

The 12:30 PM MEMA/National Weather Service conference just ended. The storm track is a little clearer at the time. Instead of 200 mile margin of error it is down to a 100 mile margin of error. Unfortunately that could mean quite a difference for Bristol County.

Right now the center of the storm is expected to pass 75 miles south/east of Nantucket late Friday night (midnightish). The best case scenario is that the center will pass 100 miles south of Nantucket. The worst case is that the center would pass right between Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard which would have a greater impact on Bristol County. Mainly as a precaution, a Hurricane Warning is in effect for the Cape, Islands, and a swath of eastern Massachusetts from as far west as Westport and as far north as Hull. This places Easton on the outer fringes of this area. Obviously the greatest concern is with the coastal areas.

The storm is expected to begin at 2:00 PM on Friday and end at 2:00 AM on Saturday. The most severe rainfall and wind will take place between 5:00 PM and 1:00 AM. The current forecast for Bristol/Plymouth/Norfolk Counties is for 2-4 inches of rain. We will experience some sustained winds in the 30 MPH range with an occasional tropical storm gust (40-60 MPH). The expectation is that there will be some tree/power-line damage in our area along with some localized flooding. Please be prepared for loss of power (Flashlights & batteries – Not Candles).

If you are heading to the Cape for the weekend, motorists are advised to be off the roads by late Friday afternoon. The highest wind conditions will be late Friday night. If 70 MPH sustained winds are produced, the Cape Bridges will be closed. Campgrounds along the Cape will be closed. If you happen to be heading to the Islands – change your plans.

Massachusetts (MEMA) has plans in place to bring in extra supplies of food & water. All of the major utility companies are bringing in resources from out of state. They will be staged on the Cape, in Plymouth, and in Marlboro. The Red Cross is also bringing in resources from out of state as well.

Sunshine returns on Saturday.

Tom Stone, Chief

Easton Fire Department