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Tropical Prediction Center



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Hurricane KATRINA

2CZC MIATDAT2 ALL
TAAO0 KNHC DDHMM
HURRICANE KATRINA DISCUSSION NUMBER 14
NWS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL
5 PM EDT FRI AUG 26 2005

MOST RECENT REPORTS FROM AN AIR FORCE HURRICANE HUNTER AIRCRAFT INDICATE THE CENTRAL PRESSURE HAS DROPPED TO 965 MB...BUT THE FLIGHT-LEVEL WINDS HAVE ONLY INCREASED TO 94 KT AT 700 MB...WHICH IS ABOUT AN 85-KT SURFACE WIND. A 1701Z DROPSONDE IN THE NORTHEAST QUADRANT REPORTED 85 KT SURFACE WINDS. THEREFORE...THE INITIAL INTENSITY IS HELD AT 85 KT FOR THIS ADVISORY...EVEN THOUGH THE CENTRAL PRESSURE SUPPORTS ABOUT 95-KT SURFACE WINDS. THE EYEWALL IN THE NORTHWEST QUADRANT HAS REMAINED OPEN...PROBABLY DUE TO DRY AIR ENTRAINMENT...AND THIS MAY PARTLY EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE OBSERVED WINDS AND WHAT THE CENTRAL PRESSURE TYPICALLY SUPPORTS.

THE INITIAL MOTION IS WEST-SOUTHWESTWARD...OR 255 DEGRESS...AT 07 KT. KATRINA REMAINS CAUGHT BETWEEN THE NORTHEASTERLY FLOW ON THE WEST SIDE OF AN INVERTED TROUGH OVER THE WESTERN CARIBBEAN SEA AND THE NORTHEASTERLY FLOW IN THE SOUTHEAST QUADRANT OF THE SUBTROPICAL RIDGE LOCATED TO THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST OF KATRINA. BOTH THE RIDGE AND TROUGH ARE FORECAST TO SLOWLY WEAKEN OVER THE NEXT 12-24 HOURS...WHICH ALLOW THE HURRICANE TO TURN MORE WESTWARD...AND MOST OF THE NHC MODEL GUIDANCE AGREES ON THAT SCENARIO. AFTER 24 HOURS...THE MODELS ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT ON A SHORTWAVE TROUGH CURRENTLY OVER THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL PLAINS STATES TO GRADUALLY DIG SOUTHEASTWARD TOWARD THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO AND ERODE THE RIDGE...WHICH ALLOWS KATRINA TO MOVE NORTHWARD BY 72 HOURS. AS A RESULT...THE MODELS HAVE SHIFTED SIGNIFICANTLY WESTWARD AND ARE NOW IN BETTER AGREEMENT. THIS HAS RESULTED IN THE OFFICIAL FORECAST TRACK BEING SHIFTED ABOUT 150 NMI WEST OF THE PREVIOUS TRACK...ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE GUIDANCE ENVELOPE. HOWEVER...PROJECTED LANDFALL IS STILL ABOUT 72 HOURS AWAY...SO FURTHER MODIFICATIONS IN THE FORECAST TRACK ARE POSSIBLE.

KATRINA IS EXPECTED TO BE MOVING OVER THE GULF LOOP CURRENT AFTER 36 HOURS...WHICH WHEN COMBINED WITH DECREASING VERTICAL SHEAR...SHOULD ALLOW THE HURRICANE TO REACH CATEGORY FOUR STATUS BEFORE LANDFALL OCCURS. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE SHIPS AND GFDL MODELS...WHICH BRING KATRINA UP TO 118 KT. THE FSU SUPERENSEMBLE MODEL IS MORE ROBUST AND BRINGS KATRINA UP TO 129 KT JUST BEFORE LANDFALL.

FORECASTER STEWART

FORECAST POSITIONS AND MAX WINDS

INITIAL	26/2100Z	24.8N	82.9W	85 KT
12HR VT	27/0600Z	24.9N	83.9W	90 KT
24HR VT	27/1800Z	25.2N	85.1W	95 KT

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36HR VT	28/0600Z	25.8N	86.4W	100	KT
48HR VT	28/1800Z	26.9N	87.7W	105	KT
72HR VT	29/1800Z	30.0N	88.5W	115	KT
96HR VT	30/1800Z	35.0N	86.5W	35	KT...INLAND
120HR VT	31/1800Z	40.5N	79.0W	25	KT...DISSIPATING INLAND

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Hurricane KATRINA

ZCZC MIASPFAT2 ALL
 TTAA00 KNHC DDHMM
 HURRICANE KATRINA PROBABILITIES NUMBER 15
 NWS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL
 11 PM EDT FRI AUG 26 2005

PROBABILITIES FOR GUIDANCE IN HURRICANE PROTECTION
 PLANNING BY GOVERNMENT AND DISASTER OFFICIALS

AT 11 PM EDT...0300Z...THE CENTER OF KATRINA WAS LOCATED NEAR
 LATITUDE 24.6 NORTH...LONGITUDE 83.6 WEST

CHANCES OF CENTER OF THE HURRICANE PASSING WITHIN 65 NAUTICAL MILES
 OF LISTED LOCATIONS THROUGH 8PM EDT MON AUG 29 2005

LOCATION	A	B	C	D	E	LOCATION	A	B	C	D	E
25.0N 86.0W	46	X	X	X	46	BURAS LA	X	2	11	6	19
26.0N 87.5W	20	10	X	X	30	NEW ORLEANS LA	X	X	8	9	17
27.0N 89.0W	1	15	6	1	23	NEW IBERIA LA	X	X	2	12	14
MUAN 219N 850W	2	X	X	X	2	PORT ARTHUR TX	X	X	X	9	9
JACKSONVILLE FL	X	X	X	2	2	GALVESTON TX	X	X	X	7	7
VENICE FL	1	1	X	1	3	FREEPORT TX	X	X	X	5	5
TAMPA FL	X	1	1	1	3	PORT O CONNOR TX	X	X	X	3	3
CEDAR KEY FL	X	1	1	3	5	GULF 29N 85W	1	9	3	2	15
ST MARKS FL	X	1	4	4	9	GULF 29N 87W	1	13	5	2	21
APALACHICOLA FL	X	5	5	3	13	GULF 28N 89W	X	11	9	2	22
PANAMA CITY FL	X	5	6	4	15	GULF 28N 91W	X	1	11	5	17
PENSACOLA FL	X	2	9	6	17	GULF 28N 93W	X	X	2	9	11
MOBILE AL	X	1	8	8	17	GULF 28N 95W	X	X	X	6	6
GULFPORT MS	X	1	8	9	18	GULF 27N 96W	X	X	X	3	3


COLUMN DEFINITION PROBABILITIES IN PERCENT
 A IS PROBABILITY FROM NOW TO 8PM SAT
 FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL PROBABILITIES
 B FROM 8PM SAT TO 8AM SUN
 C FROM 8AM SUN TO 8PM SUN
 D FROM 8PM SUN TO 8PM MON
 E IS TOTAL PROBABILITY FROM NOW TO 8PM MON
 X MEANS LESS THAN ONE PERCENT

FORECASTER AVILA

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Hurricane KATRINA

ZCZC MIATCDAT2 ALL
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 NWS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL
 11 PM EDT FRI AUG 26 2005

THE SATELLITE PRESENTATION HAS CONTINUED TO IMPROVE AND CONSISTS OF A PERFECT A COMMA-SHAPED CLOUD PATTERN WHICH BEGINS OVER WESTERN CUBA AND WRAPS AROUND A LARGE CLUSTER OF VERY DEEP CONVECTION. THIS BAND IS PROBABLY PRODUCING NEAR TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS ALONG THE NORTH COAST OF WESTERN CUBA. ALTHOUGH THE EYE IS NOT CLEARLY VISIBLE ON IR IMAGES...RADAR DATA INDICATE THAT THE EYE IS EMBEDDED WITHIN THIS CIRCULAR AREA OF DEEP CONVECTION. T-NUMBERS FROM SAB AND TAFB HAVE INCREASED TO 5.0 ON THE DVORAK SCALE. THEREFORE... THE INITIAL INTENSITY HAS BEEN ADJUSTED TO 90 KNOTS. AN AIR FORCE RECONNAISSANCE PLANE IS SCHEDULED TO BE IN KATRINA IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS. THE HURRICANE IS EXPECTED TO BE UNDER A TYPICAL 200 MB ANTICYCLONE...WITH A CYCLONIC CIRCULATION EXTENDING UPWARD TO THAT LEVEL. THIS IS THE TYPICAL PATTERN OBSERVED IN INTENSE HURRICANES. IN ADDITION...KATRINA IS FORECAST TO MOVE DIRECTLY OVER THE WARM LOOP CURRENT OF THE GULF OF MEXICO...WHICH IS LIKE ADDING HIGH OCTANE FUEL TO THE FIRE. THEREFORE...THE OFFICIAL FORECAST BRINGS KATRINA TO 115 KNOTS...OR A CATEGORY FOUR ON THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE. THE GFDL IS MORE AGGRESSIVE AND CALLS FOR 124 KNOTS AND 922 MB. THE FSU SUPERENSEMBLE IS EVEN MORE AGGRESSIVE BRINGING KATRINA TO 131 KNOTS.

KATRINA CONTINUES TO MOVE STUBBORNLY TOWARD THE WEST-SOUTHWEST OR 250 DEGREES AT 7 KNOTS ALONG THE EASTERN SIDE OF A VERY STRONG DEEP-LAYER MEAN HIGH CENTERED OVER TEXAS. IN FACT...DATA FROM THE NOAA JET JUST RELAYED BY THE METEOROLOGIST ONBOARD INDICATE THAT THE HIGH CONTINUES TO BE VERY STRONG. HOWEVER...THIS FEATURE IS EXPECTED TO MOVE WESTWARD AND LEAVE A WEAKNESS OVER THE CENTRAL GULF OF MEXICO. KATRINA WILL LIKELY TAKE THAT OPPORTUNITY AND BEGIN TO TURN GRADUALLY TOWARD THE WEST-NORTHWEST AND THEN NORTHWARD. THE OFFICIAL FORECAST BRINGS THE CORE OF THE INTENSE HURRICANE OVER THE NORTH CENTRAL GULF OF MEXICO IN 48 HOURS OR SO. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE GUIDANCE SPREAD HAS DECREASED AND MOST OF THE RELIABLE NUMERICAL MODEL TRACKS ARE NOW CLUSTERED BETWEEN THE EASTERN COAST OF LOUISIANA AND THE COAST OF MISSISSIPPI. THIS CLUSTERING INCREASES THE CONFIDENCE IN THE FORECAST.

FORECASTER AVILA

FORECAST POSITIONS AND MAX WINDS

INITIAL	27/0300Z	24.6N	83.6W	90 KT
12HR VT	27/1200Z	24.6N	84.6W	100 KT
24HR VT	28/0000Z	25.0N	86.0W	115 KT
36HR VT	28/1200Z	26.0N	87.5W	115 KT
48HR VT	29/0000Z	27.0N	89.0W	115 KT

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72HR VT	30/0000Z	30.5N	89.5W	115 KT	
96HR VT	31/0000Z	35.0N	87.5W	35 KT	... INLAND
120HR VT	01/0000Z	40.5N	81.0W	25 KT	... BECOMING EXTRATROPICAL

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