

Severe Weather Advisory for the Caribbean - Hurricane Jose

Issued on Monday, 11th September 2017 at 1510UTC.

Headline

Hurricane Jose is now well to the north of the Northern Leeward Islands and Puerto Rico and has recently weakened to Category 2. As such there are no associated Tropical Storm or Hurricane watches in force.

There is large uncertainty as to the evolution for Hurricane Jose later this week, with a risk that Jose moves towards the Turks & Caicos and the Bahamas from Thursday. The latest forecast tracks from NHC have shifted slightly further south to encompass more of the Turks & Caicos and the Bahamas.

Discussion

Hurricane Jose continues to weaken, with maximum sustained winds of 90KT (105mph) which makes it a Category 2 hurricane. Jose was located around 305 miles NE of Grand Turk Island at 11/1500UTC. Jose is continuing to move N at 9 mph taking the core of the storm further across the Western Atlantic. Jose is expected to slow down and gradually weaken while moving north across the Western Atlantic, then turn to the E-NE on Tuesday before potentially recurving south and west. By the end of the week there is large uncertainty with weather models showing a range of possible outcomes.

The latest Met Office Global Model output represents a reasonable worst case scenario and shows the potential for Jose to cross the Turks and Caicos Islands and then the Bahamas on Friday and Saturday; and then to potentially affect the SE of Florida on Saturday/Sunday with further deepening off the coast. At this stage, the Met Office Global Model is towards the southern extreme of the forecast cone (Fig 1) but it should be noted that it performed very well over the track of Hurricane Irma.

Latest information of track of Jose can be found here at http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/graphics_at2.shtml?cone#contents . The National Hurricane Centre is the official agency for issuing forecasts and warnings for tropical storms and hurricanes in the North Atlantic basin. Decision making should be based on these official forecasts.

Impacts:

Winds: Hurricane Jose is tracking over open water through the next 4 days so no islands are expected to be impacted. There is a risk that the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahamas area affected by tropical storm force winds on Friday and Saturday.

Storm Surge & Flooding: Significant storm surge is unlikely at this stage, though a small surge may affect Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahamas on Friday and Saturday. Heavy rain may lead to further flooding on Friday and Saturday.

Rainfall: The next few days are expected to be dry across the northern Leeward Islands or the British Virgin Islands. Heavy showers are possible across the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahamas over the next few days, with the potential for more persistent heavy rain on Friday and Saturday. This may give 100-200mm and lead to flooding.

This forecast may be amended at any time

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Figure 1: 11/1445 UTC IR satellite image.

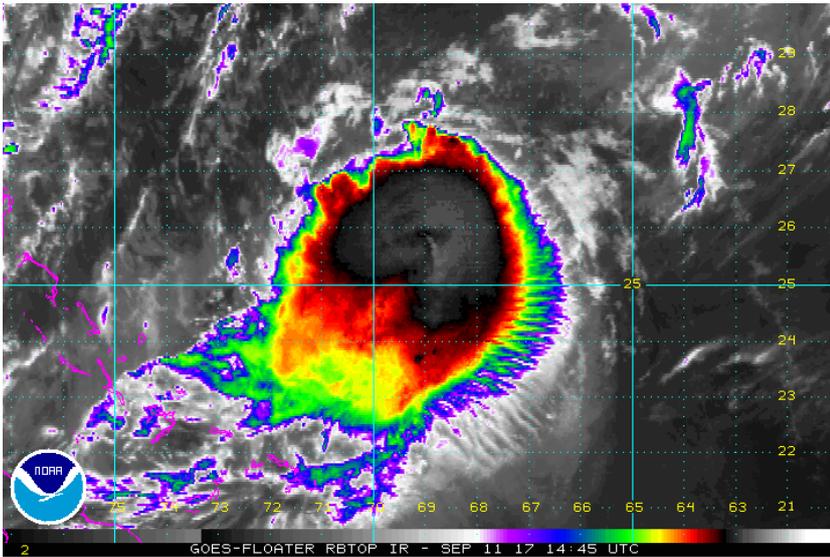
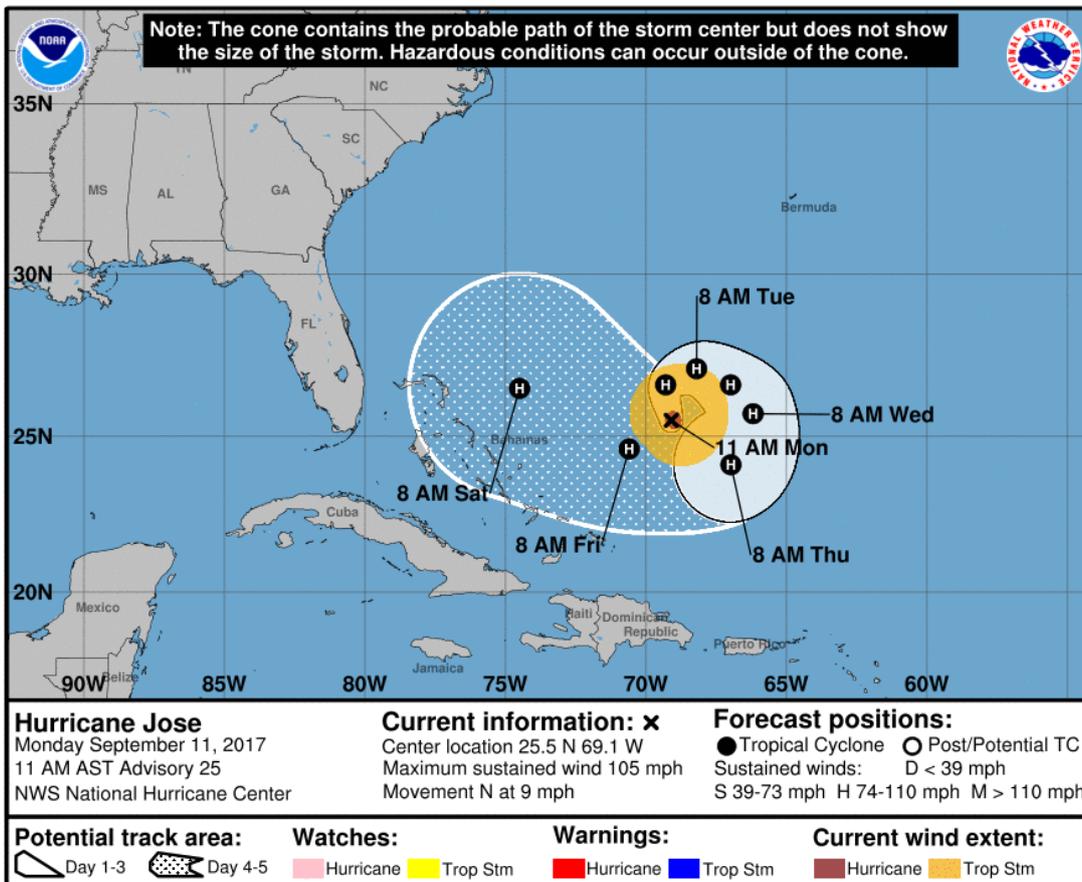


Figure 2: 11/1500UTC official forecast track and cone of uncertainty for Hurricane Jose from the National Hurricane Centre. Times on the graphic are in AST (UTC-4). **Note there are no Hurricane watches in force for this storm.**



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Figure 3: Latest (11/00 UTC) ensemble spread of tracks from the Met Office, ECMWF and NCEP.

This shows the range of possibilities for the track of Jose during the next 7 days. This latest run is consistent with previous issues. Note the consistent tracks from the ensemble members for the next few days, with a large spread for the end of the forecast.

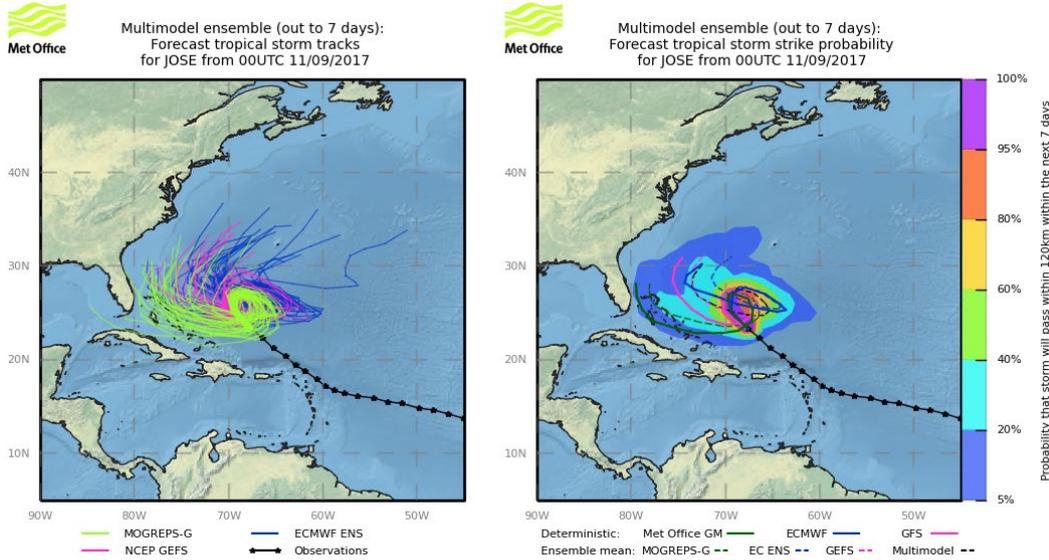
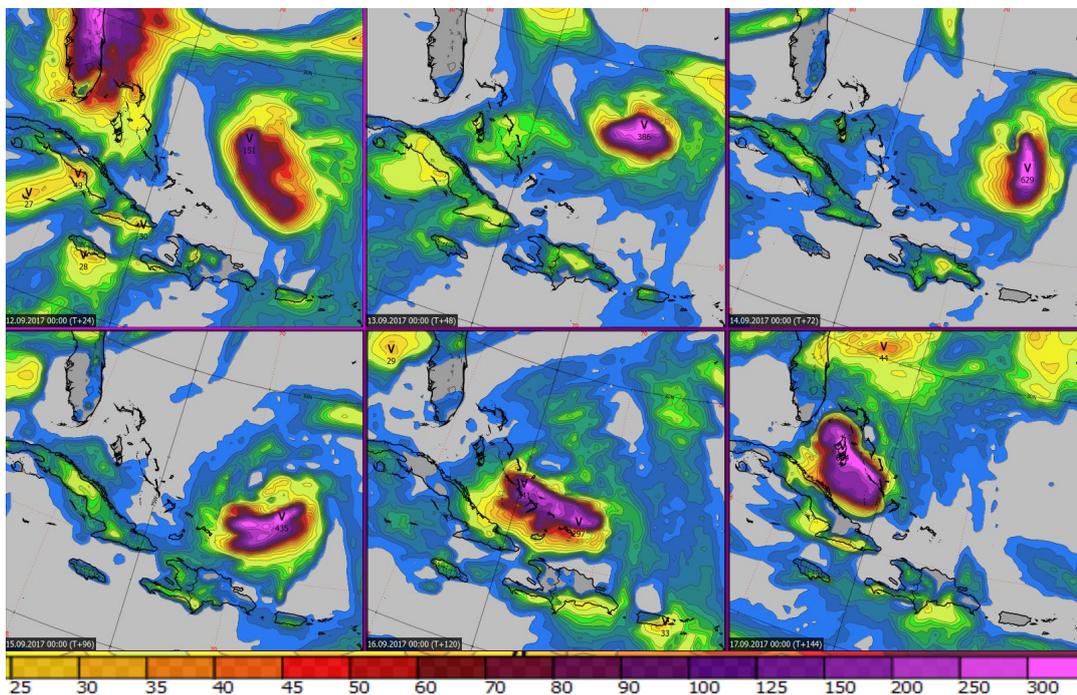


Figure 4: 11/00Z UKGM 24 hour rainfall totals for the next 6 days in millimetres. Monday (top left), to Friday (bottom right).



Sources

NHC, UK Met Office, ECMWF, NCEP, and various media reports.

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