



HURRICANE ZETA BRIEFING

11:00 AM CT

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Prepared by: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

Key Points/Changes

Hurricane Zeta



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- A **Hurricane Warning** has been issued for Stone, George, Perry, and Greene counties.
- Summary of Watches/Warnings/Advisories In Effect:
 - **Hurricane Warning** – Stone, George, Perry, and Greene Counties
 - **Tropical Storm Warning** – Wayne County MS and all of southwest/south central AL, and NW FL
 - **Storm Surge Warning** – Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, and Santa Rosa Counties
 - **Coastal Flood Advisory** – Okaloosa County
 - **High Rip Current and High Surf Warning** – Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties
 - **Flash Flood Watch** – Along and west of I-65
- Zeta will approach the southeast Louisiana coast as a hurricane and will likely still be a hurricane when it moves into southern MS.
 - Frequent hurricane force wind gusts between 75-85 mph are now **increasingly likely** in portions of southeast MS
 - Strong Tropical Storm force wind gusts between 60-70 mph are **increasingly likely** in southwest AL. Cannot rule out a few hurricane force gusts.
 - Tropical storm conditions also expected in south central Alabama and NW FL.
 - Zeta will interact with a strong upper level system as it moves inland, which will result in tropical storm force winds spreading FAR INLAND
 - **High potential for DAMAGING WINDS that can bring down numerous trees and power lines**
- The bulk of the impacts are expected this evening into early Thursday morning (conditions quickly improve after daybreak Thursday)

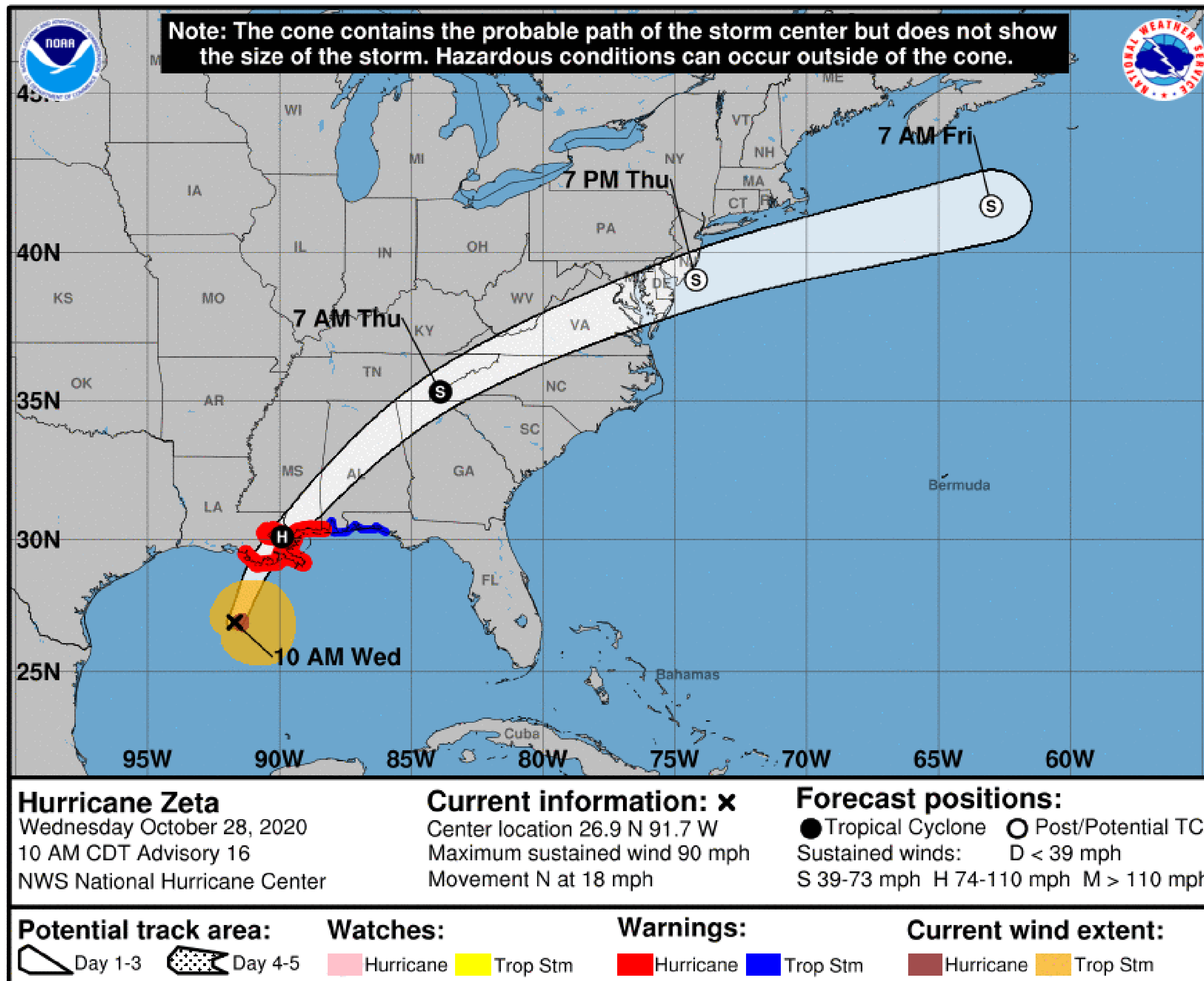
Situation Overview

Hurricane Zeta



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- **Hurricane Warning** for Stone, George, Greene, and Perry MS
- **Tropical Storm Warning** for the rest of inland southeast MS, southwest and south central AL, and northwest FL
- **Storm Surge Warning** for coastal AL to Navarre, FL. Prepare for potential storm surge of:
 - MS/AL border to Dauphin Island: 6-9 ft
 - Mobile Bay: 4-6 ft
 - Coastal Baldwin: 3-5 ft
 - AL/FL border to Navarre, FL: 2-4 ft
- Zeta will make landfall in southeast LA as a hurricane this afternoon and move into southern MS as hurricane this evening. It will still be a strong tropical storm as it moves further inland into southwest AL.
- **Impacts: PREPARE FOR DAMAGING WINDS!** Hurricane force wind gusts are likely across parts of far southeast MS. Hurricane force gusts also possible in parts of southwest AL. Tropical storm force winds will spread FAR INLAND. There is also the threat of storm surge, dangerous surf, heavy rainfall, and a few tornadoes. Most of the impacts will occur this evening into early Thursday morning.
- **Reminders:** Do NOT focus on the specific intensity as there is NOT much difference between a strong tropical storm and low-end hurricane. Impacts will occur to the east and northeast of landfall.

NOTE: Do NOT focus on the exact track. Impacts can occur well outside the area enclosed by the cone.

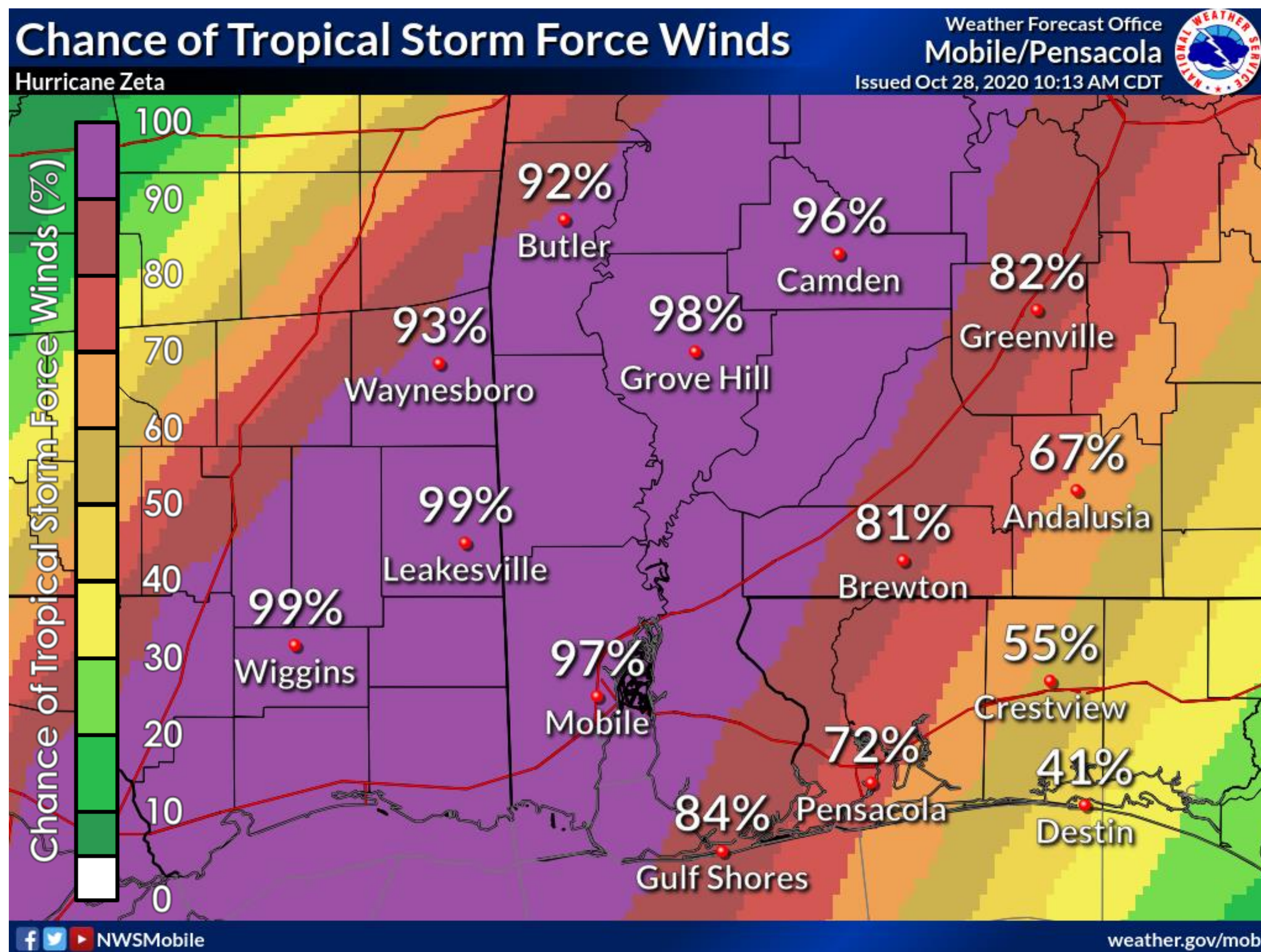
TS Wind Speed Probabilities

Hurricane Zeta



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- Probabilities continue to increase.
- There is a 9-in-10 to 10-in-10 chance for tropical storm force winds over much of southeast MS and southwest AL.
- A 4-in-10 to 8-in-10 chance of tropical storm force winds further east.

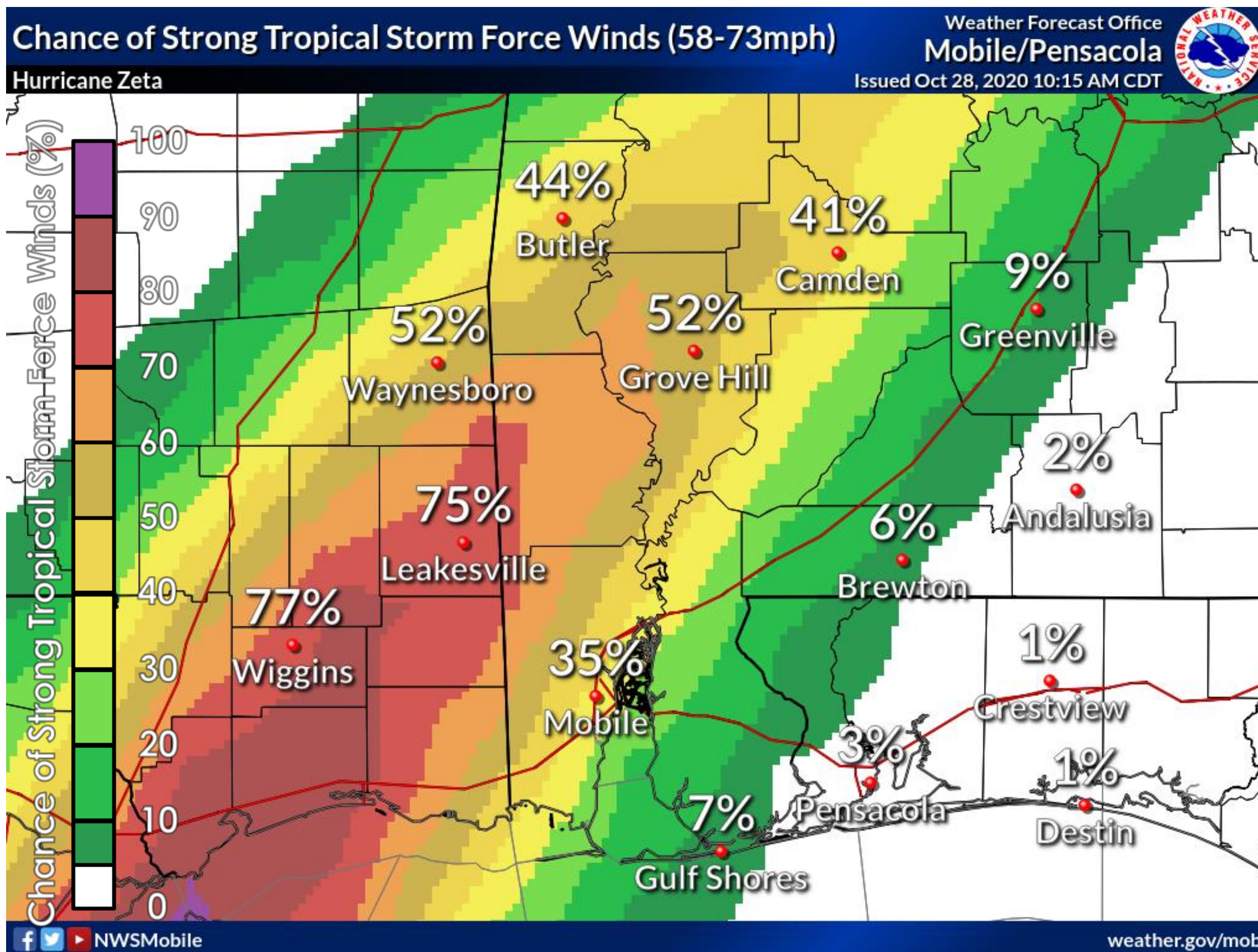
Strong TS Wind Speed Probabilities

Hurricane Zeta



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- Probabilities continue to increase across southeast MS and southwest AL.
- The chance of strong tropical storm force winds are 5-in-10 to 8-in-10 over much of southeast MS and inland southwest AL.
- Even though there are lower probabilities in closer to I-65 and in parts of Baldwin County, we are still concerned for the potential of strong tropical storm force winds.

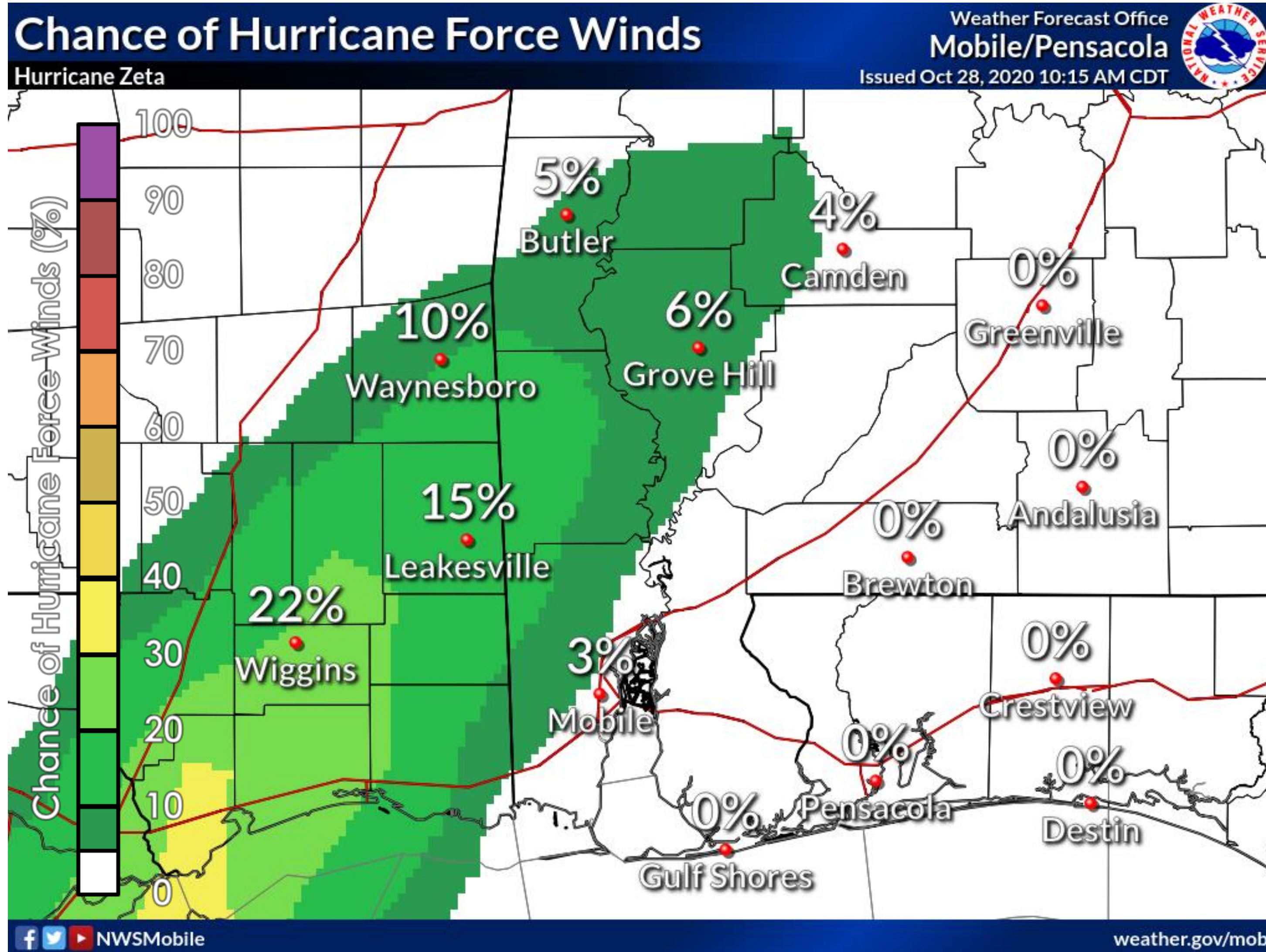
Hurricane Wind Speed Probabilities

Hurricane Zeta



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- The hurricane wind speed probabilities have increased across far southeast MS and inland southwest AL.
- Chance for hurricane force winds are now between 10-20% across far southeast MS and inland southwest AL.
- **NOTE:** Wind gusts to hurricane force are increasingly likely across southeast MS. A few gusts to hurricane force also possible across southwest Alabama.

Wind Threat / Potential Impact

Hurricane Zeta



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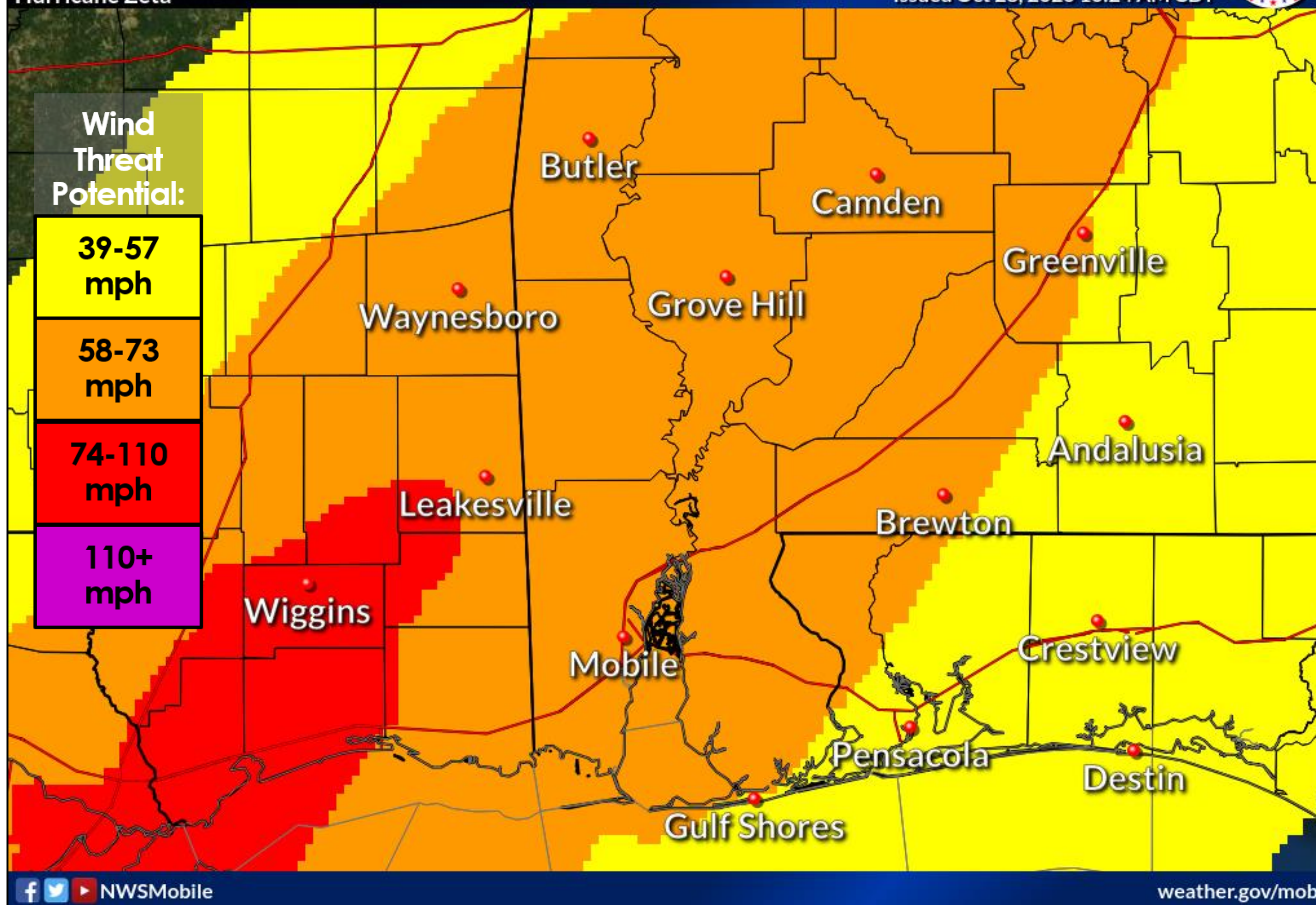
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Wind Threat

Hurricane Zeta

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- There is a potential for:
 - Numerous downed trees and powerlines across much of the area
 - **Numerous to widespread power outages across southeast Mississippi and parts of southwest Alabama.**
 - Scattered power outages are also likely farther to the east into NW FL and south central AL.



Most Likely Time Frame for Winds

| Location | Tropical Storm Force Winds | Hurricane Force Winds |
|--|--|---|
| Inland Southeast MS | This Evening Between 6pm to 11pm (a few gusts to tropical storm force possible in Stone/George Counties by 4pm) | Hurricane force wind gusts between 75-85 mph are likely this evening, especially in Stone, George, Perry, & Greene counties. A few hurricane force gusts also possible in Wayne County. |
| Coastal AL (Mobile & Baldwin Counties) | This Evening Between 6pm to midnight (gusts to tropical storm force possible by 4pm along immediate coast) | Hurricane force wind gusts up to 75 mph are possible tonight |
| Inland Southwest AL | 8pm this Evening to 2am Thursday (a few gusts to tropical storm force possible by 6pm this evening) | Hurricane force wind gusts up to 75 mph are possible tonight |
| South Central AL (Butler, Crenshaw, Covington Counties) | 10pm this Evening to 3am Thursday (a few gusts to tropical storm force possible by 8pm this evening) | Not expected at this time |
| Northwest FL | 7pm this Evening to 1am Thursday (a few gusts to tropical storm force possible by early Wednesday evening) | Not expected at this time |

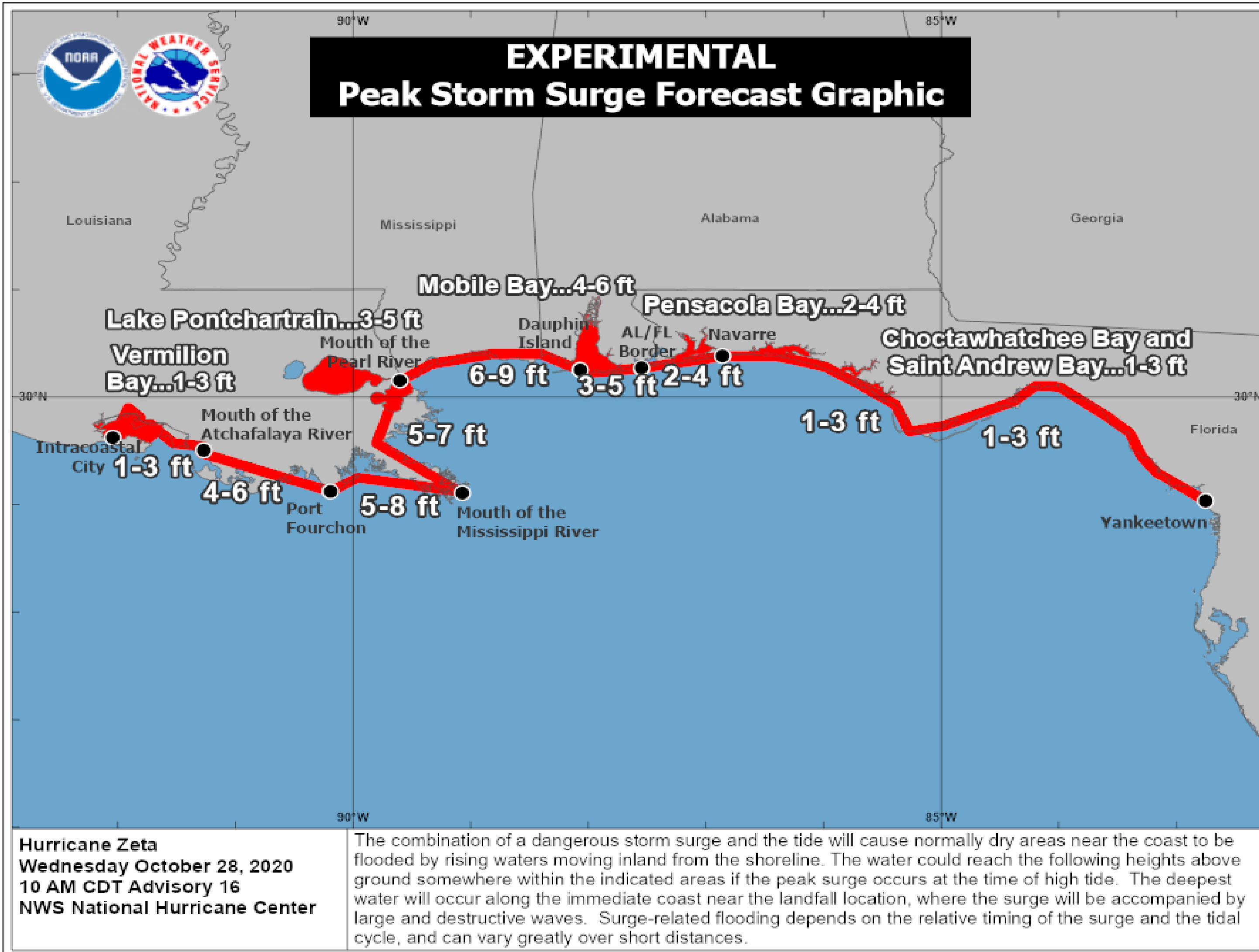
Peak Storm Surge Forecast

Hurricane Zeta



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- **Potential Storm Surge Inundation:**
 - MS/AL Border to Dauphin Island: **6-9 ft**
 - Mobile Bay: 4-6 ft
 - Coastal Baldwin: 3-5 ft
 - AL/FL Border to Navarre: 2-4 ft
 - Navarre to Destin: 1-3 ft
- **Timing:**
 - Water levels will peak roughly between 9pm and 1am.
 - Minor coastal flooding is likely to linger past daybreak Thursday through mid Thursday morning

Dangerous Surf

Hurricane Zeta



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Rip Current Risk

TODAY

Valid as of October 27, 2020 4:28 AM CDT

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Outlook for Alabama Beaches, including: Dauphin Island, Fort Morgan, Gulf Shores, & Orange Beach

| TODAY | TONIGHT | WEDNESDAY | WED NIGHT | THURSDAY | THU NIGHT | FRIDAY | FRI NIGHT |
|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| High | High | High | High | High | High | Moderate | Moderate |

Outlook for Florida Beaches, including: Pensacola Beach, Navarre Beach, Fort Walton Beach, & Destin

| TODAY | TONIGHT | WEDNESDAY | WED NIGHT | THURSDAY | THU NIGHT | FRIDAY | FRI NIGHT |
|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| High | High | High | High | High | High | Moderate | Moderate |

Low

Rip current risk is low; Life threatening rip currents often occur in the vicinity of inlets, groins, jetties, and piers. Always supervise those who cannot swim.

Moderate

Life threatening rip currents are possible; Swim near a lifeguard. Remember to heed the advice of local beach patrol and flag warning systems.

High

Life threatening rip currents are likely; The surf is dangerous for all levels of swimmers. Heed the advice of local beach patrol and flag warning systems.

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- High Surf Warning remains in effect for all coastal areas of Alabama and northwest Florida.
- Maximum Surf heights increase to 10-15 feet late this afternoon into tonight.
- Surf heights start to slowly decrease on Thursday.
- HIGH risk for rip currents through Thursday night

Forecast Storm Total Rainfall

Hurricane Zeta



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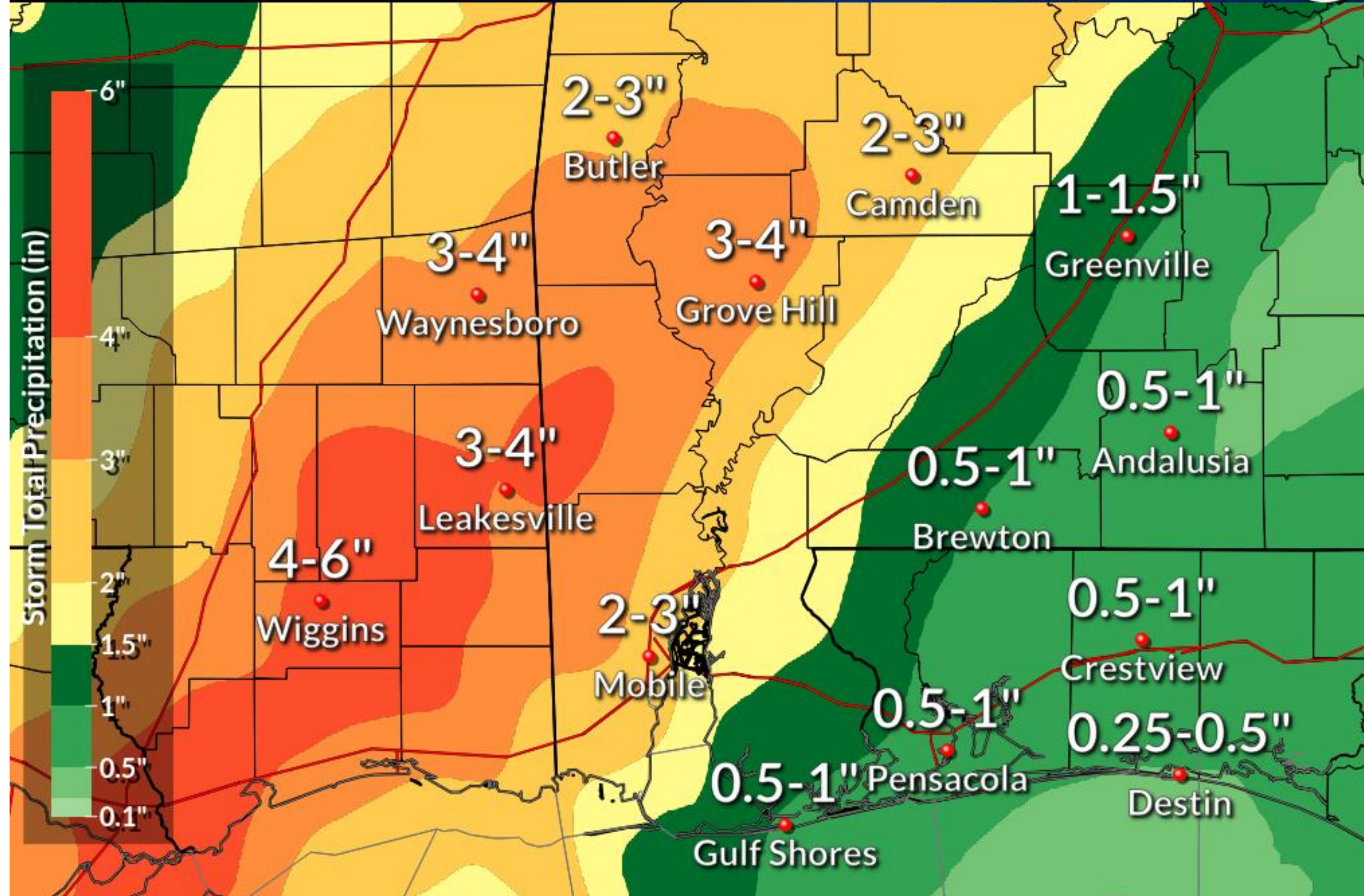
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Rainfall Forecast

Hurricane Zeta

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- Storm total rainfall amounts of 3-6" with localized totals up to 8" possible west of I-65
- Lesser rainfall amounts further east
- Heavy rain could result in localized flooding
- **Flash Flood Watch** in effect generally along and west of I-65

Potential Tornado Impacts

Hurricane Zeta

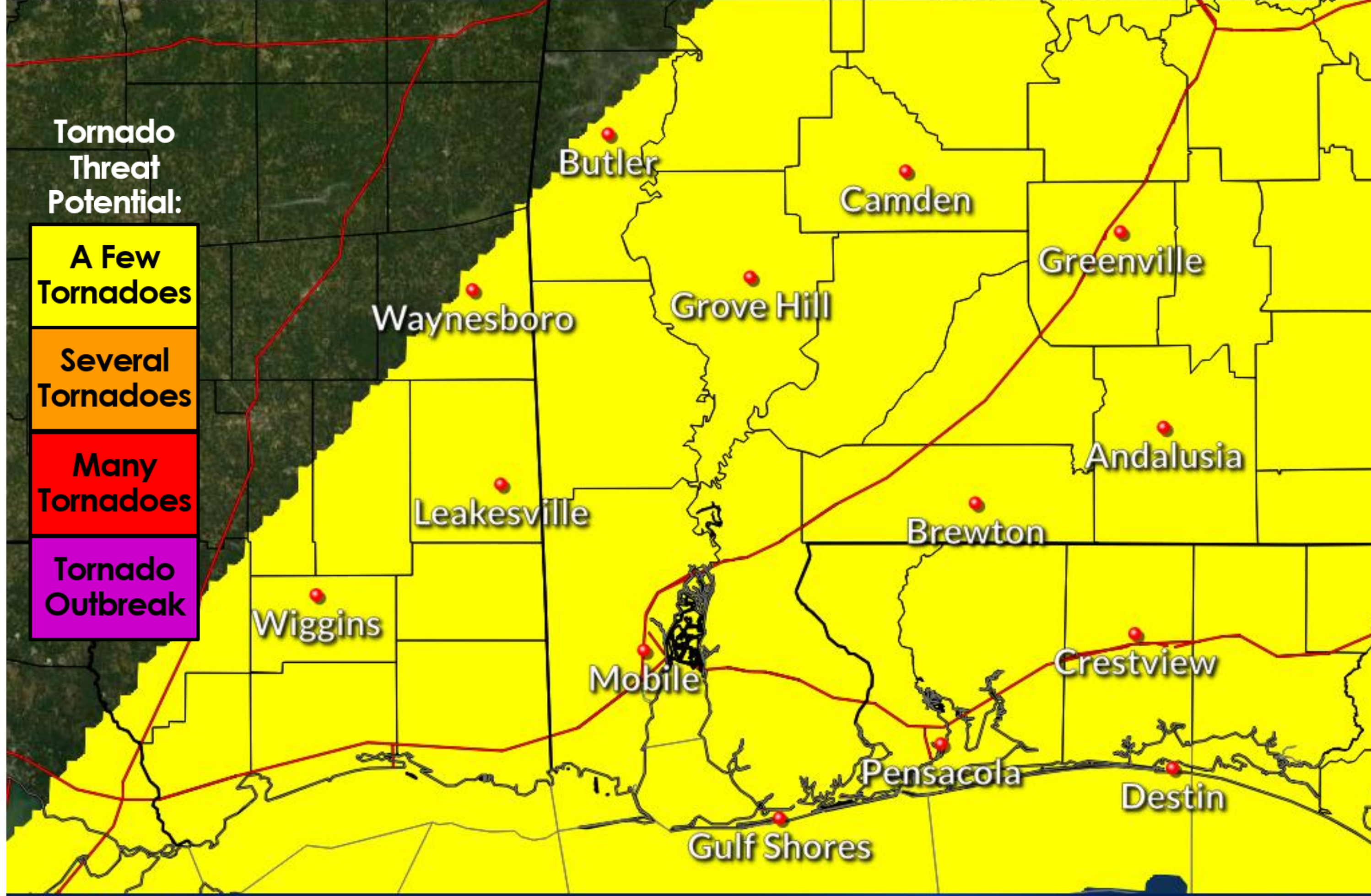


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Tornado Threat

Hurricane Zeta

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Issued Oct 28, 2020 5:06 AM CDT



- A few tornadoes will be possible late this afternoon and tonight across much of the area

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- Summary of Watches/Warnings/Advisories In Effect:
 - **Hurricane Warning** – Stone, George, Perry, and Greene Counties
 - **Tropical Storm Warning** – Rest of the area
 - **Storm Surge Warning** – Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, and Santa Rosa Counties
 - **Coastal Flood Advisory** – Okaloosa County
 - **High Rip Current and High Surf Warning** – Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties
 - **Flash Flood Watch** – Along and west of I-65
- Zeta is forecast to make landfall along the southeast Louisiana coast this afternoon/evening and quickly move across our region tonight
- Zeta will likely move into south MS as a hurricane and still be a strong tropical storm in inland SW AL.
 - Frequent hurricane force wind gusts are likely across far southeast MS
 - A few gusts to hurricane force are possible in SW AL.
 - The damaging wind threat will spread far inland
 - ***NOTE*** There is not much difference between a strong tropical storm and a minimal hurricane
- Majority of the impacts will be this evening into early Thursday morning with conditions rapidly improving by daybreak Thursday