

HURRICANE WATCHES AND WARNINGS

Tropical storms and hurricanes are generally slow moving and are easily tracked. Paths of travel are based on computer models. Because tropical storms and hurricanes can impact areas for hundreds of miles, areas can be affected without a direct impact from the storm. Wind and water damage from the system are usually the result. Broad sections of coastline will be placed under a watch or warning depending on the projected path of the storm. Notice to areas will be given as either a watch or a warning.

Tropical Storm Watch: Tropical Storm conditions are possible in the area within 36 hours.

Tropical Storm Warning: Tropical Storm conditions are expected in the specific area within 24 hours.

Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions are possible in the area within 36 hours.

Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions are expected in the area within 24 hours.

A “WATCH” notice means tropical storm or hurricane conditions may affect the area within 36 hours.

A “WARNING” notice means that a tropical storm or hurricane is expected impact the area directly within 24 hours.

While predictions are improving changing weather conditions can cause a last minute change in the direction and strength of an approaching system. A fast moving front can cause a tropical system to stall or even change direction.

Tropical Storm systems are usually slower moving than hurricane systems. This can result in more rainfall from a tropical storm and more flooding. The majority of injuries and deaths are the result of water rather than wind. Hurricanes get the bigger headlines but, Tropical Storms can be as or more dangerous.