



FEMA

National Situation Report

As of 5:30 a.m. Friday, September 16, 2005

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Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED



Tropical Storm Ophelia Weakens

At 5:00 am EDT on Friday September 16, Ophelia was located about 40 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

Ophelia is moving toward the north near 5 mph. A turn to the northeast with an increase in forward speed is expected over the next 24 hours.

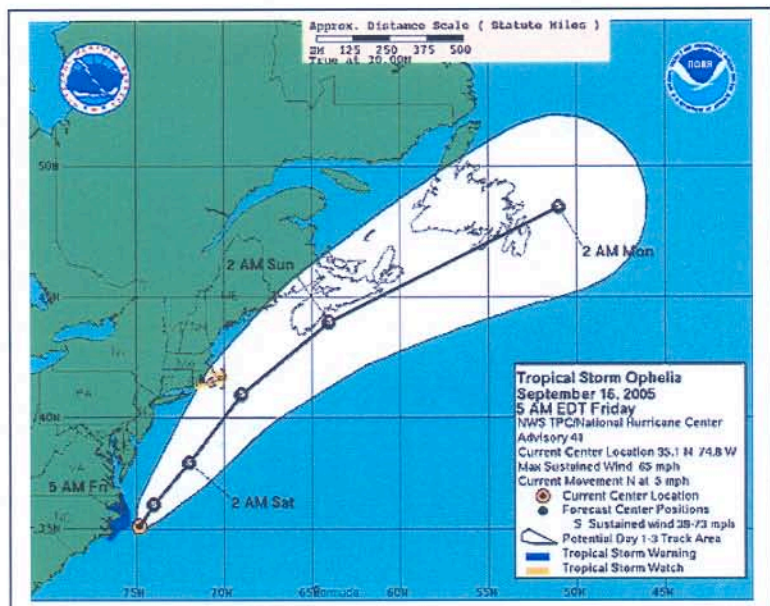
Maximum sustained winds are near 65 mph with higher gusts. Little change in strength is forecast during the next 24 hours.

Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 105 miles from the center.

A Tropical Storm Warning remains in effect from Cape Lookout, North Carolina northward to the North Carolina/Virginia border, including the Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds.

Ophelia is expected to move northward towards the Massachusetts coast. The NWS indicates a Tropical Storm Watch remains in effect from Point Judith, Rhode Island eastward and northward to Cape Cod and Plymouth Massachusetts, including Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Islands.

NWS forecasters indicate maximum coastal storm surge flooding of 1-3 feet above normal tide levels is possible. A storm surge of 3-4 feet is possible at the heads of bays and rivers. No significant additional



rainfall accumulations are expected across eastern North Carolina or southeastern Virginia. (*National Hurricane Center*)

Ophelia Response and Impacts

FEMA Region III and IV Emergency Response Teams – Advance (ERT-As) continue to assist State EOCs in North Carolina and Virginia.

South Carolina EOC reports no transportation impacts, including no restrictions on the use of the Port of Charleston.

North Carolina State EOC indicates 30 county EOCs are activated and 37 shelters have been opened in 18 counties. 48,000 customers were without power (as of 12:00 a.m. Thursday); down from a peak outage of 240,000 customers. Line crews continue to rapidly restore power in affected areas. Some roads in the southern counties have been flooded, but water is beginning to recede. Damage assessment teams for Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA) will be deployed to the affected areas on Friday (September 16).

Virginia EOC anticipates 7-9 inches of rainfall in the Norfolk area, which may cause flooding in low-lying areas. (*FEMA Region III and IV, News Media*)

Hurricane Kenneth Develops in the Eastern Pacific

The National Hurricane Center indicates that Kenneth has reached hurricane strength. Hurricane Kenneth is near 13.0 north 122.6 west moving in a westerly direction. Kenneth should continue to move slightly north of due west and is forecast to strengthen during the next 24 hours. Kenneth will remain over open water of the Pacific and will not threaten any land for the near term. (*National Hurricane Center*)

Weather Forecast for the U.S.

South: A storm front moving eastward will bring showers and thunderstorms to many parts of the South on Friday, however the weather will be dry by the weekend and early next week. High temperatures in the region will be in the 80s and 90s.

Midwest: A cold front will continue to cause rainfall on Friday in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. A new system will bring additional storms to a large portion of the region, ranging from North Dakota and Minnesota southward to Nebraska and Kansas. Showers and thunderstorms will continue over the weekend as the new system moves eastward. High temperatures will continue to drop as the new storm system moves through with 50-60s forecast for the weekend.

Northeast: Showers and thundershowers are forecast for much of the Northeast on Friday as Ophelia moves northward along the coast and a cold front moves eastward from the Midwest. Highs will range from the 60s in Maine to the 80s south to the Mid-Atlantic area.

West: The Pacific Northwest will see some rainfall on Friday. A cold front will move through the region bringing cooler temperatures to Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada. The rest of the region should have dry weather with seasonal temperatures through the weekend. High temperatures will range mostly in the 60s and 70s except in the southern California where temperatures will be in the 90s and in the southwest desert areas where highs will be near 100. (*National Weather Service, Media Sources*)

Wildfire Update

National Preparedness Level: 4 (on a scale of 1 to 5)

Current Situation: Fire activity continued to be light throughout the country with 89 new fires reported. Two new large fires were reported: one each in Idaho and Oregon. One large fire was

contained in California. Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

Weather Discussion: A high pressure continued to cover the West, resulting in warm and dry weather conditions. Scattered thundershowers are expected over Louisiana and Mississippi. Generally dry weather is predicted for the rest of the Gulf Coast with highs in the 90s. *(National Interagency Fire Center)*

Other Tropical Cyclone Activity

There are currently no storm systems in the Western Pacific that pose any threat to any U.S. interests. *(National Hurricane Center, Joint Typhoon Warning Center)*

Earthquake Activity

During the past 24 hours minor earthquakes have been reported in central and southern Alaska, and in several parts of California. No reports of any damages or injuries. *(USGS National Earthquake Information Center)*

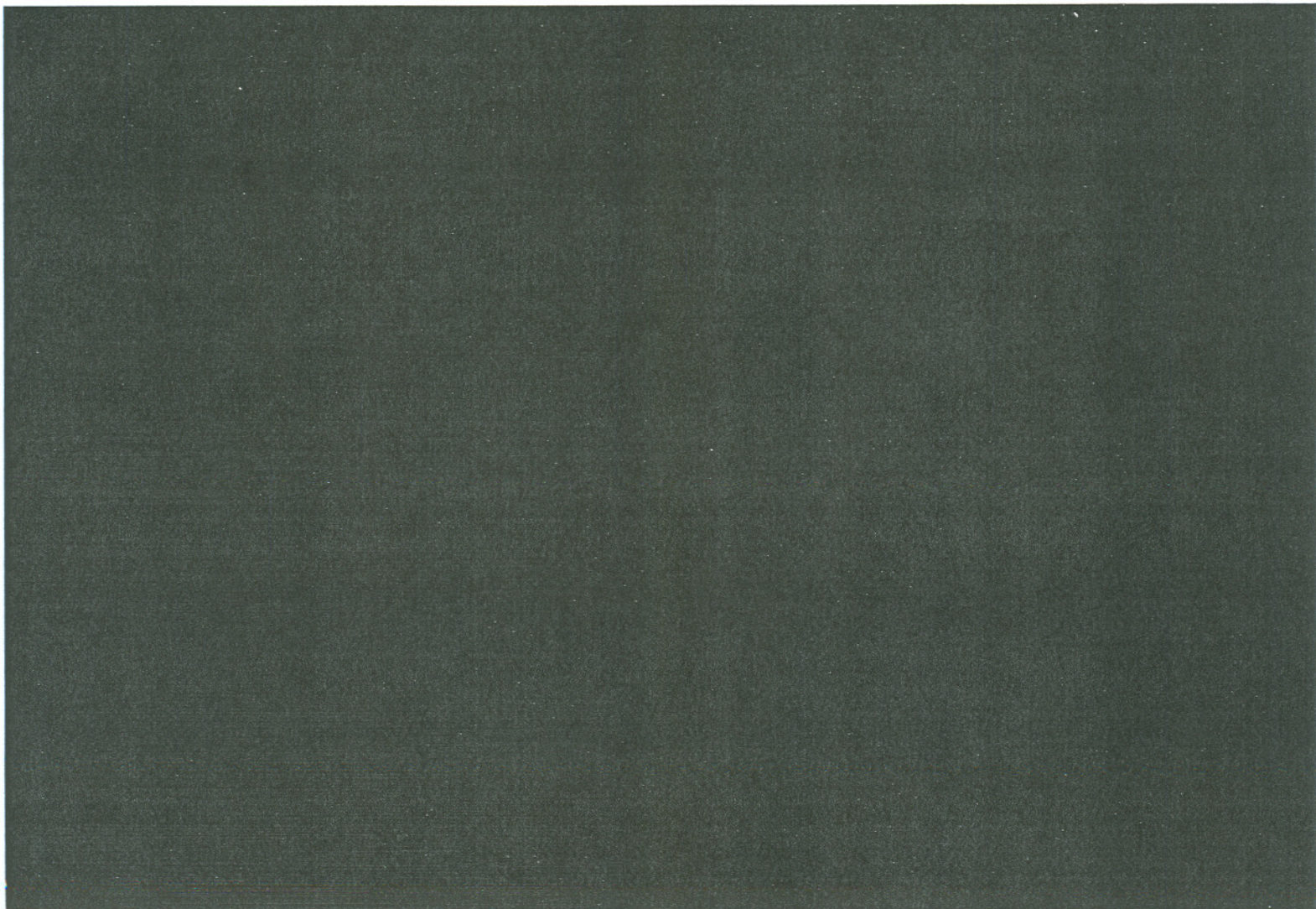
Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)

No new activity to report. *(FEMA HQ)*

Disaster Declaration Activity

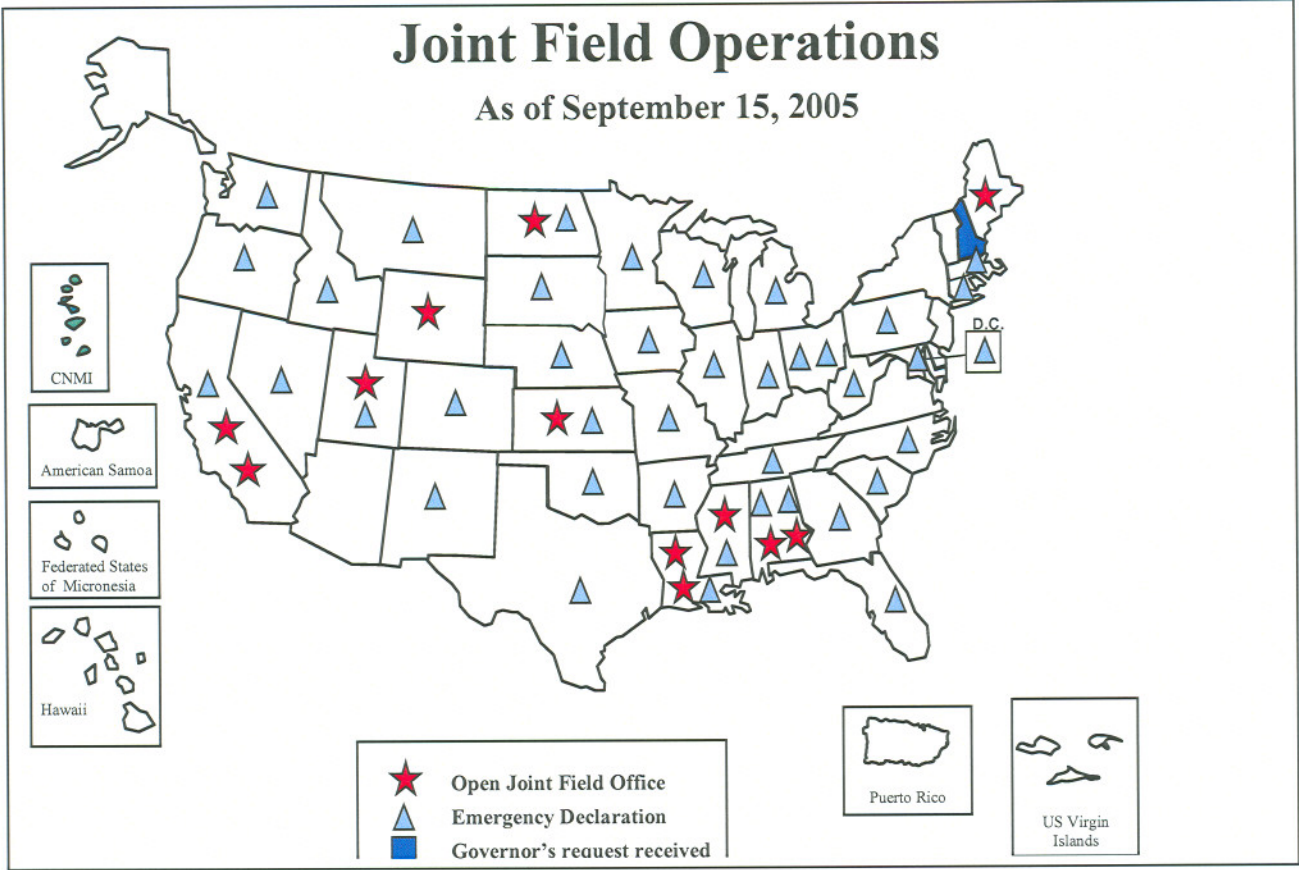
No new activity to report. *(FEMA HQ)*

FEMA Readiness Alert Status:



Disaster Teleregistration Activity Chart

DR	Incident Type	09/14/05	Cumulative
1605-AL	Hurricane Katrina	8,390	56,423
1604-MS	Hurricane Katrina	38,289	256,234
1603-LA	Hurricane Katrina	56,105	712,103
1599-WY	Tornado	4	252
	Totals	102,788	1,024,760



The FEMA National Situation Report is prepared by the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC). Questions can be addressed to NRCC watch officers via phone at 202-646-2828/4541 (staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week), via fax at 202-646-4617, or via e-mail at FEMA-NRCC@dhs.gov.