



Situation Report Tropical Storm Ernesto

August 29, 2006 at 08:45 Hrs.

Emergency Operations - Level: 3

Current Situation:

AT 800 AM EDT THE CENTER OF TROPICAL STORM ERNESTO WAS LOCATED NEAR LATITUDE 22.8 NORTH...LONGITUDE 79.3 WEST OR ABOUT 200 MILES SOUTHEAST OF KEY WEST FLORIDA AND ABOUT 215 MILES SOUTH-SOUTHEAST OF MIAMI FLORIDA.

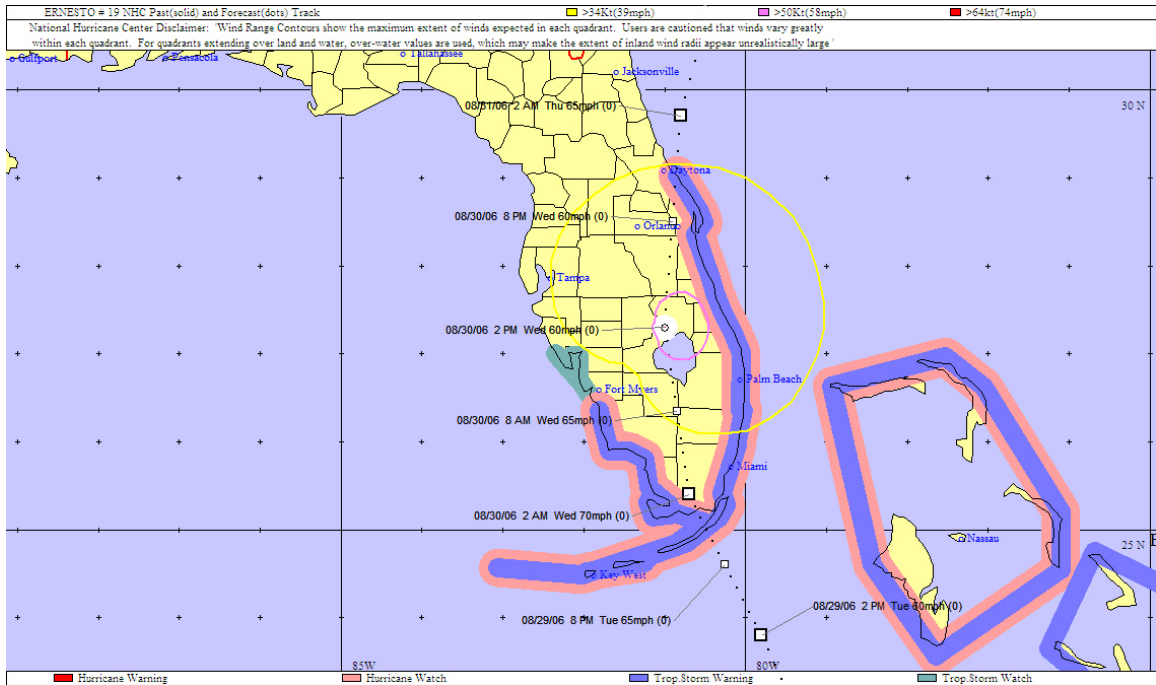
ERNESTO IS MOVING TOWARD THE NORTHWEST NEAR 14 MPH...22 KM/HR...AND THIS GENERAL MOTION IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS.ON THE FORECAST TRACK...THE CENTER OF ERNESTO WILL BE NEAR THE FLORIDA KEYS OR SOUTHEAST FLORIDA BY THIS EVENING. HOWEVER, SQUALLY RAINBANDS WILL BE MOVING ONSHORE THESE AREAS DURING THE AFTERNOON.

AN INLAND TROPICAL STORM WATCH REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR NON COASTAL AND NON TIDAL AREAS OF CHARLOTTE, LEE AND DESOTO COUNTIES; AND FOR ALL OF **POLK**, HARDEE AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES.

THESE WATCHES WILL LIKELY BE UPGRADED TO WARNINGS LATER THIS MORNING. ANY WESTWARD SHIFT IN THE TRACK WOULD REQUIRE WARNINGS FARTHER NORTH ALONG THE SUNCOAST.

EASTERLY WINDS WILL REMAIN BELOW 10 MPH TODAY. WINDS WILL INCREASE TO 10 TO 15 MPH BY MIDNIGHT ACROSS SOUTHWEST FLORIDA...AND REACH 15 TO 20 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 30 MPH IN RAIN BANDS OR THUNDERSTORMS IN CHARLOTTE AND LEE COUNTIES BY DAYBREAK WEDNESDAY. WINDS WILL SHIFT TO NORTH AND CONTINUE AT 20 TO 30 MPH WITH GUSTS UP TO 45 MPH IN STRONGER SQUALLS BY LATE MORNING BEFORE GRADUALLY DIMINISHING DURING THE AFTERNOON.

SIMILAR WINDS WILL MOVE INTO DESOTO...POLK...AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES BEFORE NOON WEDNESDAY AND CONTINUE INTO MID OR LATE AFTERNOON BEFORE DIMINISHING. WINDS WILL SHIFT TO WEST OR SOUTHWEST AND DROP BELOW 20 MPH WEDNESDAY NIGHT. THE BEST CHANCE FOR SUSTAINED TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS WILL BE IN MUCH OF LEE COUNTY...THEN ALONG AND EAST OF HIGHWAY 17 IN CHARLOTTE AND DESOTO COUNTIES...MOST OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, AND IN POLK COUNTY, MAINLY EAST OF HIGHWAY 27. (Official Track Below).



City Actions:

The City's Emergency Management Division and Support Groups are at Level 3, and will remain so for the next 24 hours. Staff should continue to monitor for fast changing conditions starting tomorrow morning. Rain fall is expected to be between 2-5 inches, with additional heavier amounts resulting from bursts along squall lines associated with early arriving rainbands. Wind blown debris from damaged vegetation may result in minor road blockages. Minor flooding of streets and roadway could occur if rain fall exceeds projected amounts. It is always possible with even low tropical force winds to experience power outages. Emergency Management Division Director will be in EOC at 8 am tomorrow and provide continuous updates through the day. Will remain at Level 3 and continue to monitor.

County & State Actions:

Polk County's EOC is at Level 3. State EOC is at Level 1.