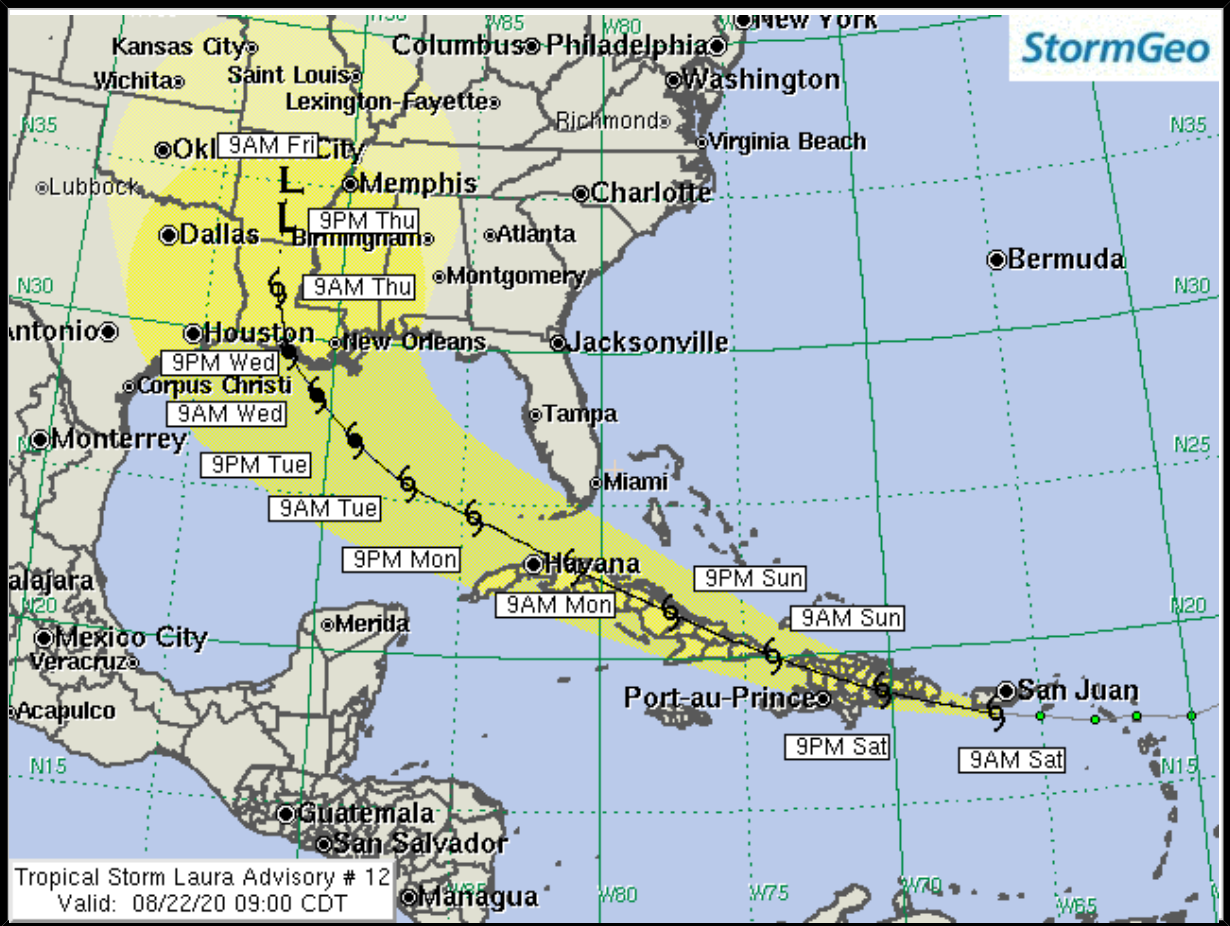


From: StormGeo
To: Lindsey Falconer
Subject: Tropical Storm Laura Advisory 12
Date: Saturday, August 22, 2020 8:55:52 AM



Tropical Storm Laura Advisory 12

Valid: 09:00 AM CDT Saturday August 22, 2020



- Current Location:** 17.7N, 66.5W
- Geographic Reference:** 18 miles south of Puerto Rico
- Movement:** West-northwest at 20 mph
- Max Winds:** 40 mph gusting to 50 mph
- Current Hurricane Severity Index:** 2 out of a possible 50 points (1 size, 1 intensity)
- Max Predicted Hurricane Severity Index:** 9 out of a possible 50 points (3 size, 6 intensity)
- Current Radius of Tropical Storm-Force Winds:** 70 miles
- Max Predicted Radius of Tropical Storm-Force Winds:** 115 miles
- Organizational Trend:** Steady

Forecast Confidence: Below Average
Estimated Central Pressure: 1006 mb

Key Points

1. Heavy rain is likely for Puerto Rico today and for Hispaniola tonight and tomorrow morning.
2. We are forecasting a slightly stronger hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico.
3. Both the track and the intensity forecast confidence remain below average.

Our Forecast

Laura continues moving toward the west. All indications are that a motion mainly to the west-northwest will continue for the next few days. This motion will take Laura over Hispaniola by this evening and then over Cuba tomorrow. On Monday, Laura is forecast to emerge into the southeast Gulf of Mexico. Uncertainty with the track forecast becomes very high once the system is in the Gulf. Possibilities range from just south of the Texas / Mexico Border to the Florida Panhandle. Our forecast lies within the middle of the ensemble probabilities and the model consensus. Landfall is forecast to occur late Wednesday over central Louisiana.

While squalls have increased this morning in association with Laura, the storm remains shared. The center remains to the west of the intense squalls, south of Puerto Rico. Some of these squalls should move over Puerto Rico during the next few hours. The wind shear is expected to slowly abate through the day. Thus, there could be some slight intensification before the system moves over the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Some weakening will likely occur over the mountainous island, though we do expect that the storm will survive across Hispaniola and then over Cuba. Once the system moves off of Cuba and into the Gulf of Mexico, conditions should be rather favorable for intensification. However, there is a major difference between the statistical and dynamical guidance. Most of the dynamical models show Laura becoming a strong hurricane, while the statistical models indicate it will remain a tropical storm. Our forecast leans toward the dynamical models and is for a slightly stronger hurricane than we were previously forecasting. Winds at landfall in Louisiana are forecast to be 85 mph. It is possible that Laura could be significantly stronger or weaker than we are forecasting. Rapid weakening should occur after landfall.

Expected Impacts on Land

Northern Lesser Antilles to Puerto Rico: There will be a chance of scattered power outages on Saturday. Areas of flash flooding and mudslides could occur over the mountains of Puerto Rico.

Hispaniola: Power outages may occur. In addition, flash flooding and mudslides could occur in the mountains.

Florida Keys: There will be a risk of scattered power outages along with street flooding on Monday.

Expected Impacts Offshore

Gulf of Mexico: The greatest impacts are expected to be confined to the lease blocks off of Louisiana, if the storm takes our forecast track. However, outer bands of squalls may impact a large part of the Gulf Tuesday into Wednesday. There will be a chance of hurricane force winds Tuesday and Wednesday for the central Gulf.

Our next advisory will be issued by 4 PM AST / EDT.

Meteorologist: Derek Ortt

Forecast Confidence: Below Average							Hurricane Severity Index		
Fcst Hour	Valid	Lat.	Lon.	Max Sustained Winds	Max Gusts	Category	Size	Intensity	Total
0	9AM CDT Sat Aug 22	17.70N	66.50W	40 mph	50 mph	Tropical Storm	1	1	2
12	9PM CDT Sat Aug 22	18.70N	70.30W	45 mph	50 mph	Tropical Storm	1	2	3
24	9AM CDT Sun Aug 23	20.00N	74.00W	40 mph	50 mph	Tropical Storm	1	1	2
36	9PM CDT Sun Aug 23	21.50N	77.50W	40 mph	50 mph	Tropical Storm	1	1	2
48	9AM CDT Mon Aug 24	23.00N	81.00W	45 mph	60 mph	Tropical Storm	1	2	3
60	9PM CDT Mon Aug 24	24.50N	84.50W	60 mph	70 mph	Tropical Storm	2	3	5
72	9AM CDT Tue Aug 25	25.50N	87.00W	70 mph	80 mph	Tropical Storm	2	4	6
84	9PM CDT Tue Aug 25	26.80N	89.00W	75 mph	90 mph	Category 1	3	5	8
96	9AM CDT Wed Aug 26	28.20N	90.50W	80 mph	100 mph	Category 1	3	5	8
108	9PM CDT Wed Aug 26	29.50N	91.70W	85 mph	105 mph	Category 1	3	6	9
120	9AM CDT Thu Aug 27	31.50N	92.40W	45 mph	60 mph	Tropical Storm	1	2	3
132	9PM CDT Thu Aug 27	33.30N	92.50W	30 mph	40 mph	Tropical Depression	0	0	0
144	9AM CDT Fri Aug 28	34.70N	92.50W	30 mph	35 mph	Remnant Low	0	0	0

The yellow cone represents track error from the previous five years. Over the past five tropical cyclone seasons, the center of the storm tracked within the yellow cone 75% of the time. The cone does not represent the forecast uncertainty in the current advisory for this storm. In addition, strong winds, very high tides, large waves, and heavy rainfall can often extend well outside the yellow cone.

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