



Monroe County Florida Keys Weather Briefing

Heavy Rainfall and Strong Thunderstorm Wind Gusts Possible through Thursday morning

Issued: November 15, 2023 – 3:00 pm EST

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

A FLOOD WATCH IS IN EFFECT FOR ALL OF THE FLORIDA KEYS OF MONROE COUNTY – FROM KEY WEST THROUGH OCEAN REEF

Bottom Line:

The threat for heavy rainfall and potential significant street and poor drainage area flooding continues through Thursday morning.

A few thunderstorms/squalls may produce locally strong wind gusts, and a brief tornado cannot be ruled out this afternoon and evening.

Changes Since the Morning Brief:

The Flood Watch has been expanded to include all of the Florida Keys.

The Storm Prediction Center has outlooked a marginal risk of severe weather for primarily this afternoon and evening, as a brief tornado cannot be ruled out in the Florida Keys.

Windy conditions are possible for several hours overnight tonight into Thursday morning.

Situation Overview:

Non-tropical low pressure over the northern Gulf of Mexico will move little through tonight. A second area of low pressure is expected to develop later tonight and early Thursday near the Florida Keys or just east of South Florida before moving north-northeast out into the Atlantic. The combination of these features will continue to pull rich, tropical moisture northward from the western Caribbean Sea over the Florida Keys through tonight and early Thursday.

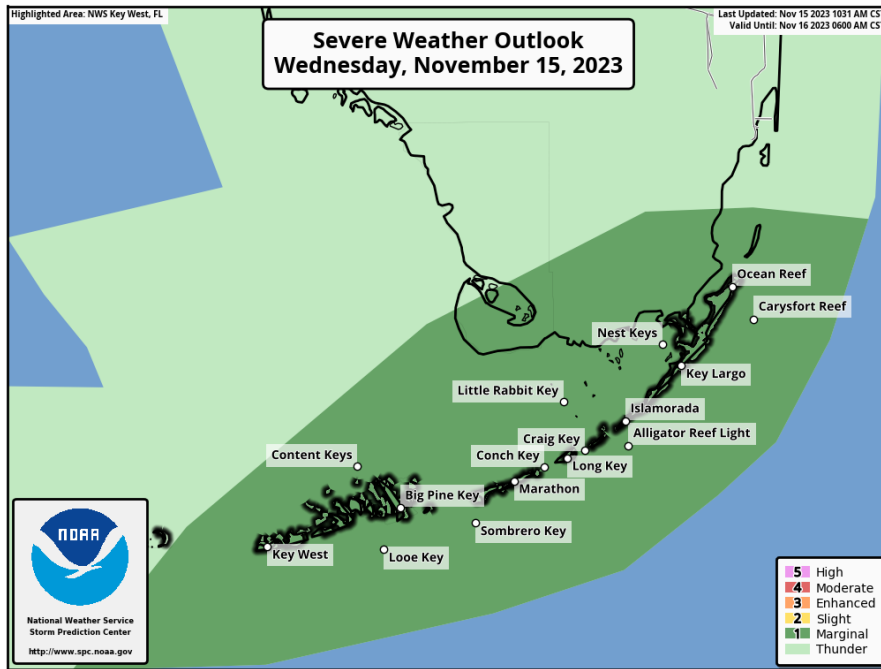
Episodes of rain with embedded stronger showers and thunderstorms are expected to pass over the Florida Keys through late tonight and early Thursday morning. As of this briefing, general rainfall of about one half (0.50) to about one and two thirds (near 1.65") has fallen throughout the Florida Keys.

Rainfall totals of 5 to 8 inches with isolated amounts around 10 inches are possible.

These rainfall amounts may produce periodic street and poor-drainage area flooding. The distinct tide cycle of the Lower and Middle Keys (and oceanside neighborhoods of the Upper Keys) suggests the highest impacts from rainfall and subsequent flooding could be late this 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 this afternoon into tonight.

A few stronger squalls and thunderstorms could produce wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph. A brief tornado cannot be ruled out this (Wednesday) afternoon and evening.



The Storm Prediction Center has outlooked the Florida Keys for a MARGINAL (Level 1 out of 5) risk for severe weather; mainly in that a brief tornado cannot be ruled out this afternoon and evening.

Chance of Severe Weather Hazards Today & Tonight (Wednesday)			
	Damaging Wind Gusts (Near 60 mph and higher)	Tornadoes	Large Hail (1" diameter or larger)
Florida Keys	Below 5%	At least 2%	

Table indicating the chance of each severe thunderstorm hazard type occurring within 25 nautical miles of a single location within the Florida Keys

Finally, if the second low pressure system begins to develop over the Florida Keys rather than east of south Florida, several hours of stronger northeast winds with frequent gusts 30 to 35 mph is possible, especially across the upper Keys from the predawn to mid morning hours Thursday. There is a higher-than normal uncertainty with the wind forecast.

Impact Summary:

WHAT:

Widespread rainfall of 5 to 8 inches with isolated amounts near 10 inches are in the Florida Keys.

Periodic street and poor drainage area flooding is possible, especially within a few hours of the higher high tide this evening and early morning hours Thursday.

A few strong squalls and thunderstorms may produce 40 to 50 mph wind gusts. A brief tornado cannot be ruled out.

WHEN:

Flooding potential: Through Thursday morning

Strong squall/thunderstorm wind gusts and/or brief tornado: This (Wednesday) afternoon and evening.

CONFIDENCE/CERTAINTY:

Moderate in terms of heavy rainfall and flooding potential. Lesser certainty in the potential for locally strong squalls over the Keys, with the least confidence in how windy conditions may be in the middle and upper Keys Thursday morning. The last item is uncertain due to lower confidence in the exact timing and location that the second low pressure system will first develop before moving quickly northeast past South Florida and into the open Atlantic Ocean.

Next Update

The next update to the weather brief is scheduled for late this evening.

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.



For additional information, visit our webpage at: <http://www.weather.gov/key>
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