

Severe Weather Advisory for Texas, USA

Hurricane Harvey

Issued on Saturday 26th August 2017 at 06:20 local time.

Headline

Hurricane Harvey makes landfall on Saturday morning with significant rainfall and flooding expected over the next 4-5 days.

Impacts

Although Harvey has now moved onshore and the winds are expected to ease through Saturday, the main hazard is expected to be from excessive rainfall and flooding that is likely to persist through to the middle of next week.

Rain: Heavy rain is expected across a large part of E Texas through to next Wednesday, including the cities of Corpus Christi, Houston, Galveston and Austin. Total rain accumulations of 400-700mm are expected quite widely, but some locations are likely to see in excess of 1000mm along the mid- and upper-Texas coast. These rainfall amounts are likely to result in life-threatening flooding, including a risk of dam/levee breaches.

Storm surge: The deepest water will likely have occurred near and to the northeast of the landfall location between Port Aransas and Port O'Connor where a storm surge of up to 4m is possible. However, with Harvey moving inland, this threat should ease through Saturday.

Wind: Hurricane conditions have been measured at several locations with a sustained wind speed of 111mph recorded in Aransas near Corpus Christi. These are expected to ease through Saturday, although tropical storm conditions are expected to spread inland through the day, and persist along parts of the coast until at least Sunday. Structural damage to homes and businesses, as well as disruption to power supplies are inevitable with maximum sustained winds of around 130mph at landfall, these most likely between Port Aransas and Port O'Connor.

Discussion

Hurricane Harvey made landfall near Rockport, Texas at around 4am on Saturday morning with maximum sustained winds of 130mph, equivalent to a category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

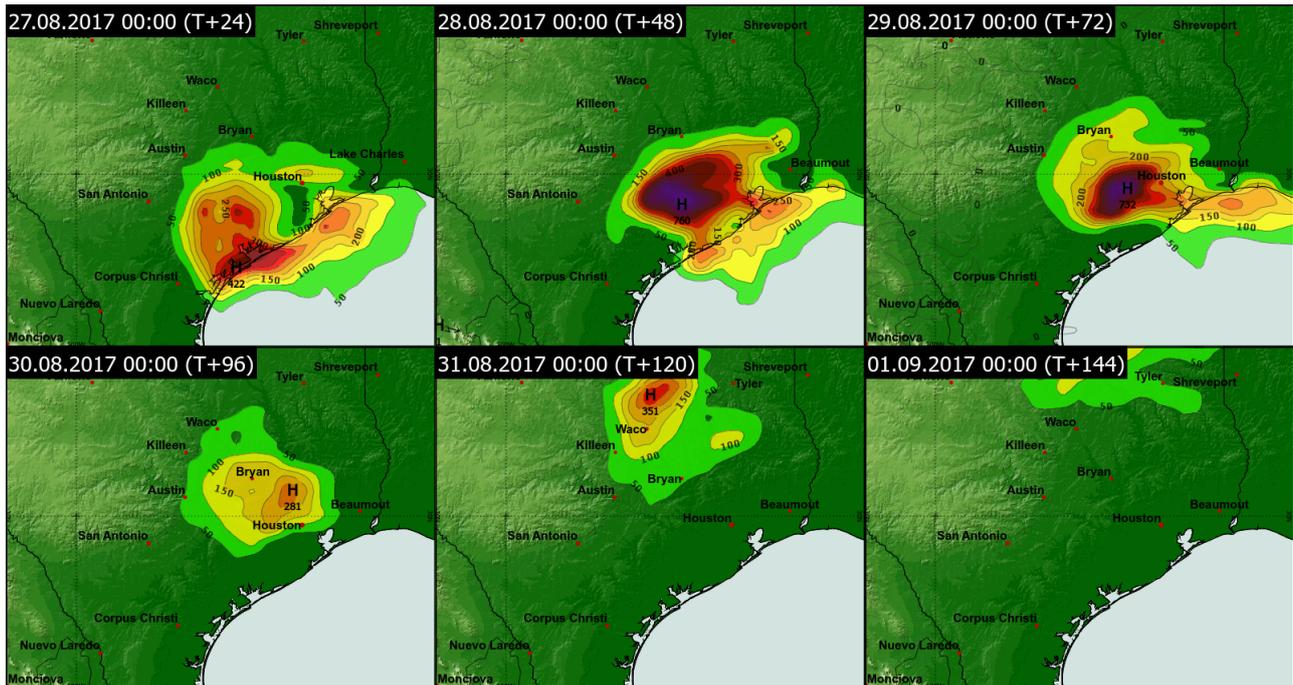
Whilst Harvey is now expected to weaken as the centre of the system moves inland, there is good model agreement for it to become slow-moving through the remainder of the weekend into early next week. There is some uncertainty in the exact position of Harvey by Monday, and there is a possibility that the system could re-emerge over the coast temporarily. However, the greatest threat associated with Harvey is now rainfall and the area bounded by approximately Beaumont, Austin and Corpus Christi appears most likely to receive historic rainfall amounts. Typically, this region receives between 60mm (inland) and 100mm (coast) of rainfall during the month of August. The last hurricane of this strength to affect Texas was Hurricane Carla in 1961.

This forecast may be amended at any time

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24-hour rainfall accumulations from the 26/00Z Met Office Global model. The timestamps relate to the end of each 24-hour period.

Sources

Met Office, NOAA NHC, ECMWF, NCEP, NCAR.

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