



Monroe County Florida Keys Weather Briefing

**Strong Thundery Squall Potential Today
Strong Wind & Coastal Flood Potential to follow Monday through Tuesday
Issued: February 4, 2024 – 8:00 am EST**

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

TORNADO WATCH IN EFFECT UNTIL 2:00 PM EST FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS OF MONROE COUNTY

Bottom Line:

A Tornado Watch is in effect for the Florida Keys until 2:00 pm EST today (Sunday). The primary threats include the possibility for a brief tornado or two and damaging thunderstorm wind gusts up to 60 mph through the early afternoon hours. The RISK for severe weather remains SLIGHT (Level 2 out of 5).

This will be followed by the potential for strong west to northwest winds sustained near 25 mph with frequent gusts near 35 mph for the Florida Keys beginning by early afternoon Monday and continuing through Tuesday afternoon, resulting in a threat of moderate coastal flooding especially along the Gulf and bayside of the Florida Keys around the times of the Monday evening high tide.

Situation Overview:

A complex storm system will gradually consolidate while moving across the Gulf Coast states and northern Gulf of Mexico through tonight, then moving east of Florida Monday.

A squall line with the potential for a brief tornado or two and damaging wind gusts to near 60 mph to pass through the Keys later this morning and early afternoon. Therefore, a TORNADO WATCH is in effect until 2:00 pm EST. Remember...*a Tornado Watch means conditions are favorable for tornadoes and severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area. Persons in these areas should be on the lookout for threatening weather conditions and listen for later statements and warnings.*

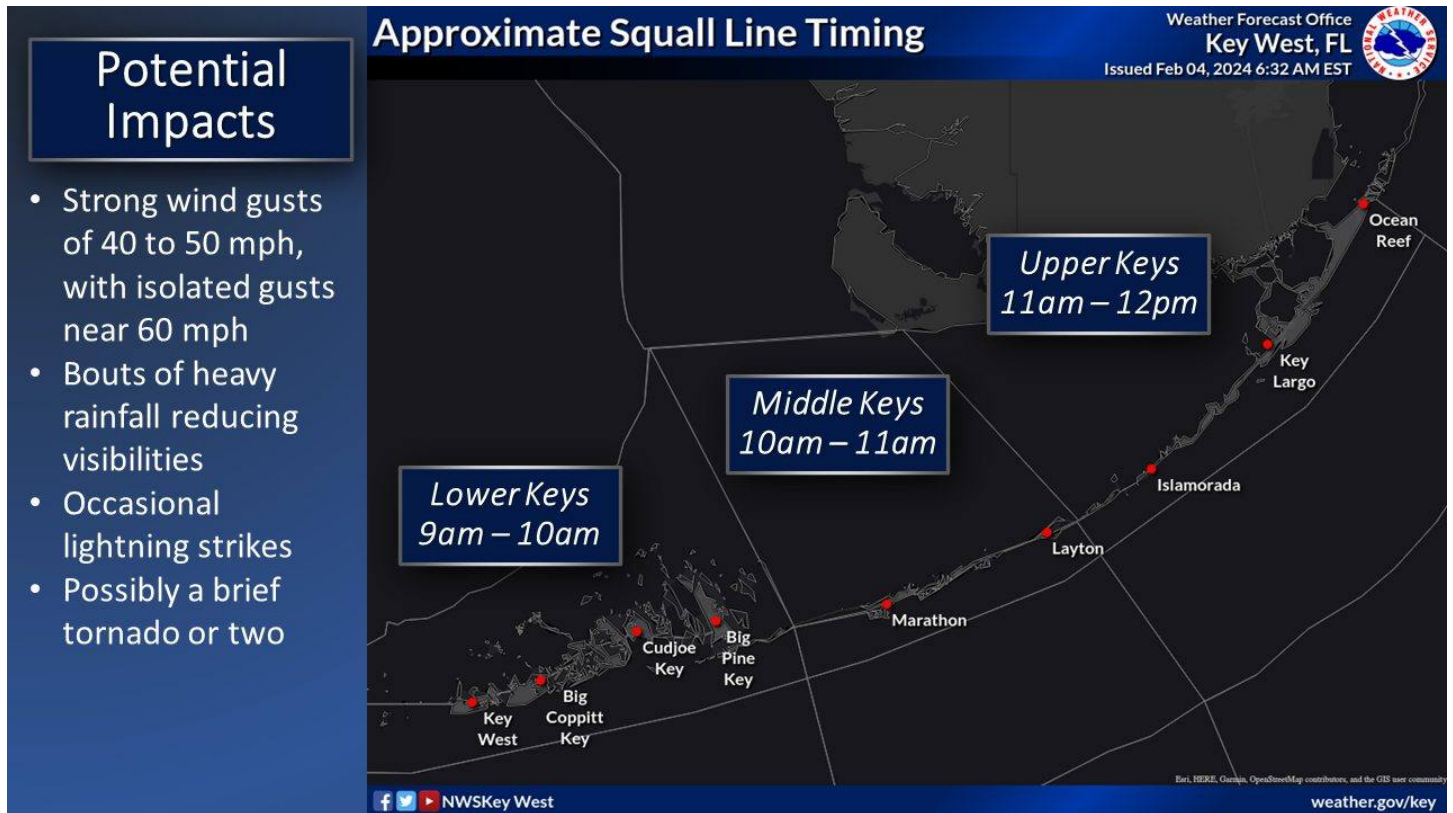
The Storm Prediction Center has continued outlook for severe weather for the Florida Keys with a SLIGHT RISK – Level 2 out of 5 – for today.

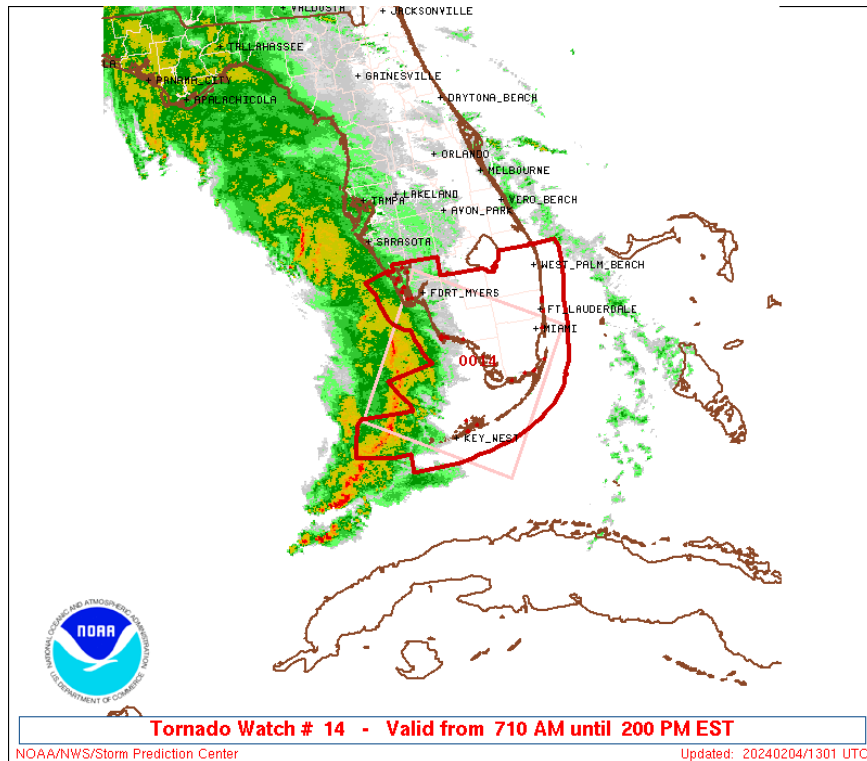
As the complex low pressure system evolves from the eastern Gulf of Mexico region to off the east coast of Florida west to northwest sustained near 25 mph over the Keys with frequent gusts near 35 mph are expected by early Monday afternoon. The winds will gradually become northwest Monday night, then diminish slowly beginning Tuesday night. As the wind direction becomes more northwesterly Monday night into early Tuesday, increasing crosswinds may cause hazardous driving conditions for high-profile vehicles on the more elevated, longer bridges.

The strong westerly winds will cause rising water levels along the Gulf side and Bayside of the Florida Keys, and minor to moderate coastal flooding is possible Monday evening. Water levels may reach 1.2 to 1.7 feet

above mean higher high water. Water levels could reach a few inches higher than a higher, notable King Tide. Flooding of low lying streets, docks and yards typically impacted by high autumn King Tides are possible.

Large seas of 7 to 11 feet moving into the Straits of Florida from the west later Monday through Tuesday will bend around the reef, causing unusual breaking waves along the oceanside of the Florida Keys early this week. There is the potential for significant beach wave runup and with minor beach erosion, and occasional heavy wave overwash of seawalls and some oceanfront streets. While widespread tide-related coastal flooding is not expected along the oceanside, wave runup will be higher than usual causing localized flooding wherever waves may reach.





The Storm Prediction Center has issued a Tornado Watch including the Florida Keys today (Sunday) through 2:00 pm EST

Chance of Severe Weather Hazards Sunday			
	Damaging Wind Gusts (Near 60 mph and higher)	Tornadoes	Large Hail (1" diameter or larger)
Florida Keys	5 to 14%	5 to 9%	5 to 14%

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

Next Update

The next update to the weather brief is expected this afternoon after the conclusion of the Tornado Watch, or sooner if there are changes to the expected hazardous weather impacts for the Florida Keys.

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>
 Or monitor us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/NWSKeyWest>
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