



Hurricane Hazards: Local Threat Assessments

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2018 WMO RA-IV WORKSHOP ON HURRICANE FORECASTING AND WARNING



Outline



- Risk Tolerance & the Safety Margin Forecast
 - How it relates to probabilistic information
 - Customer thresholds; risk management for communities
- The Local Forecast & Hazard Threat Assessments
 - Deterministic and probabilistic information; threat assessments
 - Wind, Storm Surge, and Flooding Rain Hazards
 - Role of risk tolerance and safety margin forecast
 - Examples: Hurricane Threats & Potential Impacts Graphics (HTI), storm surge watch/warning graphic, inundation graphic, decision assistance tools, etc.

Threat vs. Risk



• Threat = Probability x Consequence

- As used in this presentation, refers to assessing the likelihood that something harmful may occur
 - such as hurricane wind speeds at a given community
- Risk = Probability × Consequence × Vulnerability
 - When the threat of a hazard is considered in terms of potential impacts it might inflict in context of a given community's vulnerability



Community Decision-Makers



- Hurricane Emergency Plans for Communities
 - Risk & Vulnerability Assessments
 - Basis for emergency action plans
 - Intersect hazards with societies; intersecting with a community to consider potential impacts
 - Historical record, climatology, frequency, and event modeling
 - Provide situational context
 - Hot-washing past events, scenario-based exercises, etc.



Community Decision-Makers



- Managing Hurricane Emergencies; Managing Risk
 - Lives & livelihoods at risk
 - Population and associated demographics
 - Properties at risk
 - public and private
 - Critical infrastructure at risk
 - roads and bridges, utilities, communications, medical, etc.
 - Valuable resources at risk
 - personnel, supplies, time, money, group assets, etc.



Community Decision-Makers



<u>Risk Tolerance</u>

- Within a hurricane emergency plan (pre-season)
 - 1. "How much risk to the community is acceptable?"
 - 2. *"What are the corresponding trigger thresholds/points, and resulting triggered actions?"*
- As enacted during an actual hurricane emergency
 - 1. "What is the latest forecast, and how accurate is it?"
 - 2. "What is a reasonable margin of safety?"

Decision Support Services

Emergence of Probability Guidance



- Using Hazard Probabilities for Decision-Making:
 - "How can community decision-makers best use it?"
 - "How can NWS forecasters best interpret and communicate it for decision support?"



Scenario References:

- Most Likely
- Reasonable Worst Case
- Reasonable Best Case

from % exceedance probabilities

SETUP: Relative to the spectrum of plausible outcomes, what is a community's wind risk compared to its stated risk tolerance as baselined within its hurricane emergency plan? To what extent should the plan be implemented for the event at hand?



For example ... Wind Hazard



Probability of hurricane force surface winds (1-minute average >= 74 mph) from all tropical cyclones indicates TROPICAL STORM ISAAC center location at 8 AM EDT Sun Aug 26 2012 (Forecast/Advisory #22)

(in event context; for a given community)

"Very optimistic; helps identify absolute minimum extent of preparations for TC wind event."

"Very pessimistic; helps identify absolute maximum extent of preparations for TC wind event."

100% Tolerate

Full Risk

Tolerate No Risk

0%

(in event context; for a given community)



Absolute Worst Case Scenario

0% Tolerate No Risk

100% *Tolerate*

Full Risk

(in event context; for a given community)



"Pessimistic; helps identify a <u>reasonable</u> maximum extent of preparations for TC wind event,"

Tolerate Much Risk Tolerate Little Risk

(in event context; for a given community)



Tolerate Much Risk Tolerate Little Risk



(in event context; for a given community)

















The Safety Margin Forecast



• 10% Exceedance Margin

- For preparation phase decisions, for any system within 48 hours of impact event
 - Especially for small/intense or ill-defined/-behaved cyclones
- 20% Exceedance Margin
 - For refining final preparation phase decisions, for most well-behaved systems within 12 hours of impact event
- 30% Exceedance Margin
 - For initial response/recovery phase decisions, for wellbehaved systems within 6 hours of impact event



Learning Check



1. When looking at the probability of hurricane force winds being exceeded, the lower it is the

A. wider the safety margin

B. narrower the safety marginC. wider the danger marginD. narrower the danger margin





Now Let's Consider Local Wind Threat Assessments

HURRICANE CENTER LOCATED NEAR 21.4N 87.1W AT 22/2100Z POSITION ACCURATE WITHIN 1.5 NM

PRESENT MOVEMENT TOWARD THE NORTH OR 360 DEGREES AT 2 KT

ESTIMATED MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE 957 MB EYE DIAMETER 75 NM MAX SUSTAINED WINDS 85 KT WITH GUSTS TO 105 KT. 64 KT.... 75NE 753E 503W 75NW. 12 FT SEAS... 375NE 300SE 100SW 300NW. WINDS AND SEAS VARY GREATLY IN EACH QUADRANT. RADII IN NAUTICAL MILES ARE THE LARGEST RADII EXPECTED ANYWHERE IN THAT QUADRANT.

REPEAT...CENTER LOCATED NEAR 21.4N 87.1W AT 22/2100Z AT 22/1800Z CENTER WAS LOCATED NEAR 21.2N 87.1W

FORECAST VALID 23/0600Z 21.9N 86.8W MAX WIND 95 KT...GUSTS 115 KT. 64 KT... 75NE 75SE 50SW 75NW. 50 KT...120NE 100SE 75SW 100NW. 34 KT...175NE 175SE 120SW 150NW

ND ATMOSE

FORECAST VALID 23/1800Z 23.1N 85.7W MAX WIND 100 KT...GUSTS 120 KT. 64 KT ... 75NE 75SE 50SW 75NW 50 KT...120NE 100SE 75SW 100NW. 34 KT...200NE 2005E 1255W 200NW

FORECAST VALID 24/0600Z 24.9N 83.5W MAX WIND 95 KT...GUSTS 115 KT. 64 KT... 75NE 75SE 40SW 50NW 50 KT...125NE 125SE 60.3W 34 KT...200NE 200SE 125SW 200NW

FORECAST VALID 24/1800Z 27.8N 79.6W MAX WIND 80 KT...GUSTS 100 KT. 50 KT...125NE 125SE 60SW 75NW. 34 KT...200NE 2253E 1253W 150NW.

FORECAST VALID 25/1800Z 38.0N 69.0W...EXTRATROPICAL MAX WIND 55 KT...GUSTS 65 KT. 50 KT...125NE 125SE 60.3W 34 KT...200NE 225SE 125SW 150NW



50/34 kts Radii Only Out to 72 Hrs

.ERRORS FOR TRACK HAVE AVERAGED NEAR 250 NM EXTENDED OUTLOOK. NOTE. ON DAY 4 AND 325 NM ON DAY 5...AND FOR INTENSITY NEAR 20 KT EACH DAY

OUTLOOK VALID 26/1800Z 45.0N 58.0W...EXTRATROPICAL MAX WIND 55 KT...GUSTS 65 KT.

OUTLOOK VALID 27/1800Z 49.0N 44.0W...EXTRATROPICAL MAX WIND 55 KT...GUSTS 65 KT.





Full Radii Only Out to 36 Hrs/48 Hrs Starting on 2018

No Radii Days 96/120 Hrs



NHC/WFO Wind Forecasts Limitations



- From NHC's forecast, local forecast and warning offices (WFOs) must make 2-D wind forecasts at the 1-hourly scale out to 48 hours, 3-hourly out to 72 hours, and 6-hourly out to 120 hours with this guidance on a 2.5 km grid.
- Intensity changes are depicted as a steady trend in space and time.
- Wind Speeds can be artificially reduced prior to landfall as they are interpolated between 12-hour forecast points. This artifact is made worse in days 4 and 5 due to 24-hour forecast points.



Downscaled & Refined



- When making local wind forecasts, WFOs downscale and refine NHC's forecast to create a 2D time dependant wind field based on:
 - Conceptual models; climatologies
 - Local knowledge; geophysical surroundings
 - Understanding of smaller scale processes
 - Diagnostic data for present conditions
 - Empirical algorithms
- ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS CAN RESULT IN GREATLY MAGNIFIED ERRORS when looking at location specific deterministic wind forecasts alone. This is in addition to NHC forecast errors.
 - HURRIVAC has the same limitations.



WFO Wind Grid







2D Wind Forecast Irma - Adv 37





maskSmooth SFC Fcst_Prac (MFL)

1h Fri 12Z 08-Sep-17 1h Fri 12Z 08-Sep-17



Graphical Forecasts

National Weather Service

National Headquarters

Weather.gov - National Digital Forecast Database Graphical Forecasts

Below is a proposed replacement of the National Weather Service Graphical Forecast Page, a product of the National Digital Forecast Database. Comments are encouraged and can be done by taking our survey. Assistance with using this experimental product can be found by clicking here or on the Page Help Link below the map.



preview.weather.gov/graphical = digital.weather.gov





Local Wind Forecast What is the Point?



- We are able to deliver information with greater precision, BUT IT DOES NOT IMPLY ACCURACY. Service needs are outpacing the state of the science.
- In part, this is why NHC delivers their forecasts the way that they do. Increased demands to provide more detailed local level info are pushing the envelope.
- Message From a Decision Making Perspective:
 - AVOID OVER-RELYING ON LATEST DETERMINISTIC SINGLE SOLUTION SCENARIO!
 - It is bad enough to only rely on one scenario alone without having considered the issues raised so far.
 - Become knowledgeable about these issues and adopt a combined deterministic and probabilistic approach that allows for communicating the latest forecast along with a **reasonable** safety margin.



Learning Check



2. Used alone, two dimensional wind depictions in time derived from NHC's official forecast offer adequate means of depicting the threat of tropical storm and/or hurricane force winds.

A.True

B. False







D-Day Weather Hazards "Give me meteorological probabilities."



Wind Speed Probabilities How are they generated?

- 1,000 realistic alternative scenarios are created
 - Official NHC forecast
 - Historical NHC track and intensity forecast errors
 - Climatology and persistence wind radii model
- Weakening over land
- Track model spread
 Past NHC track forecast errors are correlated to the spread of track model guidance



Wind Speed Probabilities How are they generated?

North Ca

New York City, NY 590 of 1,000 scenarios produce <u>tropical storm</u> winds at that location.





Application Examples

- Provide objective measures of uncertainty for:
 - Communicating Threat
 - Timing assessments with varying safety margins
 - Risk and threat assessments with varying safety margins hurricane threat and impact graphics
 - For trend analysis of the threat from advisory to advisory for proper risk assessment



PRELIMINARY (SINGLE STORM) Hurricane Force Wind Speed Probabilities For the 120 hours (5 days) from 2 PM EDT Thu Aug 12 to 2 PM EDT Tue Aug 17





NHC Arrival of Tropical Storm Force Winds





- Arrival of TS-force winds is a critical planning/action threshold for communities.
- *"Most Likely"* arrival time the time before or after which the onset of tropical storm force winds is equally likely. Often used during the warning period.
- *"Earliest Reasonable"* arrival time time window that individuals can safely assume will be free from tropical storm force winds (no more than a 10% chance of onset). Often used during the watch period and earlier.





HTI

Hurricane Threat and Potential Impacts

A Risk Communications Tool (varying safety margins)



Hurricane Threats and Impacts (HTI) Products

- Clicking on the map provides latest information from the TCV text product for your area relative to the four main tropical cyclone hazards: Wind, Storm Surge, Flooding Rains, and Tornadoes.
- You will be able to find information on the meteorological forecast parameters including <u>what</u> and <u>when</u> type information, threat level (factoring safety margin and therefore what you should plan for), and corresponding potential impact information (what you should be preparing for) relative to each of those hazards.
- The threat levels account for forecast error and consider a safety margin or "what conditions to plan for".
- The potential impact information describes the potential effects or "what impacts to prepare for".



Most Likely Scenario

S. OR WEATHER SHULL IN

Example: A major hurricane approaching southwest Florida at the onset of the warning period (~ 36 hours)





Reasonable Worst Case Scenario

Example: A major hurricane approaching southwest Florida at the onset of the warning period (~ 36 hours)



10% Exceedance Margin of Safety





Example: A major hurricane approaching southwest Florida at the onset of the warning period (~ 36 hours)



20% Exceedance Margin of Safety





Example: A major hurricane approaching southwest Florida at the onset of the warning period (~ 36 hours)



30% Exceedance Margin of Safety

When a hurricane threatens a coastal community, to what extent should wind preparations be undertaken?





ΠΟ

Deterministic-only; zero error





Probability included; 10% exceedance

Example: A major hurricane approaching southwest Florida at the onset of the warning period (~ 36 hours)

Wind Threat
Potential for wind greater than 110 mph
Potential for wind 74 to 110 mph
Potential for wind 58 to 73 mph
Potential for wind 39 to 57 mph
Wind less than 39 mph







Deterministic-only; zero error



Example: A major hurricane approaching southwest Florida at the onset of the warning period (~ 36 hours)

Wind Threat
Potential for wind greater than 110 mph
Potential for wind 74 to 110 mph
Potential for wind 58 to 73 mph
Potential for wind 39 to 57 mph
Wind less than 39 mph







Deterministic-only; zero error

Forecast: "Peak Wind Threat"



Example: A major hurricane approaching southwest Florida at the onset of the warning period (~ 36 hours)

Wind Threat
Potential for wind greater than 110 mph
Potential for wind 74 to 110 mph
Potential for wind 58 to 73 mph
Potential for wind 39 to 57 mph
Wind less than 39 mph



S COULL WEATHER BEAU CO

HTI offer an implicit use probabilistic guidance.

What about their trend from advisory to advisory also?

Advisory 30

Π

- Advisory 31
- Advisory 32
- Advisory 35

Probability included; 10% exceedance



Issued 2013-06-20 1757Z



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S Image I



Learning Check



3. What decision-making guidance does HTI convey?

A. What should be planned/prepared forB. What is expectedC. What is likely to happenD. They are useless





Learning Check



4. HTI can be adjusted with varying safety margins factored in as the event evolves





Storm Surge Threat Assessment



- Example Graphical Products
 - NHC high resolution inundation map
 - Storm surge watch/warning graphic
 - > WFO local threat and potential impact graphics

Decision Support Services

- Example of different risk tolerances (% exceedance levels) in coastal evacuation decision-making
- Role of probabilistic data in emergency management decision-making guides
 - Customer thresholds



Risk Tolerance: Spectrum Of Plausible Outcomes







Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map (Inundation Map)



- Provides a quantitative risk assessment for decision makers. Not for public consumption necessarily.
- Shows height above ground that the water <u>could</u> reach.
 - Depicts the reasonable worst-case scenario at any individual location.
 - Shows inundation levels that have a 10% chance of being exceeded ALWAYS!!!
- First map issued with the initial hurricane watch or in some cases, with a tropical storm watch.
- Available about <u>60 to 90 minutes following</u> the advisory release.





Storm Surge Watch/Warning Graphic

- Storm Surge Watch possibility of lifethreatening inundation somewhere within the watch area generally within 48 hours
- Storm Surge Warning danger of life threatening inundation somewhere within warned area generally within 36 hours
- Consideration for continuity, areas subject to isolation, etc. Subjectivity plays a role.
- <u>Complements</u> the potential inundation graphic
- Together with WFO threat/impacts graphics, meant for public messaging/consumption



SUMMARY OF WATCHES AND WARNINGS IN EFFECT:

- A Hurricane Warning is in effect for ...
- * Anclote River to Indian Pass Florida

A Storm Surge Warning is in effect for ...

* Aripeka to Indian Pass Florida









Example: Major hurricane at the onset of the watch period (~ 48 hours).

QUESTION: When advocating the measure of protective actions according to surge impacts, which is better?

Storm Surge Threat
Potential for surge flooding > 9 feet above ground
Potential for surge flooding 6-9 feet above ground
Potential for surge flooding 3-6 feet above ground
Potential for surge flooding 1-3 feet above ground
Little to no surge flooding



Irma Collier Surge Decision Point





Inundation (AGL) Adv 42 10% Exceedance ~ 24 hours to landfall

Blue: < 1 ft Yellow: 1-3 ft Orange: 3-6 ft Red: 6-9 ft Purple: 9-12 ft Light Purple: > 12 ft



Irma Collier Surge Decision Point





Emergency manager held from evacuating 10s thousands additional folks based on this. Inundation (AGL) Adv 42 20% Exceedance ~24 hours to landfall

Blue: < 1 ft Yellow: 1-3 ft Orange: 3-6 ft Red: 6-9 ft Purple: 9-12 ft Light Purple: > 12 ft



Learning Check



5. The high resolution inundation graphic is always based on inundation values with a 10% chance of being exceeded.

A.True B.False





Risk Assessment Matrix

- Some EMs (Example from Lee County) have developed tools to incorporate probabilistic data into decision making process.
- Each county is different some sophisticated, some not.

The Oujia Board - Probability of Exceedance Forecast



X-axis is water height in NAV. Y-axis is the probability from the NHC/NWS forecast. The colored squares are evacuation zones.

Feet Prob	<3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24-
10%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	A	A	В	В	B	В	В	В	B	с	с	с	с	с	D	D	D	E
20%	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	0	A	A	в	В	В	В	В	В	В	с	с	с	с	с	D	D	D	E
30%	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	A	A	A	в	В	В	с	с	с	с	с	с	D	D	D	D	D	D	E
40%	N/A	N/A	A	A	A	A	в	В	В	B	с	с	с	с	с	с	D	D	D	D	D	D	E
50%	N/A	N/A	0	A	A	A	В	В	В	В	с	с	с	С	с	с	D	D	D	D	D	D	E
60%	N/A	A		A	А	А	В	В	B	В	с	с	с	С	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	E
70%	N/A	А		A	А	A	В	В	в	в	с	с	с	с	D	D	D	D	D	D	E	E	E
80%	N/A		A	A	А	A	В	В	В	в	с	с	с	с	D	D	D	D	D	D	E	E	E
90%	N/A		A	А	А	A	в	в	в	в	с	с	с	с	D	D	D	D	D	D	E	E	E

Oujia	6	6	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
Prob	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%

Flooding Rain Threat Assessment





6 hra stal Marine Zones MFL State Boundaries **QPFtoFFGRatio**

The tool uses the following inputs (to 72 hrs):

- WFO QPF (6 hourly)
- WPC PQPF (6 hourly)
- RFC FFG (6 hourly) diagnostic field
- WPC Excessive Rainfall probabilities (ERP)
- Inputs checked for each 6 hr period to 72 hrs.
- The final FloodingRainThreat is based on a composite max for the 72 hr period.





Forecast Zones



Summary & Conclusions



- You can brief threat/risk information to community decision-makers relative to:
 - The Most Likely Scenario
 - The Reasonable Worst Case Scenario
 - The Most Likely Alternate Scenario pessimistic (if requested)
 - The Most Likely Alternate Scenario; optimistic (if requested)
 - The Reasonable Best Case Scenario (if requested)
- The % Exceedance Probabilities can be harnessed to:
 - Standardize scenario definitions (*from above*)
 - Help determine the width of the Safety Margin for varying levels of risk tolerances and customer thresholds community to community
- Advanced tools are needed to exploit the use of probabilistic data in threat assessment especially for purposes of decision support and messaging to the public.
 - For each hazard hurricane threats and impacts graphic represent a good example
 - For forecasters and sophisticated decision-makers





The Local Hurricane Hazards Threat Assessment

QUESTIONS ???