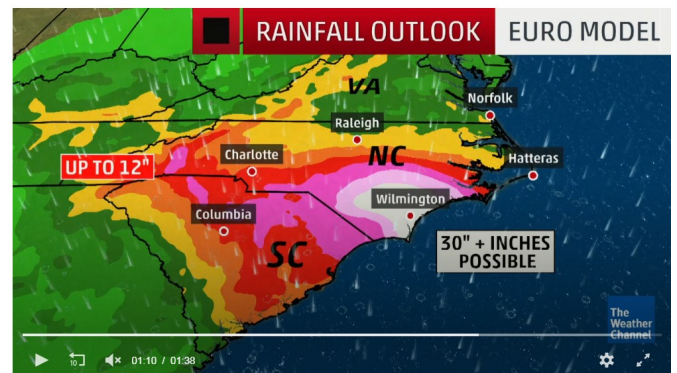
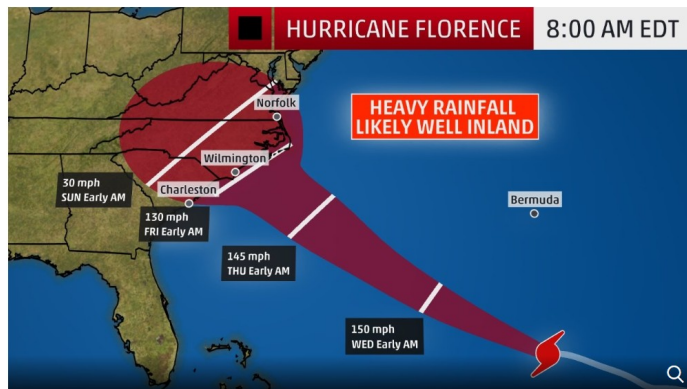
"Life-threatening freshwater flooding is likely from a prolonged and exceptionally heavy rainfall event," the National Weather Service said in an advisory.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster ordered the state's entire coastline to be evacuated starting at noon Tuesday and predicted that 1 million people would flee. Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam issued an evacuation order that applies to about 245,000 people. North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said his state was "in the bullseye" of the storm and urged people to "get ready now."

**2018-09-11-1020Z – weather.com: Hurricane, Storm Surge Watch Issued as Florence Targets Carolinas With Flooding, Destructive Winds**

<https://weather.com/safety/hurricane/news/2018-09-10-hurricane-florence-forecast-us-east-coast>

- Florence remains a dangerous Category 4 hurricane.
- A strike on the Carolinas will occur Thursday into early Friday.
- Hurricane and storm surge watches have been issued.
- A life-threatening storm surge is expected with landfall.
- Massive inland rainfall flooding is also expected from Florence lingering into next week.
- Tropical-storm-force winds may arrive as soon as late Wednesday night.
- Florence is also generating dangerous surf and rip currents along the East Coast.





Florence underwent rapid intensification Sunday into Monday, when its winds jumped up from 75 mph to 130 mph in just 25 hours ending 12 p.m. EDT Monday. Some additional strengthening is possible, and it's not out of the question that Florence could come close to Category 5 status for a time.

**2018-09-10 – Local Reports** (All first-hand reports)

- Fuel shortages at local service stations in the Triad were reported on Monday evening.
- Generator and gas cans were in very short supply beginning at noon on Monday.

**Outlook:**

It is projected that Florence will hit the east coast as a category 4 hurricane (potentially a category 5) along the NC and/or SC coast in the second half of the coming week. The storm is expected to stall near the coastline and provide heavy rainfall measured in feet over the weekend and into next week.

Supplies such as batteries, gas, lanterns, candles, water, and basic foods are being depleted quickly as residents prepare for the effects of the storm. These items will become increasingly difficult to obtain.

Local rain in the Carolinas over the past weeks has already saturated the ground. This condition increases the chances of flooding and downed trees (resulting in road closures and power outages). Effects of the storm, including flooding, downed trees, power outages, and supply shortages, are likely to be experienced far inland in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

High volumes of traffic are expected to increase as evacuations occur. This will result in continued fuel shortages as well as hotel rooms being filled in cities located in interior portions of the Carolinas and Virginia. Fuel shortages in the triad area are expected to be intermittent in the short term as re-supplies are available (although not able to keep pace with the increased demand). Long term, the fuel shortages could become prolonged depending on the effects of power outages and the ability for re-supply trucks to run their routes.

**References:**

- 1) ExSum – PT AmRRON 2018-09-08-A Tropical Storm/Hurricane Conditions for NC in the Coming Week
- 2) ExSum – PT AmRRON 2018-09-10-A Hurricane Florence
- 3) AmRRON Communications Condition Level: <https://amrron.com/net-resourcestools/amcon-amrron-communications-condition-level/>
- 4) AmRRON Tropical Storm/Hurricane for Coming Week: <https://amrron.com/2018/09/09/tropical-storm-hurricane-conditions-for-nc-in-the-coming-week/>
- 5) NWS: National Hurricane Preparedness: <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness>