

Severe Weather Threat Wednesday

February 24, 2016

Eastern North Carolina

Threat Assessment

National Weather Service
Newport/Morehead City, NC

Severe Threat Summary

- **Severe Thunderstorm/Tornado Threat Details:**
 - A potent upper disturbance passing to our west will support a strong surface cold front which is forecast to sweep east across Eastern NC tonight. Associated strong wind fields will encounter a warm and unstable airmass at the surface which will lead to the development of severe thunderstorms this afternoon and evening. ***It is likely that a line or multiple lines of very strong thunderstorms will develop and move across eastern NC ahead of a cold front. There is the potential for strong tornado development, although isolated, as this line moves east.***
- **Impact:**
 - ***This is expected to be a high impact severe event. Severe storms are likely and they have the potential to be a stronger than a normal severe weather outbreak for this area.*** Severe Thunderstorm wind gusts could be on the upper end of what is typically experienced in this area. In addition, the potential exists for stronger tornadoes than what is typically experience in this area. EF1-3 type damage is possible. There will also be strong gradient winds ahead of and behind any storms that may contribute to impacts. The very wet ground and additional rain ahead of this system will enhance the potential for downed trees.
- **Timing:**
 - The ***main threat*** will occur from ***mid to late afternoon into the early evening hours*** as the line of showers and thunderstorms moves from west to east.
- **Confidence:**
 - There is **High** confidence that severe weather will develop across the area today and **Moderate** confidence that a high end severe weather event will occur (EF 2 or greater tornado or wind gust in excess of 70 mph).

Other Impacts this Week

- **Heavy Rain and Isolated Flooding Risk**

- One to two inches of rain will be possible through Wednesday night. Brief intense heavy rains with some training rain bands Wednesday could lead to localized flooding in poor drainage areas.

- **Strong and Gusty Gradient Winds**

- Strong southerly winds ahead of the front and very strong westerly winds behind the front may cause some minor issues inland, but will also lead to very dangerous boating conditions. A **Gale Warning** has been issued for this morning/afternoon through this evening for all waters and extending through Thursday night for the coastal waters south of Oregon Inlet. A **Wind Advisory** has been issued for all of Eastern North Carolina this afternoon and evening for wind gusts potentially up to around 45 mph.
- Given strong southerly onshore flow and large seas producing large surf, a **High Surf Advisory** has been issued for south facing beaches south of Cape Hatteras this afternoon through tonight. Beach erosion could be an issue as well as possible minor ocean overwash at the time of high tide, although given the brief duration, impacts should be limited. The most vulnerable high tide will occur around 9 pm this evening, although astronomical tides are not excessive this week.
- Storm surge should also be minimal with the latest storm surge models indicating around a foot of storm surge on the sound side of the Outer Banks, peaking Thursday as strong westerly winds increase.

Be Prepared!

- Please monitor the weather closely if you have plans to be out and about this afternoon into the evening. Make plans now on how to keep safe if severe weather threatens! ***Given the potential strength and high likelihood of severe weather, treat severe thunderstorm warnings with the highest of urgency, just like a tornado warning!***
- Know what to do when severe weather threatens!
Click this link for more information on [Thunderstorm and Tornado Safety](#)



Newport/Morehead City

Moderate Risk for Severe Weather

Timing: Afternoon/Evening

Today's Severe Threat

Severe Weather Threats:

- Possible Strong Tornadoes*
- Damaging Wind Gusts*
- Locally Heavy Rainfall*

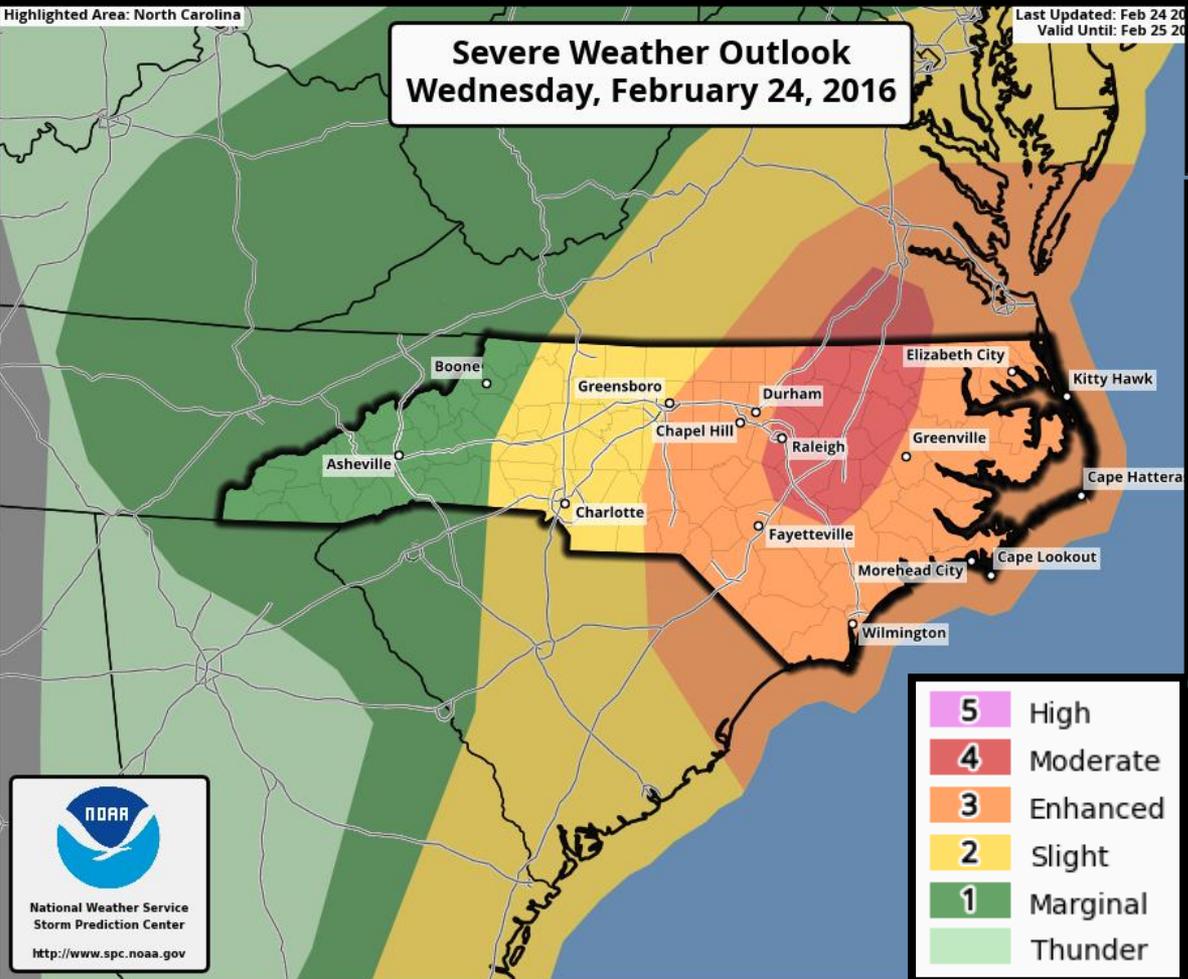
Timeline:

Afternoon-Evening

- Thunderstorms will develop ahead of a cold front, which will cross the region overnight
- Considerable wind shear will lead to supercell development ahead of the front, leading to damaging wind gusts and possible tornadoes.

Be Prepared!

- Check your severe weather safety plans.
- *What will you do in a warning?*
 - Monitor NOAA Weather Radio
- Stay tuned for forecast updates!



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

References:

[NWS Newport/Morehead City Webpage](#)

[Weather Prediction Center \(WPC\) Forecast Maps](#)

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

[Storm Prediction Center](#)

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