Hurricane Laura

Information from NHC Advisory 28, 4:00 PM CDT Wed Aug 26, 2020

On the forecast track, Laura will approach the Upper Texas and southwest Louisiana coasts this evening and move inland within that area tonight. The center of Laura is forecast to move over northwestern Louisiana tomorrow, across Arkansas Thursday night, and over the mid-Mississippi Valley on Friday. Reports from an Air Force Reserve hurricane hunter aircraft indicate that the maximum sustained winds have increased to near 145 mph (230 km/h) with higher gusts. Laura is an extremely dangerous category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. Some additional strengthening is possible this evening before Laura reaches the northwest Gulf coast overnight. Rapid weakening is expected after Laura moves inland.

### Intensity Measures

| Max Sustained Wind Speed: | 145 mph (category 4) |
| Min Central Pressure: | 947 mb |
| Trop. Storm Force Winds Extent: | 205 mi |

### Position & Heading

| Position Relative to Land: | 155 mi S of Lake Charles LA |
| Coordinates: | 27.9 N, 92.8 W |
| Bearing/Speed: | NW or 320 degrees at 15 mph |

### U.S. Landfall (NHC)

| Est. Time & Region: | Late tonight Aug 26 or early tomorrow Aug 27 near the TX/LA border |
| Est. Max Sustained Wind Speed: | 150 mph (category 4) |

### Forecast Summary

- **Storm surge flooding** could reach the following heights: 20-50 ft on Johnson Bayou LA to Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge including Calcasieu; 10-15 ft on Sea Rim State Park TX to Johnson Bayou LA including Sabine Lake; 10-15 ft on Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge to Intracoastal City LA; 8-12 ft on Intracoastal City LA to Morgan City including Vermilion Bay; 6-9 ft on Port Bolivar TX to Sea Rim State Park; 4-7 ft on Morgan City LA to Mouth of the Mississippi River; 2-4 ft on Freeport TX to Port Bolivar including Galveston Bay; 1-3 ft on Mouth of the Mississippi River to Ocean Springs MS including Lake Borgne; 1-3 ft on Lake Ponchartrain and Lake Maurepas. The deepest water will occur along the immediate coast near and to the right of the landfall location, where the surge will be accompanied by large and destructive waves. This surge could penetrate up to 40 miles inland from the immediate coastline, and flood waters will not fully recede for several days after the storm.

- **Hurricane conditions** are expected in the hurricane warning area tonight and Thursday, with catastrophic wind damage expected where Laura’s eyewall moves onshore tonight. Tropical storm conditions are moving onshore along the coast of Louisiana within the tropical storm warning area and are expected to spread northwestward within the warning areas this evening. Hurricane-force winds and damaging wind gusts are also expected to spread well inland into portions of eastern Texas and western Louisiana early Thursday.

- From this afternoon through Friday, Laura is expected to produce the following rainfall totals: Across the northwestern Gulf Coast from far southwest Louisiana and the Golden Triangle of Southeast Texas: 8 to 12 inches with isolated totals of 18 inches. Across central and the rest of western Louisiana into far eastern Texas: 5 to 10 inches with isolated totals of 15 inches. Across much of Arkansas: 3 to 7 inches with isolated totals of 10 inches. This rainfall will cause widespread flash and urban flooding, small streams and creeks to overflow their banks, and minor to moderate freshwater river flooding.

### Forecast Track for Hurricane Laura

![Forecast Track for Hurricane Laura](image)

### Forecast Wind-field for Hurricane Laura

![Forecast Wind-field for Hurricane Laura](image)

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Coastal Watches and Warnings
A Storm Surge Warning – meaning there is a danger of life-threatening inundation, from rising water moving inland from the coastline - is in effect for Freeport Texas to the Mouth of the Mississippi River. A Hurricane Warning – meaning hurricane conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area - is in effect for San Luis Pass Texas to Intracoastal City Louisiana. A Tropical Storm Warning – meaning tropical storm conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area - is in effect for Sargent Texas to San Luis Pass, East of Intracoastal City Louisiana to the Mouth of the Mississippi River. A Storm Surge Watch – meaning there is a possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the coastline – has been discontinued east of the Mouth of the Mississippi River to Ocean Springs Mississippi, Lake Ponchartrain, Lake Maurepas, and Lake Borgne. A Hurricane Watch – meaning hurricane conditions are possible within the watch area - is in effect for East of Intracoastal City to west of Morgan City Louisiana.

Wind Speed Probabilities and Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical Storm Force Winds
The graphic at lower left shows Tropical-Storm-Force Wind Speed Probabilities through 1 PM CDT Mon August 31. It shows probabilities of sustained (1-minute average) surface wind speeds equal to or exceeding 34 kt (39 mph). These wind speed probabilities are based on the official National Hurricane Center (NHC) track, intensity, and wind radii forecasts, and on NHC forecast error statistics for those forecast variables during recent years. The graphic at lower right shows the Most-Likely Arrival Time of Tropical Storm Force Winds - the time before or after which the onset of tropical-storm-force winds is equally likely.

Peak Storm Surge and Flash Flooding Potential
The graphic at lower left shows the forecast storm surge inundation, representing the peak height the water could reach above normally dry ground somewhere within the specified areas. The graphic at lower right shows Hurricane Laura’s day 1-3 excessive rainfall outlook through 7 AM CDT Sat August 29.

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