Hurricane Fiona reached category 3 status overnight, becoming the first major hurricane of the 2022 Atlantic season.

Fiona’s outer bands may produce localized heavy rain for PR and the USVI today.

Large swells will arrive on the East Coast tonight and reach a peak later Thursday into Friday; a strong cold front passing Thursday night will bring N winds that gust up to 50 mph along the NC Outer Banks early Friday, enhancing wave action and increasing the potential for coastal flooding there.

A tropical wave well east of Bermuda (97L) is likely to become a tropical cyclone in the next 1-2 days, while a wave east of the Caribbean (98L) has a 50% chance for development as it passes well south of PR/USVI.

Please refer to the National Hurricane Center or contact your National Weather Service office for the latest on local impacts.
Fiona rapidly intensified into a category 3 hurricane with max sustained winds near 115 mph overnight, but aircraft data indicate an eyewall replacement cycle is beginning.

This will put a lid on intensification in the short-term but should allow Fiona’s wind field to become much larger.

While no direct impacts are expected along the East Coast, large swells will arrive late tonight or early Wednesday and reach a peak later Thursday into Friday, resulting in the potential for coastal erosion.

Meanwhile, a strong cold front passing Thursday night will promote strong north winds early Friday along the East Coast that may gust to near 50 mph for the Outer Banks – this could locally enhance waves and coastal flooding there on Friday and increase fire danger for the NC/VA coasts and Coastal Plain.

Although Fiona is forecast to continue moving away from the Caribbean today, unstable air left in its place and developing feeder bands have the potential to produce isolated flash flooding across the islands.

Showers and thunderstorms capable of producing renewed flooding will be isolated to widely scattered today and tonight, while some areas will remain dry.

Isolated 3-5” amounts are possible, which would either slow the improvement of or locally exacerbate ongoing flooding.

A robust tropical wave north of South America is producing numerous showers and thunderstorms this morning, but water vapor imagery shows some dry air poised to its north.

The NHC estimates at least a 50% chance for Invest 98L to develop into a tropical cyclone over the next five days as it enters the southern Caribbean.

Outflow winds from Fiona and some lingering dry air around the system should put a lid on this wave in the short term, but conditions will become increasingly favorable for it to intensify over the central and western Caribbean this weekend or early next week.

Please refer to the National Hurricane Center or contact your National Weather Service office for the latest on local impacts.
Global forecast ensemble data indicates there is a very low probability Invest 98L will impact the northern Caribbean islands over the next few days; in fact, almost no ensemble members show appreciable rainfall from the system.

Locally enhanced trade winds are possible Thursday and Friday, but any showers and storms should be isolated to widely scattered as the higher moisture levels remain well south of PR and the USVI.

Though confidence in details beyond this weekend is very low, the large scale weather pattern later next week will feature a highly amplified weather pattern across North America and the Atlantic, with strong high pressure ridges near Bermuda and Texas and a trough along the East Coast.

There are significant timing and track differences in 98L’s future, but the pattern mentioned is one that is often a precursor to tropical cyclone impacts in the U.S. this time of year.

Interests along the Gulf Coast and East Coast should continue to follow this system due to the increasing potential for tropical cyclone impacts as October approaches.