

Significant Coastal Storm Impacts Likely Sunday into Monday Afternoon

February 7-8, 2016

**Eastern North Carolina
Threat Assessment**

**National Weather Service
Newport/Morehead City, NC**

Significant Wind Impacts

- **Wind Details:**

- A strong coastal low will bring strong northerly to northwesterly winds sustained at 30 to 40 mph along the entire coast of the Outer Banks through the vicinity of Cape Lookout. Gusts as high as 60 mph are possible.
- A **High Wind Warning** is in effect for Outer Banks Dare, Outer Banks Hyde, and Carteret Counties.
- There is a potential for minor structural damage, trees down, and power outages from these winds. **Trees may be especially vulnerable to falling due to saturated ground from recent heavy rains.**
- Further inland wind advisories are in effect across Onslow, Jones, Craven, Pamlico, Beaufort, Tyrrell, and Mainland Hyde and Dare Counties. Winds sustained at 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 45 mph are possible there resulting in potential for some downed trees due to saturated soil conditions and potential power outages.

- **Timing:**

- Strong north to northeast winds will develop early Sunday morning, becoming north to northwest Sunday evening.
- Winds will peak later Sunday afternoon into early evening.
- Winds will remain high on the Outer banks Monday Morning as they become westerly...diminishing Monday Afternoon.

- **Confidence:**

- **Medium-High confidence** in significant wind impacts.
- A few forecast model solutions keep a storm track further offshore however, which would limit wind speeds by about 10 to 15 mph less, but there would still be some impacts expected from the winds especially along the immediate coast.

Significant Coastal Impacts

- **Coastal Flooding/High Surf Details:**

- Water levels rises of **3 to 5 feet above normal** are possible anywhere on the Outer Banks, both Sound and Ocean Side. This includes Ocracoke, Downeast Carteret County, and Core Banks predominately sound side.
- **Highway 12 May be under water and impassable** in typically vulnerable locations along the Outer Banks, on Ocracoke, and near Cedar Island.
- Portions of Hatteras Village, Frisco, and Buxton will likely be inundated 1 to 3 feet above ground. Portions of Ocracoke Village and Downeast Carteret County will be inundated 1 to 2 feet above ground.
- Ocean side from Cape Hatteras North expect significant erosion from large battering waves. Vulnerable homes in the surf zone could sustain damage.
- **Storm Force Wind Warnings on the Sounds and Coastal Waters** producing treacherous boating conditions.

- **Timing:**

- Water level rises will begin Sunday Morning across the area peaking Sunday Night through about Noon in Carteret County and Ocracoke, but potentially continuing into Monday Afternoon on the Outer Banks.

- **Confidence:**

- **High confidence** in significant coastal impacts.
- A few forecast model solutions keep a storm track further offshore however, which would limit water level rises a bit especially for Carteret County and Ocracoke. Regardless of exact track expect significant erosion, overwash, and inundation on the Outer Banks.

Other Impacts

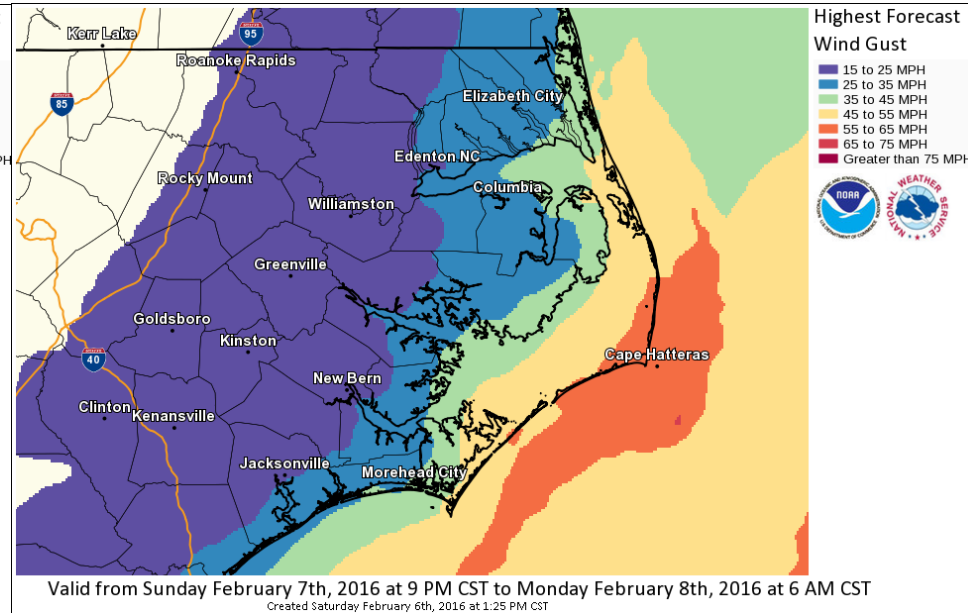
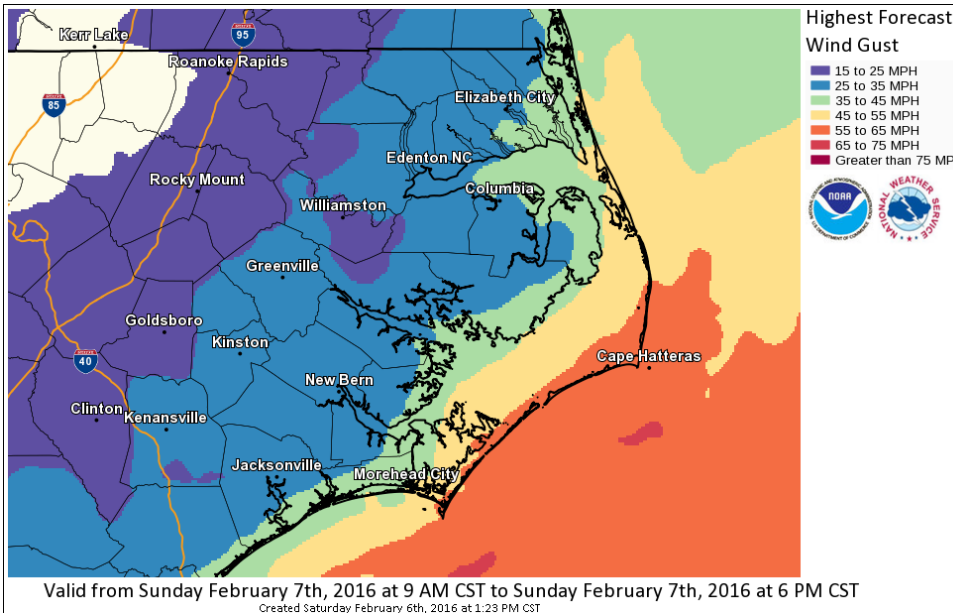
- **Rainfall/Flooding**

- Rainfall amounts of 1 to 2 inches during the storm could result in minor flooding issues on the already saturated ground. Flooding impacts from rainfall will be minor compared to the coastal flooding impacts.

- **Snow**

- A brief mix or short period of wet snow is possible Sunday Morning at the onset of this event, however the probability of any accumulation is low. No significant impact to roadways or travel from winter weather is expected.

Wind Gusts Sunday & Sunday Night

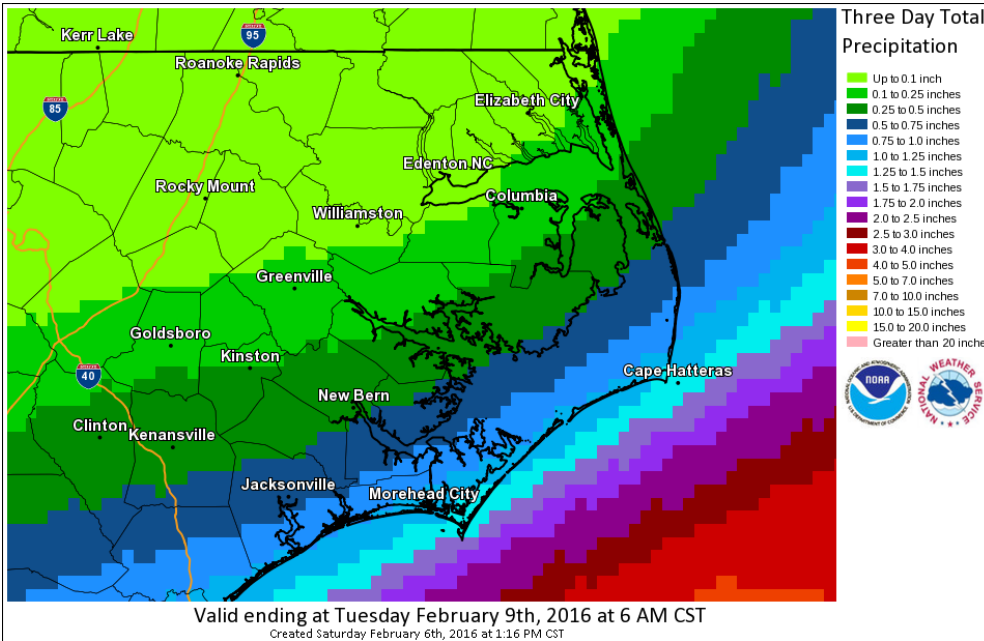


Damaging wind gusts 50-60 mph possible along the Outer Banks and Downeast Carteret County.

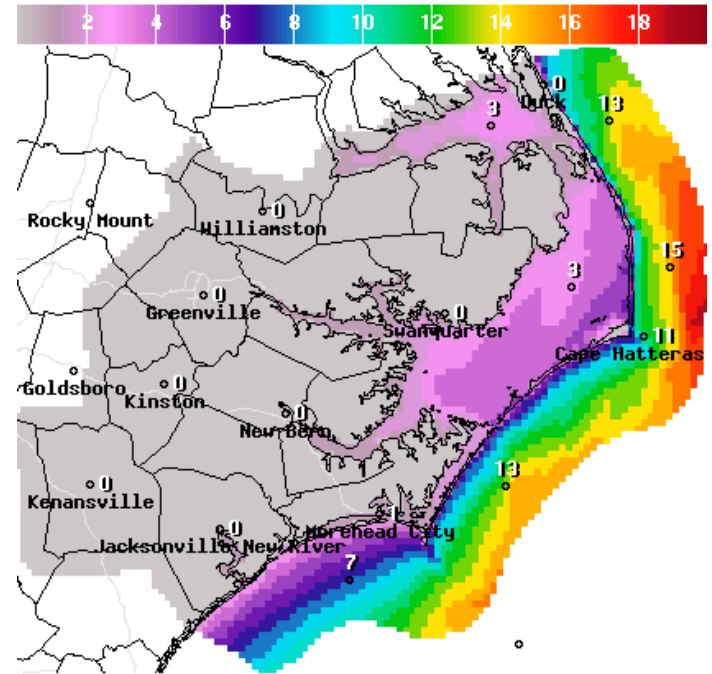
Rainfall and Wave Height

Rainfall through Sunday Night

Waves peaking on Sunday Night



Rain averaging around 1 to 1.5 inches for southern coast.

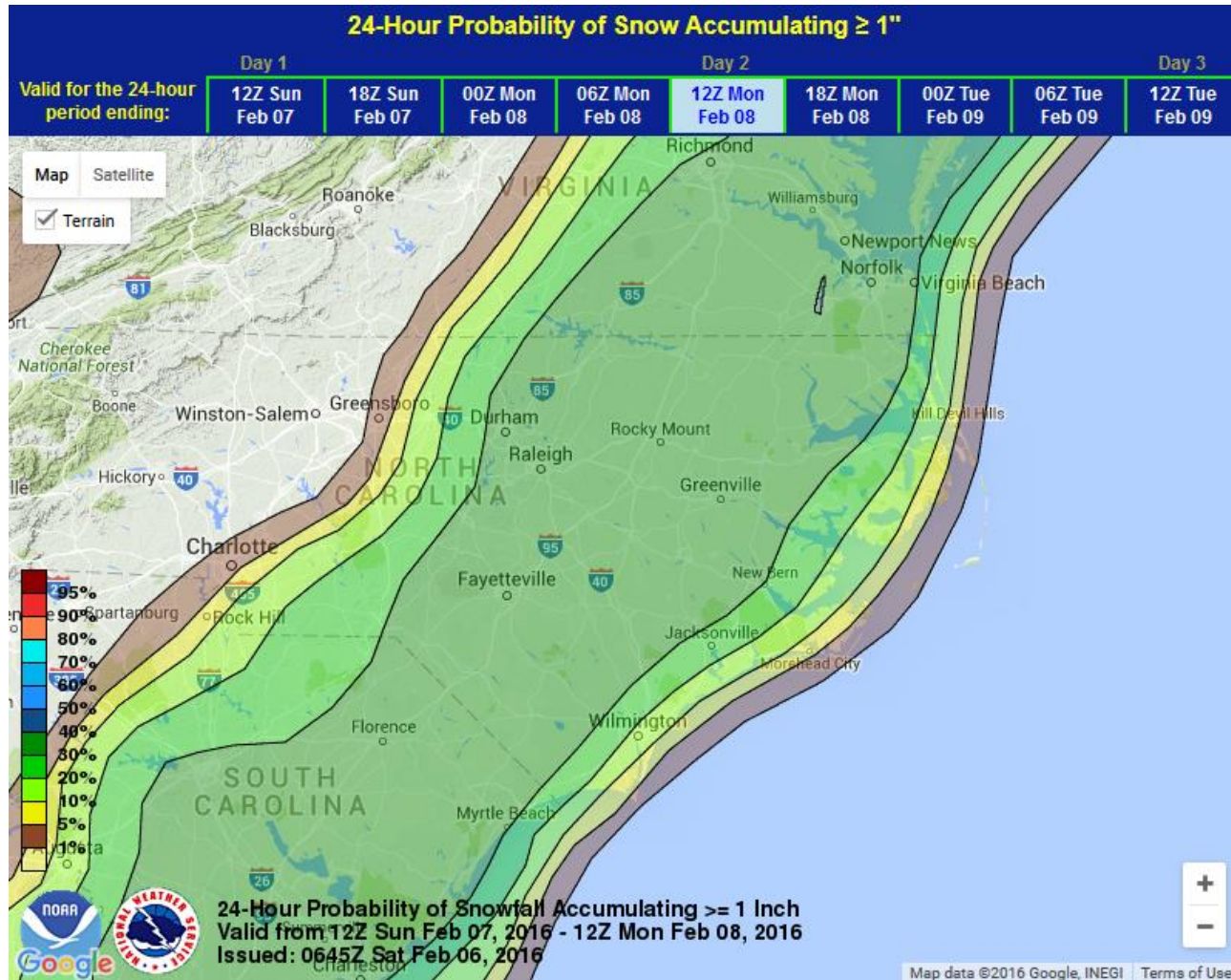


NWS Newport/Morehead City, NC
Graphic Created Feb 06 2:04PM EST



Wave heights nearing 20 feet for the central coastal waters Sunday evening.

Small Chances for Accumulating Snow



Only a small (30-40%) chance of minor snow accumulations for the coastal plain counties on Sunday Morning.

For updates call the forecaster on Duty
(252) 223-5122 x5

References:

[NWS Newport/Morehead City Webpage](#)

[National Ocean Service Tide Level Forecasts](#)

[WPC Forecast Maps](#)

[Rainfall Forecasts \(QPF\)](#)

[WPC Winter Weather Forecasts](#)

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