



Hernando County
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
Alert Form



EVENT	Flood Watch (Post-Erika)
DATE	29 August 2015
TIME	5:30 PM
REPORT #	3

	EOC LEVEL OF ACTIVATION
	1/ FULL
	2/ PARTIAL
X	3/ MONITORING

SITUATION:

The National Weather Service has issued a Flood Watch for both coastal and inland areas of Hernando County from Sunday morning through Monday evening.

An upper-level trough over the Gulf of Mexico will focus deep moisture over the region for the next few days. The remnants of Erika will also become involved with the trough over the gulf, increasing the likelihood of widespread heavy rains.

- 3 to 5 inches of rain with locally higher amounts are possible.
- The Withlacoochee River at Trilby remains in Minor Flood Stage.
- Rivers already at or near flood stage will see prolonged flooding.
- Exercise caution as gusty thunderstorms could topple shallow-rooted trees due to highly saturated soils.
- Isolated strong thunderstorms will produce damaging winds; however the greater threat from thunderstorms the next several days will be the potential for additional heavy rainfall.
- Waterspouts could move onshore, becoming brief tornados.

Hernando County currently has two self-serve sandbag distribution sites open at the following locations:

Community Center of Ridge Manor
 34240 Cortez Blvd.
 Ridge Manor, FL 33523

HC Department of Public Works
 1525 East Jefferson St.
 Brooksville, FL 34601

A third location will be opened at 9:00 AM Sunday morning at:

Hernando County Fire Rescue - Station 1
 1479 Parker Avenue
 Spring Hill, FL 34606

There will be limited quantities available per household. Residents will need to bring a shovel to fill their own sandbags. This service is being offered as a precautionary measure in an effort to assist residents with their preparedness actions due to the lack of commercially available sandbags in the immediate vicinity.

The Emergency Operations Center is at Level 3 / Monitoring and is expected to remain as such through the remainder of the weekend. Residents are encouraged to remain engaged in monitoring this weather system.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER (PIC): (352) 754-4083 or (352) 754-4111 (Recorded)

Hernando County Sheriff Office - Emergency Management	National Weather Service - Brooksville
Florida Division of Emergency Management	FEMA
MyFlorida.com	American Red Cross



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RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Residents living in low lying, flood prone areas should take necessary precautions to protect life and property.
- As the current weather pattern continues, residents are urged to actively monitor their favorite news station or the National Weather Service at (<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tbw/>) for the latest weather update.
- Residents living near the Withlacoochee River can monitor the river levels at: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc/> (on this website, hover your mouse over the Trilby and Croom gauges in Hernando County to see the current river level as shown in the graphs above).
- **Remember, turn around, don't drown.** Do not drive through flooded areas after a storm event.
- Keep children and pets safely away from flood waters as they may be contaminated.
- Post flood safety information is posted on the Emergency Management site: <http://www.hernadosheriff.org/em/>
- Report damages promptly to the Emergency Operations Center at 352-754-4083.

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National Weather Service Tampa Bay Area, Florida



5 PM August 29, 2015 – Heavy Rain Threat

Synopsis/Overview: An upper-level trough over the Gulf of Mexico will focus deep moisture over the region for the next few days. The remnants of Erika will also become involved with the trough over the gulf, increasing the likelihood of widespread heavy rains.

Warnings/Watches/Advisories

- **A Flood Watch is now in effect Sunday through Monday Evening for:**
 - **Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, De Soto, Highlands, Charlotte, and Lee Counties.**
- **River Flood Warnings**
 - **Withlacoochee River at Trilby:** Remains in **Minor Flood**.
 - **Cypress Creek at Worthington Gardens:** Remains in **Minor Flood**.
 - **Myakka River at Myakka River State Park:** Remains in **Moderate Flood**.
 - **Horse Creek near Arcadia:** Remains in **Minor Flood**.
 - **Peace River at Arcadia:** Remains in **Minor Flood**.

The latest forecasts for all local rivers can be found on the **Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) Page**. <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=tbw>

Impacts

Flooding

- Widespread rainfall totals between 2" and 4" through the next 5 days. Some areas near the coast will see 3 to 5 inches with locally higher amounts likely where rain bands persist.
 - Heavy rains should begin first in our southern areas and gradually shift northward through Monday. Heavy rains may extend farther north after Monday, requiring an expansion of the flood watch at that time.
 - Rivers already at or near flood stage will see prolonged flooding.

Showers and Thunderstorms

- Gusty thunderstorms could topple shallow-rooted trees due to highly saturated soils.
- Isolated strong thunderstorms will produce damaging winds, however the greater threat from thunderstorms the next several days will be the potential for additional heavy rainfall.
- Waterspouts could move onshore, becoming brief tornados.

NWS Tampa Bay Area Briefing for August 29, 2015

Point and Click Forecast Available For Your City or Zip Code

- <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tbw/>

- Enter City or Zip Code in the upper left box

Total Areal Precipitation Forecast Ending 8 PM Thursday

- Generally between 2" and 3". **Locally higher amounts exceeding 5" are likely, especially near the coast.**

