



# Tropical Storm Ophelia

for northeast South Carolina and southeast North Carolina

6:10 PM EDT

Friday September 22, 2023

## What has changed:

- Rainfall amounts graphic has been updated.
- Peak Sustained Wind and Wind Gust has been updated.



# Situation Overview






## Tropical Storm Ophelia

- Tropical Storm Ophelia will continue to move toward the NC coast tonight bringing a variety of impacts to the area.
- Conditions are expected to gradually improve during Saturday as Ophelia moves away from the area towards the north.
- A quick summary of impacts that are expected across northeast SC & southeast NC include:
  - Heavy rainfall with amounts of 2 to 4 inches across portions of southeast NC with 4 to 8 inch amounts across Pender, New Hanover, and eastern Brunswick Counties
  - Some storm surge/coastal flooding (1-3' inundation above ground level, especially north of Cape Fear)
  - Strong winds of 20 to 30 mph, with gusts to 40 to 50 mph especially along the coastal areas around Cape Fear northward to Surf City, NC (higher gusts are expected just off the coast).
  - Strong rip currents and very rough surf
  - Hazardous maritime conditions with large/steep seas



# Situation Overview

## Tropical Storm Ophelia

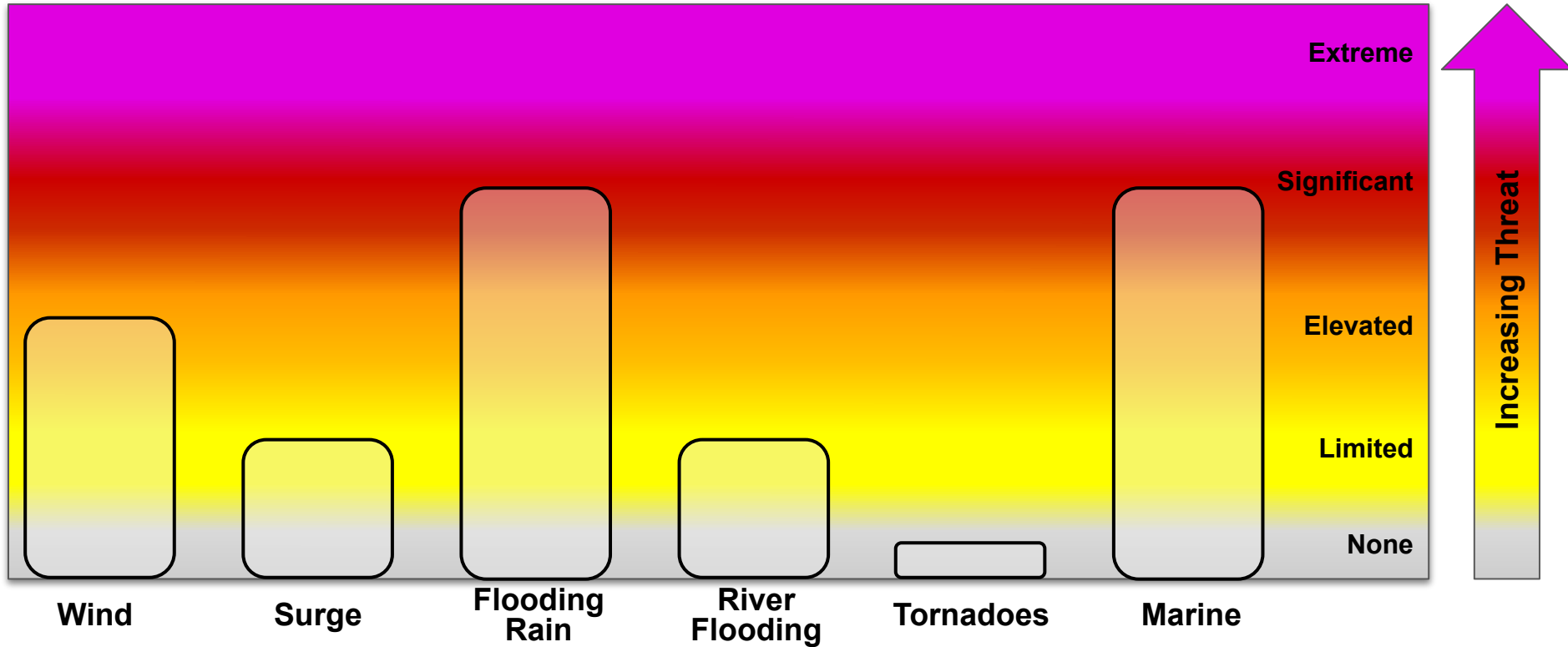
Hazard	Impacts	Location	Timing
	<b>Wind</b> Downed large limbs and trees are possible, along some power outages	Portions of southeast NC, and especially coastal areas from near Cape Fear northward to Surf City, NC	Increasing through tonight, gradually improving during Saturday
	<b>Storm Surge &amp; Inundation</b> Coastal inundation of 1-3'	Low elevation coastal areas that are prone to tidal flooding, especially north of Cape Fear to Surf City, NC	Especially around high tide overnight
	<b>Flooding Rain</b> Some flash flooding is possible, especially near low-lying and poor drainage areas.	Generally east of a Lumberton to Myrtle Beach line, with a higher potential east of a Kelly to St. James Plantation line	Rainfall increasing through tonight, gradually improving during Saturday
	<b>Tornado</b> None are expected in southeast NC and northeast SC.	N/A	N/A
	<b>Marine</b> Large and steep waves will persist across the coastal and offshore waters creating hazardous maritime conditions.	All coastal and offshore waters	Through Saturday



# Threat Levels

Tropical Storm Ophelia

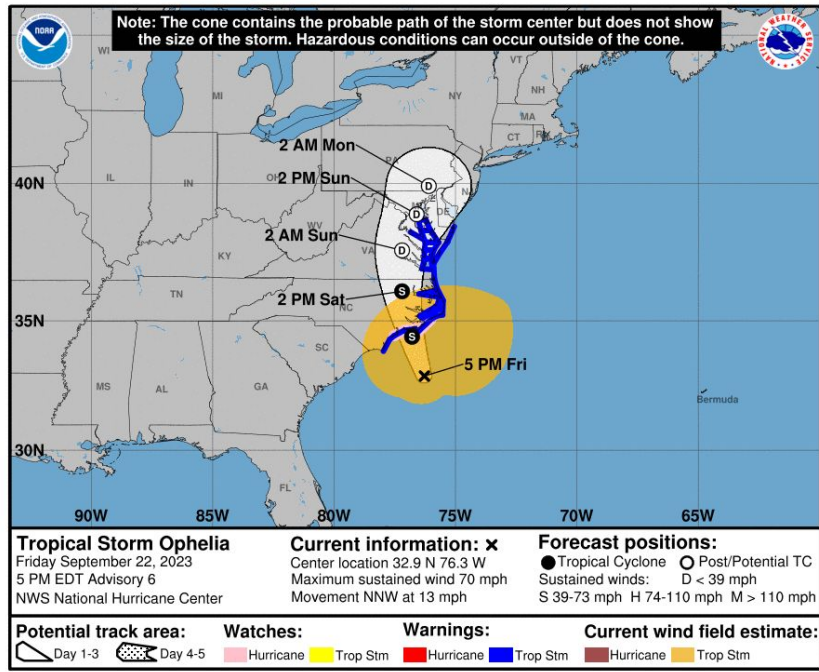
For information on specific hazards in this area, please go to: <https://www.weather.gov/ilm/tropical>





# Situation Overview

## Tropical Storm Ophelia



- Tropical Storm Ophelia is expected to move onshore the NC coastline overnight.
- After landfall, Ophelia will move from eastern NC into southeastern VA by Saturday night.

**NOTE:** Do not focus on the exact track.  
Impacts can occur well outside the area enclosed by the cone.



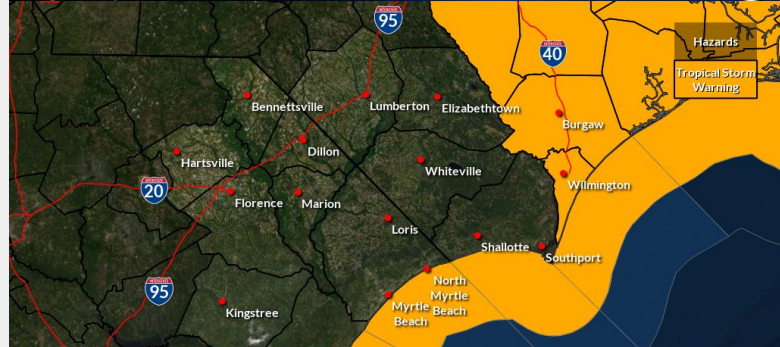
# Watches & Warnings

## Tropical Storm Ophelia

### Tropical Storm Warnings

Through Saturday

Weather Forecast Office  
Wilmington, NC  
Issued Sep 22, 2023 5:15 PM EDT



@NWSWilmingtonNC

### Flood Watch

Through Saturday Afternoon

Weather Forecast Office  
Wilmington, NC  
Issued Sep 22, 2023 5:18 PM EDT



@NWSWilmingtonNC

weather.gov/il

- A Tropical Storm Warning remains in effect for Pender and New Hanover Counties, and the coastal waters from the South Santee River, SC to Surf City, NC.
- A Flood Watch is now in effect for Pender, New Hanover, and Brunswick Counties
- A High Surf Advisory (not shown) is also in effect from Cape Fear to Surf City, NC.



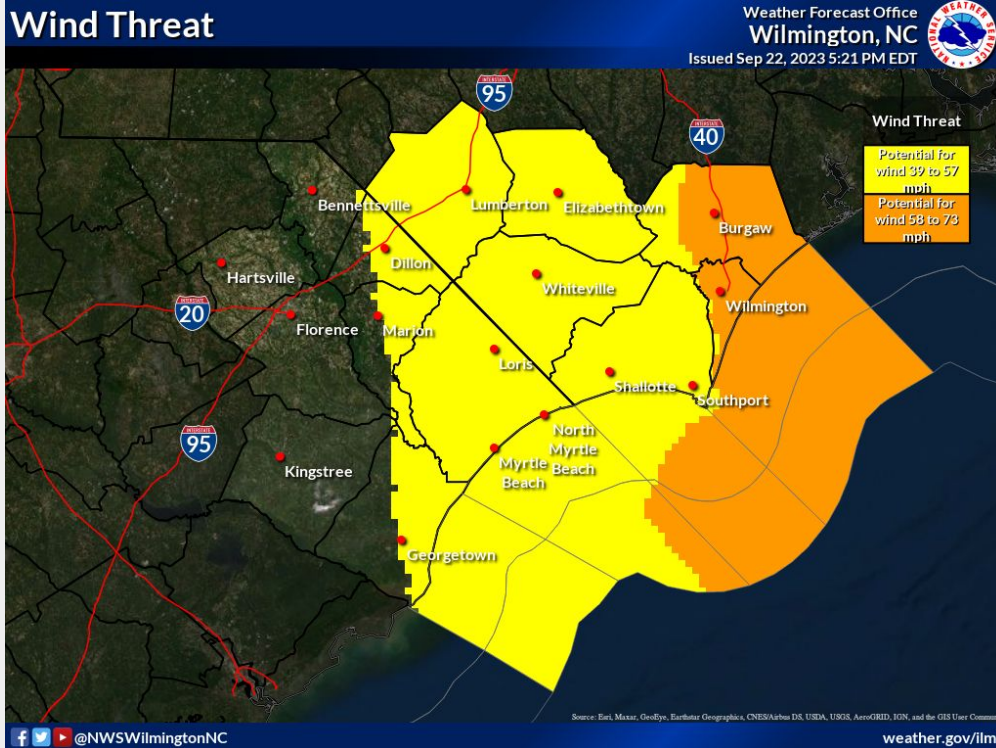


# Wind Threat / Potential Impact

## Tropical Storm Ophelia

\*This graphic accounts for the latest forecast and includes a reasonable safety margin to account for any forecast deviation. It represents the potential impacts to prepare for.

### Wind Threat



There is a potential for:

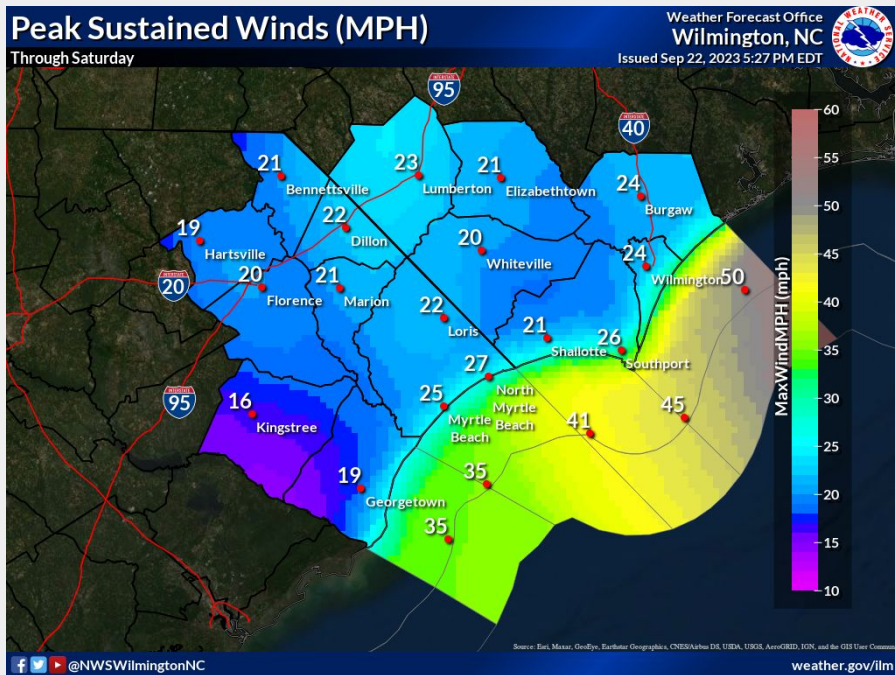
- Low wind impacts are expected across all of Southeast North Carolina and the eastern half of Northeast South Carolina, however there is a small area with a moderate wind threat, generally along the coastal areas north of Cape Fear.
- Impacts include: Some downed large limbs and trees, along with some power outages.



# Peak Sustained Wind Swath (mph)

## Tropical Storm Ophelia

**Note:** These winds are highly dependent on the storm's track and intensity. A small change could result in significant differences in wind speed and impacts.



- Sustained winds of 25 to 35 mph are expected along the coastal areas, especially from Cape Fear northward to Surf City, NC.
- Otherwise sustained winds of 20 to around 25 mph are expected across inland areas (lower far southern inland areas).
- Winds will gradually improve during Saturday as the storm lifts away from the area.

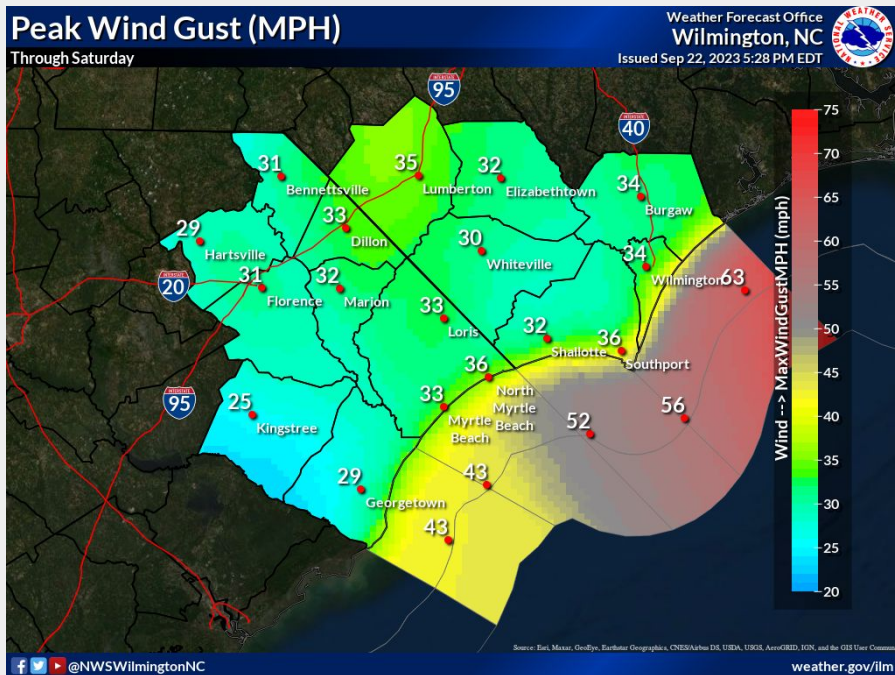




# Peak Wind Gust Swath (mph)

## Tropical Storm Ophelia

**Note:** These winds are highly dependent on the storm's track and intensity. A small change could result in significant differences in wind speed and impacts.



- Wind gusts of 35 to 45 mph are expected along the coastal areas, especially from near Cape Fear to Surf City, NC (gusts 55 to 65 are likely just off the Cape Fear coast).
- Elsewhere across inland portions of southeast NC and northeast SC wind gusts of 30 to 40 mph are expected.
- Winds are expected to continue to increase tonight with conditions improving during Saturday.

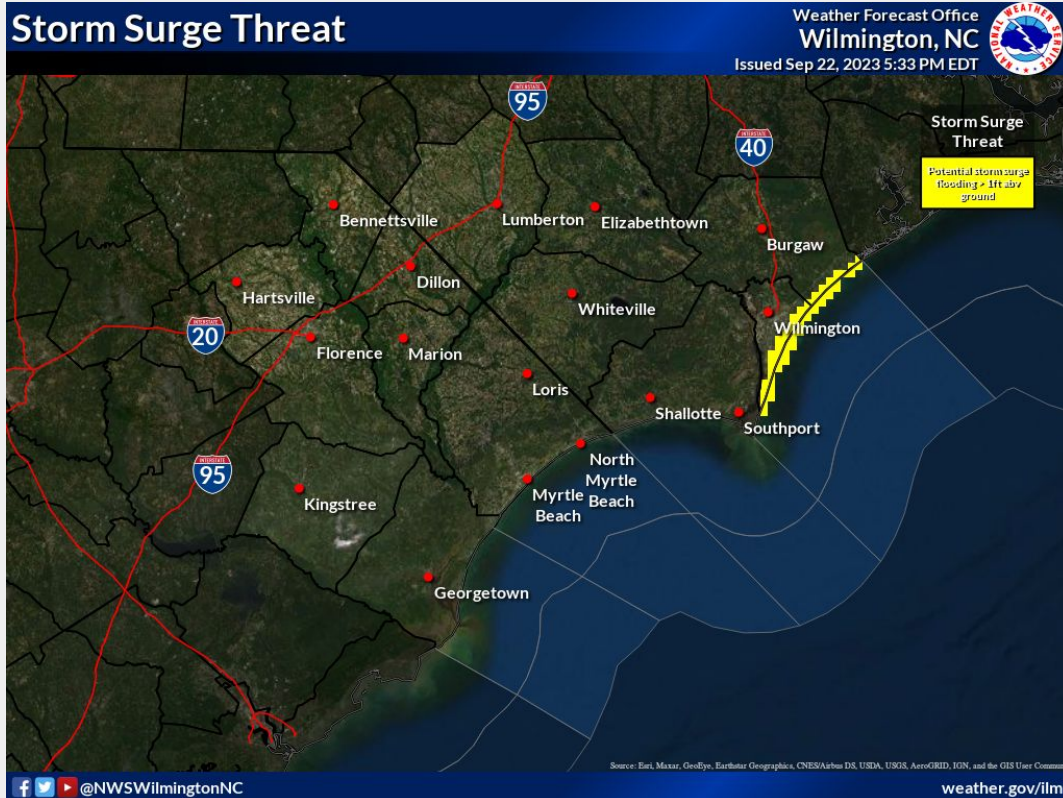


# Potential Storm Surge Impacts

## Tropical Storm Ophelia

\*This graphic accounts for the latest forecast and includes a reasonable safety margin to account for any forecast deviation. **It represents the potential impacts to prepare for.**

### Storm Surge Threat



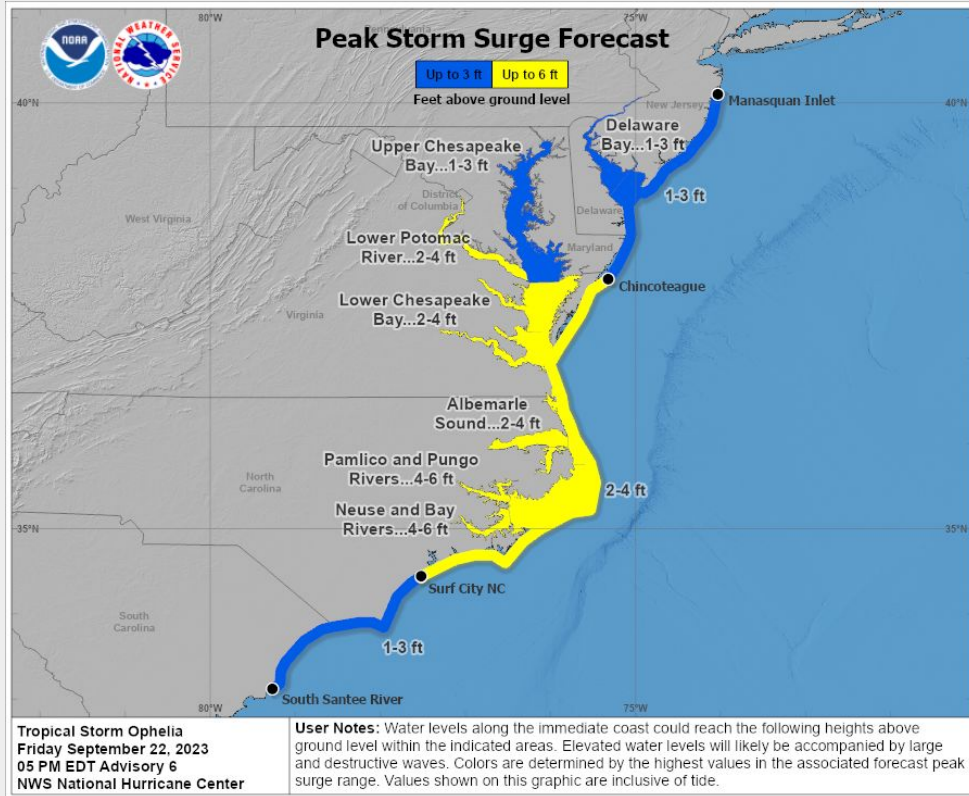
There is a potential for:

- Low impacts from storm surge flooding along the coast of southeast NC, especially from Cape Fear northward to Surf City, NC.
- Low end surge impacts include: ocean over-wash with water reaching the dunes, and flooding of low-lying prone locations along the shoreline, and tidal creeks. Some roads near tidal areas may become flooded.



# Peak Storm Surge

Tropical Storm Ophelia



- Overall, storm surge inundation of 1 to 3' ft is expected, highest from Cape Fear northward to Surf City, NC.
- The highest potential for storm surge flooding will be associated with the high tide which is between midnight and 2 AM.



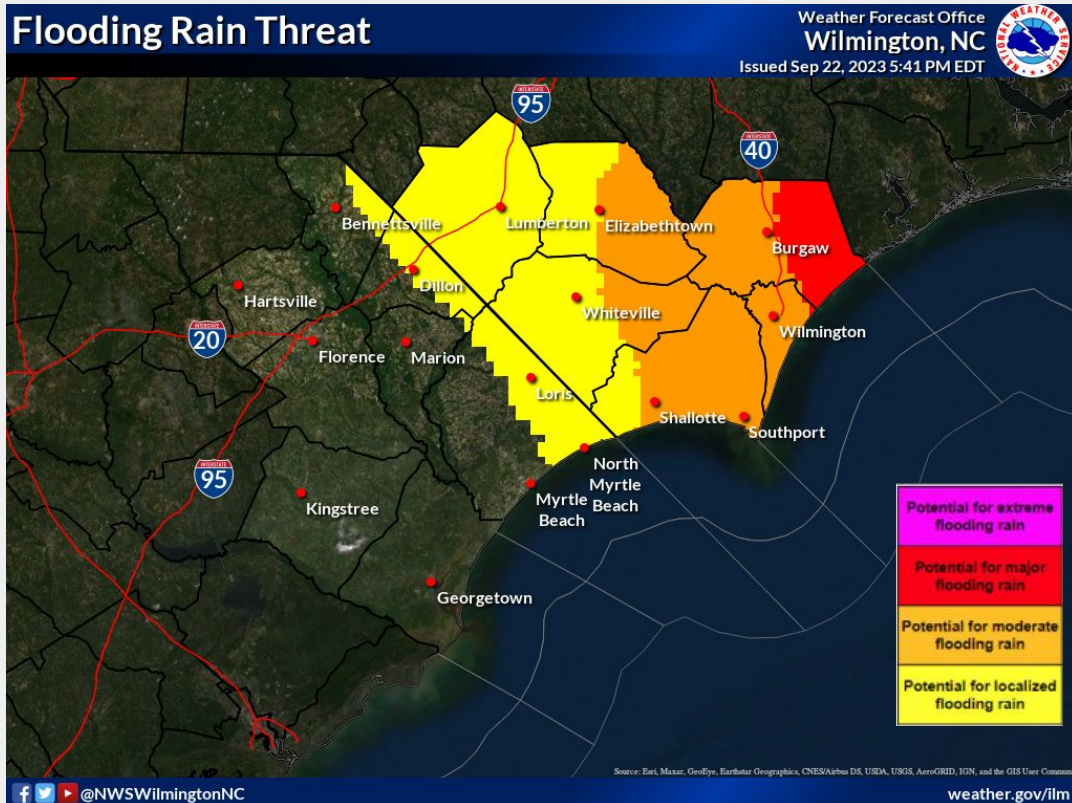


# Inland Flooding Impacts

## Tropical Storm Ophelia

\*This graphic accounts for the latest forecast and includes a reasonable safety margin to account for any forecast deviation. **It represents the potential impacts to prepare for.**

### Flooding Rain Threat



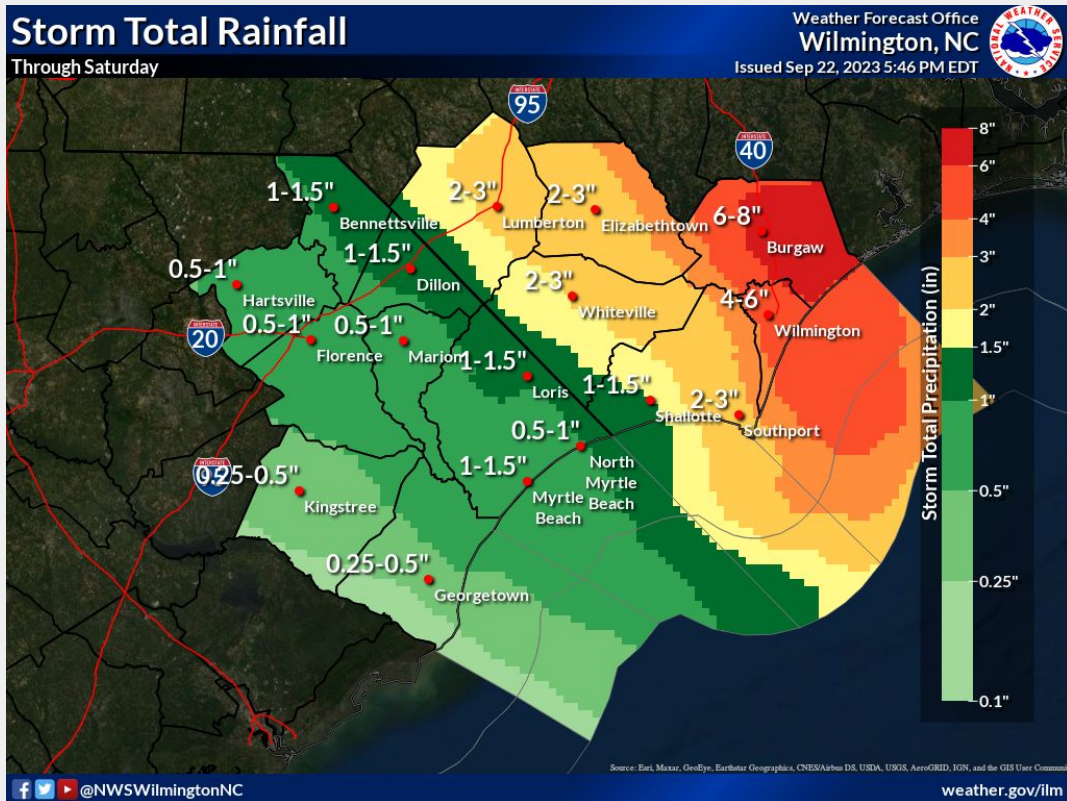
There is a potential for:

- Moderate to high impacts from rainfall that may create flooding across portions of southeastern NC.
- Rain associated with the storm will continue to increase through tonight, with conditions improving during Saturday.
- Flooding rainfall impacts include: inundation of low-lying prone locations and poor drainage areas. Driving conditions may become hazardous at times.
- Flash flooding dangers are harder to recognize at night. Turn around, don't drown if flooding is encountered.



# Expected Storm Total Rainfall

## Tropical Storm Ophelia



- Rainfall amounts of 6 to 8 inches are possible across portions of Pender County, with 3 to 6 inches possible a little farther inland.
- Farther west and southwest, rainfall amounts of 1 to 3 inches are possible (with lower amounts across the far southern areas).
- The flash flood threat has increased as a result of the updated projected rainfall, especially east of an Elizabethtown to Ocean Isle Beach line.
- This amount of rainfall would also likely bring the NE Cape Fear River at Burgaw into minor flood during this weekend.



# Key Take-Aways

## Tropical Storm Ophelia

Confidence is high regarding the evolution of the event. Confidence is high regarding impacts.



- A small area of Moderate wind impacts are possible across coastal areas of southeast NC, especially north of Cape Fear to Surf City, NC - elsewhere, Low wind impacts are expected with winds increasing into tonight.



- Storm surge inundation of 1 to 3' above ground level is expected during high tide tonight.



- Periods of heavy rain will result in rainfall amounts of 2 to 4 inches across a large part of southeast NC with 4 to 8 inch amounts possible in the Flood Watch area.



- No tornadoes are expected across southeast NC or northeast SC, as the threat mainly exists across eastern NC through tonight.



- Hazardous marine conditions (strong winds and large/steep seas) will continue through tonight across the coastal and offshore waters.





# Local Resources

Tropical Storm Ophelia

Last PDF Briefing unless significant changes to the Ophelia's impacts or warnings.



**Web:** <https://www.weather.gov/ilm/>



**Phone:** 910-762-4289



**E-mail:** [nws.ilm.operations@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.ilm.operations@noaa.gov)



**Facebook:** NWSWilmingtonNC



**Twitter:** NWSWilmingtonNC



**YouTube:** NWSWilmingtonNC