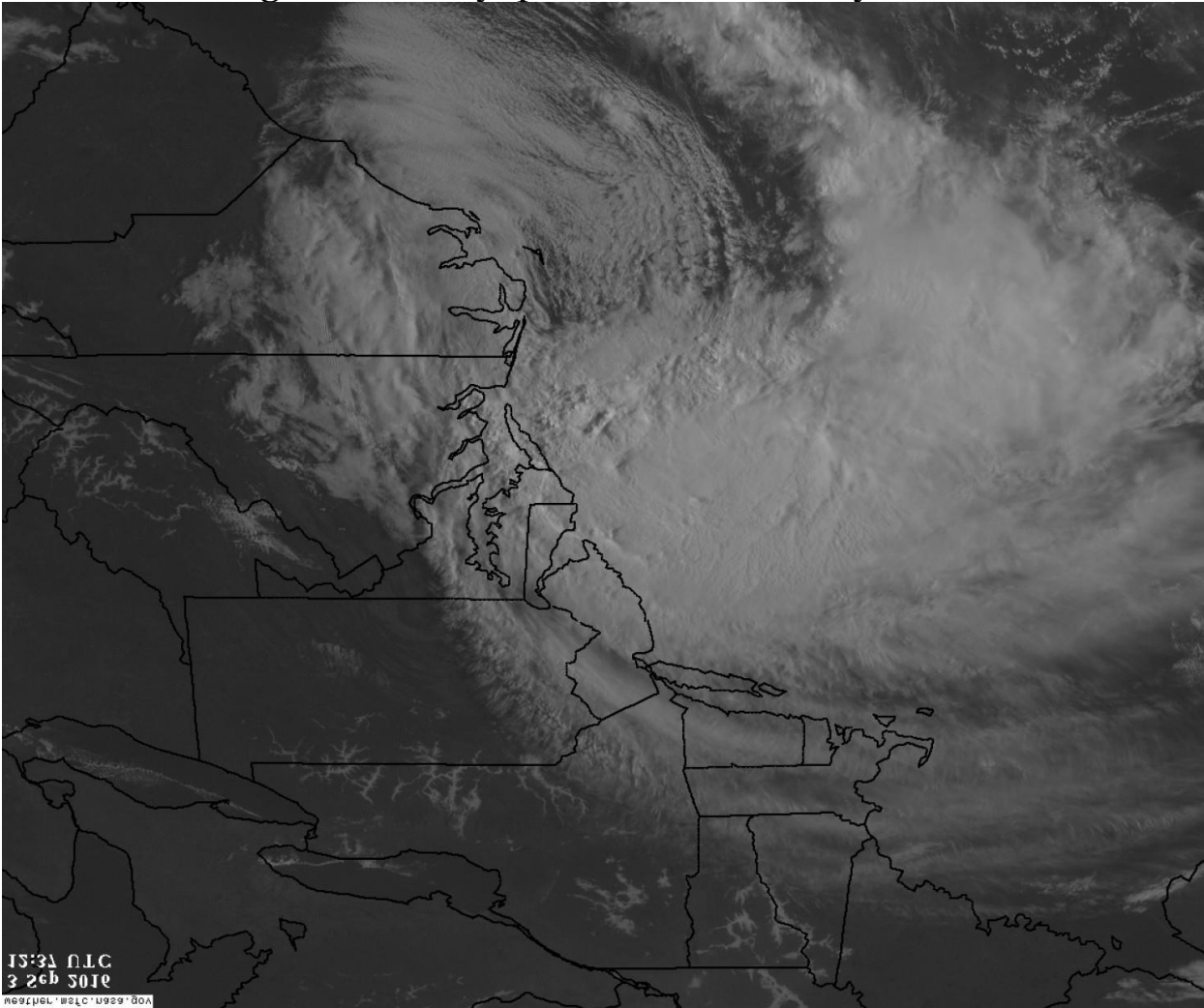


By Ian Livingston September 3, 2016

*** Tropical storm warning for North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey beaches | Storm surge warning for Virginia Beach and the mouth of the Chesapeake, storm surge watch north to New York City ***

8:50 a.m. update: As expected, the rain shield from Hermine is passing to the east. Sky conditions are ending up better than expected west of Interstate 95 so far this morning. It's actually quite clear over many western suburbs.



Morning satellite over the region. (NASA)

Given that the edge of the cloud shield is right over the area, any shift west or east has a sizable effect on sky conditions in spots. For now it seems that edge won't move super fast, so expect similar to what you've got in the short term at least.

Hermine batters portion of the Mid-Atlantic coast
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Social video shows Tropical Storm Hermine battering beaches along the Mid-Atlantic as it continues its trek along the East Coast. (Claritza Jimenez/The Washington Post)

View the [current weather](#) at The Washington Post headquarters.

Hermine threatens East Coast over the holiday weekend

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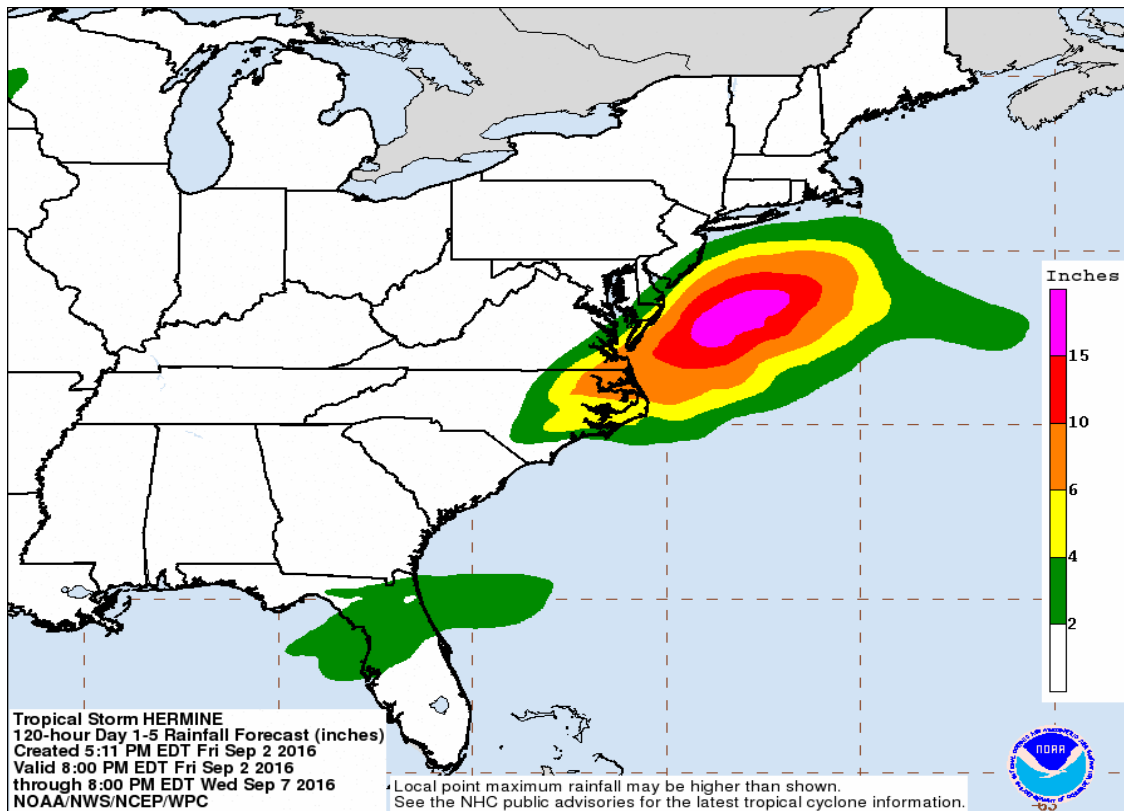
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Hermine is churning toward the East Coast. Capital Weather Gang's Jason Samenow takes us through Hermine's potential impact over the holiday weekend. (Claritza Jimenez, Jason Samenow/The Washington Post)

FORECAST IN DETAIL

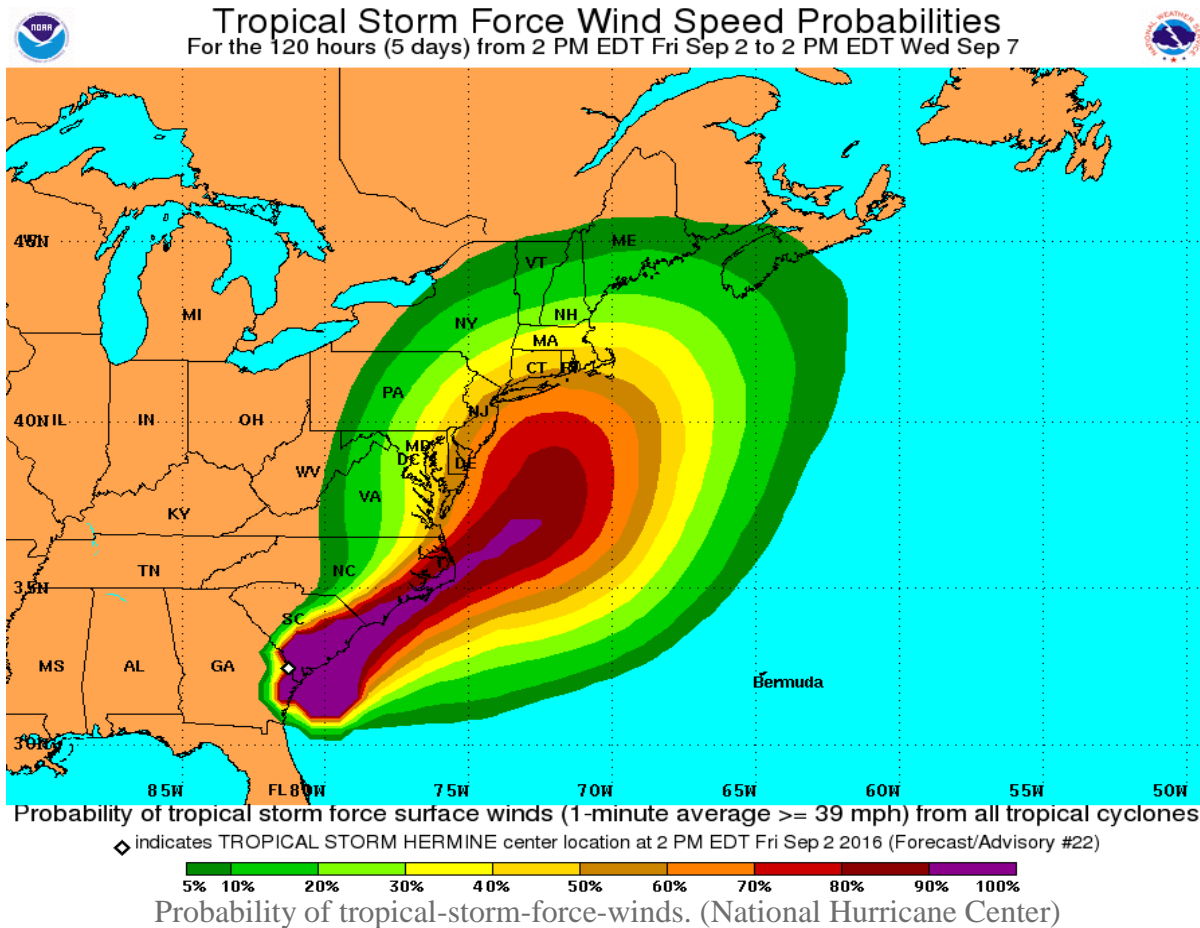
It's not a perfect weekend around here, but it could be much worse. Even relatively close by to the east it'll be quite a bit worse. Regional beaches are just starting a punishing few days of waves, rain and wind. Over here, we're living on the edge of Hermine. That's always a tricky spot to be when it comes to forecasting. Small differences compared with expectations can mean big changes. So, it's hard to rule out a surprise or two over the next few days. That said, they should hopefully be surprises we can live with.

Today (Saturday): Hermine is somewhere around the Outer Banks of North Carolina near sunrise, and continuing to head northeast from there. While the main shield of rain from the tropical storm will get rather close, the bulk of it should want to stay in southern Maryland and places east to northeast from there. A few sprinkles or light showers are possible here, but they may not even happen at all locally. Highs are mostly in the mid-70s to around 80. Winds increase to around 20 mph from the north during the afternoon, with gusts near 30 mph. Winds are substantially higher at beaches to the east, where a long-duration wind and coastal flooding event is getting underway. *Confidence:* Medium



Rainfall forecast from Hermine. (National Weather Service)

Sustained winds of 30 to 45 mph are possible with gusts to 50 to 60 mph.



The beaches face the prospect of taking a relentless beating for several days as the storm lingers not far off the coast. Some models even suggest the storm could [become a hurricane again Sunday into Monday](#), reorganizing over [ocean waters that are abnormally warm](#).

The [Tropical Storm Hermine local statement from the National Weather Service](#) warns minor to moderate coastal flooding is possible during high tides “from late Saturday onward.”

The worst coastal flooding would probably occur Saturday night into Sunday when recent tide-gauge forecasts suggest the possibility of historic (ranking in the top five storm events) rises in water along the northern Delmarva and New Jersey coasts.

“There is particular concern for tidal flooding in the back bays due to the prolonged nature of the event with Hermine stalling off the Delmarva and NJ coast for several days,” [the National Weather Service said](#).

[Huge waves](#), dangerous rip currents and beach erosion will be unavoidable.

It is important to note that, in this region, Hermine’s exact track will make the difference between coastal storm effects that are merely a nuisance and those that are disruptive, very costly and life-threatening.

North Carolina’s Outer Banks and Virginia Beach

A tropical storm warning is in effect.

Rain and wind will become most intense tonight in North Carolina and early Saturday morning in Virginia. Rain will taper off midday Saturday, but it will remain windy through Sunday morning.

Rainfall totals are expected to range from four to eight inches, with isolated higher amounts possible in North Carolina. Flooding of low-lying areas is likely.

Sustained winds of 35 to 45 mph with gusts to 50 to 60 mph are possible, which could lead to scattered power outages. Isolated tornadoes, with even higher winds, are possible embedded within the storm’s spiral bands.

A storm surge of one to three feet above ground level is possible tonight into early Saturday in North Carolina and up to three to five feet in the Hampton Roads area, which is [under a storm surge warning](#).

This will cause minor to moderate flooding in some locations. For more specifics, consult the [National Weather Service's Tropical Storm Hermine local statement for the Outer Banks and Virginia](#).

High surf is likely to cause beach erosion and dangerous rip currents.



The hurricane, downgraded to a tropical storm a few hours after making landfall in Florida, forced evacuations and destroyed homes.



Jason is the Washington Post's weather editor and Capital Weather Gang's chief meteorologist. He earned a master's degree in atmospheric science, and spent 10 years as a climate change science analyst for the U.S. government. He holds the Digital Seal of Approval from the National Weather Association.