Tropical Activity

Atlantic – Tropical Storm Elsa

- Elsa is accelerating up the East Coast after it made landfall late Wednesday morning near Steinhatchee, Florida.
- Elsa is located about 90 miles southwest of Montauk Point, New York, as of Friday morning.
- Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 160 miles from the center. A sustained wind of 45 mph with a gust to 49 mph was measured on a buoy east of Long Beach, New Jersey, Friday morning.
- Elsa remains a tropical storm and should remain pretty steady strength-wise some as it races northeastward along the East Coast.
- As Elsa moves near Long Island and southern and coastal New England, heavy rainfall could lead to considerable flash and urban flooding. Flash flood watches are posted for more than 40 million people from New Jersey to Maine.
- Winds could gust up to 65 mph, and rotating storms moving inland from the outer bands could cause some brief tornadoes from Long Island to New England.
- A tropical storm warning is still in effect from southern New Jersey to near Boston.
- Elsa is expected to become a post-tropical cyclone by Friday night.

2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season Forecast – Updated

- On July 8th, meteorologists and research scientists at Colorado State University (CSU) updated one of the season’s earliest and most well-respected hurricane outlooks.
- Back in April, the team at CSU predicted 17 named storms and 8 hurricanes during the 2021 season.
- The latest predictions continue to anticipate this year’s hurricane season to be busier than average, increasing the number of named storms and hurricane.
- Dr. Phil Klotzbach and the Tropical Meteorology Project at CSU now anticipate 20 named storms, 9 of which becoming hurricanes and 4 of those becoming major hurricanes. This includes storms that have already formed.
- The forecast also predicts a 68% chance for a landfalling system for the entire east coast (this does not include the landfalls which have already occurred this season).
Dr. Phil Klotzbach explained the reasoning behind the above-average forecast, which includes above average temperatures in the subtropical Atlantic Ocean, an active West African Monsoon, and the low probability for El Niño to develop.

In fact, a La Niña watch was issued by the Climate Prediction Center on Thursday, the same day CSU updated their forecast.

Earthquake Activity
California
- A magnitude 6 earthquake jolted both sides of the California-Nevada border, tossed boulders onto a major roadway and was felt as far off as Las Vegas and even San Francisco, with days of aftershocks predicted, authorities said.
- The quake shortly before 4 p.m. Thursday was in Mono County south of Topaz Lake near Walker, a rural community of a few hundred households in the eastern Sierra Nevada. No major damage or injuries were reported, authorities said.
- Rumbles were felt all throughout the Sacramento region and Bay Area from the quake.
- It was followed by dozens of aftershocks, including at least a half-dozen of magnitude 4 or above, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.
- At one point, rockslides closed about 40 miles of the interstate, a major route through the northern Sierra Nevada, but the road reopened some hours later.
- The quake occurred along the Antelope Valley fault, which extends across the state line near Topaz Lake. The USGS said in a briefing Thursday that the quake was particularly uncommon for the area and poses a 6% chance that this is a foreshock of a larger quake.
- Thursday’s temblor was the largest recorded since a magnitude 6.1 earthquake struck the area in 1994.

Flood Activity
Michigan
- Local and federal government agencies are making their way around metro Detroit to as many homes affected by recent flooding as possible, talking to homeowners and recording data.
- Several assessment teams made up of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Michigan State Police-Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, the U.S. Small Business Administration and Wayne County officials started walking down the streets Thursday of Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and Detroit, conducting preliminary damage assessments.
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- “Based on what I have seen, I am expecting to see higher numbers than 2014 and we had 9,300 people reporting damage in 2014,” Dearborn Councilman Mike Sareini said on Thursday. “FEMA is going door-to-door to speak to residents today, but they aren’t going into the homes. I want them to not look at the streets and think that there wasn’t a disaster just because we cleared the debris so quickly.”
- Dearborn Heights Mayor Bill Bazzi said more than 1,250 residents have submitted their assessment forms already and some homes have even been condemned due to the amount of damage caused by the floods.
- The amount of time the preliminary assessments will take is still unclear, as Whitmer added Huron, Ionia and Washtenaw Counties to the state’s emergency declaration, requesting assistance from FEMA, Thursday, George said. The estimate as of now is at least several days.
- Whitmer’s recent state of emergency declaration was amended to include Huron and Ionia counties due to tornado damage, while Washtenaw County was added to widespread flooding, according to Whitmer’s office.
- Even though not every home will be visited, an estimate of the total number of homes affected, degree of damage incurred, extent of insurance coverage, cause and concentration of damage and other factors will be included in the report, compiled over the next few days.

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WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES ACTIVITY