



Monroe County Florida Keys Weather Briefing

Potential Heavy Rainfall Wednesday & Wednesday Night

Issued: November 14, 2023 – 10:00 am EST

This weather briefing is for emergency management and critical infrastructure core partners serving the Florida Keys of Monroe County.

Bottom Line:

A threat for heavy rainfall and street flooding exists for the Florida Keys of Monroe County for Wednesday and Wednesday night.

Situation Overview:

Non-tropical low pressure will move from the western Gulf of Mexico to the northeastern Gulf of Mexico by Wednesday night while a stationary front over south Florida moves very little. A second area of low pressure is expected to develop to the east of south Florida Wednesday night and early Thursday, before moving north-northeast. The combination of these features will pull rich, tropical moisture northward from the western Caribbean Sea.

Rain and embedded heavier showers are expected to develop over the Straits of Florida and offshore Gulf of Mexico waters later tonight, then advance over the Keys. Numerous showers with isolated embedded thunderstorms are forecast, especially from the early morning (pre-dawn) hours Wednesday through late Wednesday night.

Rainfall amounts during that 24-hour period of 1 ½ to 4 inches are likely throughout the island chain. There is currently a 10 percent chance for rainfall in the range of 3 to 6 inches in that time period. The highest rainfall amounts are more likely to occur over the Upper Florida Keys. These rainfall amount may produce street flooding, especially in areas of low elevation and/or poor drainage.

The distinct tide cycle of the Lower and Middle Keys (and oceanside neighborhoods of the Upper Keys) suggests the greatest risk for street flooding could be late Wednesday evening into the early morning hours Thursday. For the Upper Keys Bayside, where the tide cycle is much more muted, a general threat of street flooding is possible throughout Wednesday into Wednesday night.

At this time, there is no outlooked risk for severe thunderstorms nor tornadoes, although a few thunderstorms may become strong offshore the Keys. General breezy conditions with sustained winds 15 to 20 mph with frequent gusts near 25 mph are forecast from late tonight through Wednesday.

Impact Summary:

WHAT:

Widespread rainfall of 1 ¼ to 4 inches, with a 10% chance for rainfall in the 3 to 6 inch range. The highest rainfall amounts are more likely over the Upper Florida Keys.

Street flooding and flooding of poor drainage areas is possible.

WHEN:

Predawn early morning hours Wednesday through late Wednesday night. The highest potential for flooding will occur around the times of high tides across the Lower and Middle Keys, as well as oceanside of the Upper Keys. For the Bayside neighborhoods of the Upper Keys, much of Wednesday and Wednesday night will have a potential for street and poor drainage area flooding.

UNCERTAINTY:

Due to the uncertain where exactly the second low pressure system may develop east of South Florida, there is higher than usual uncertainty in rainfall totals and winds across the Upper Florida Keys.

Next Update

The next update to the weather brief is expected Wednesday morning.

You may contact the NWS Key West at (305) 295-1316 extension 3 to speak with a meteorologist 24/7. Please contact us anytime if you need specific information (as best as the science allows) for critical hazardous weather information for decision support in your department's activities.



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