

## Section Manager Message

### October 6, 2017

#### Summary:

- At 5 AM EDT Friday, Tropical Storm Nate was located over the northwestern Caribbean Sea, or about 895 miles south of Apalachicola, Florida.
- Nate is now moving north-northwest near 14mph, and this motion is expected to continue during the next couple of days with a further increase in forward speed.
- The center of Nate is forecast to emerge into the southern Gulf of Mexico early Saturday morning and make landfall along the U.S. Gulf Coast early Sunday morning.
- Maximum sustained winds are currently near 45mph and Nate is expected to gradually strengthen, becoming a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico before landfall.
- Computer models are in good agreement on track and confidence is high on a landfall between New Orleans and Pensacola, but models are in some disagreement on strength.
- Elsewhere, an area of low pressure is forecast to form over the northeastern Atlantic and could acquire some subtropical or tropical characteristics early next week while it remains nearly stationary.

#### Florida Outlook:

- The western Florida Panhandle is now within the 3 day cone of error, and the chances for tropical storm force winds have increase to 30-50% for much the western Florida Panhandle and 10-30% for the eastern Panhandle and Big Bend, which could arrive in gusts in the outer bands of Nate as early as Saturday afternoon.
- A **Tropical Storm Watch** has been issued for Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa Counties.
- There are no storm surge watches for Florida as surge values are expected to be below 2.5'. However, breaking waves of 6-10' could cause minor coastal flooding and erosion.
- Rainfall amounts of 1-3" (with isolated amounts up to 4-6" possible) is forecast for portions of the Florida Panhandle on Saturday and Sunday.
- Isolated tornadoes will also be possible Saturday and Sunday in the Panhandle.
- Breezy winds and increasing ocean swells will continue a high risk of rip currents along the entire Panhandle coast through this weekend.
- Breezy east winds combined with the lunar "King Tide" will continue to produce minor coastal flooding during high tide along the Florida East Coast. A **Coastal Flood Advisory** is in effect from Miami-Dade to Volusia County, with a **Coastal Flood Warning** in effect for the St. Johns River and tributaries through Saturday.

No further advisories will go out on this storm.....but those in the Panhandle, West Panhandle need to closely watch this storm!!!!

Get involved, get active! Stay safe, get on the air!!

Please stay safe – AND AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO!

**EVERYONE COUNTS!**

**73, Steve WB4OMM**

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