



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DATE:

August 28, 2024

TO:

The Honorable Josh Shapiro
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

FROM:

Randy Padfield
Director, PA Emergency Management Agency

TIME PERIOD:

This report covers the period from 0600 hours, August 27, 2024, through 0600 hours, August 28, 2024.

STATUS REPORT: (as of 0600 hours)

THREAT STATUS:

National Terrorism Advisory System: There are no current advisories.

Commonwealth Response Coordination Center (CRCC) Status:

CWWC – Enhanced Watch
CRCC – Partial Activation

County EOC Activations:

Tioga County EOC– Full Activation
Potter County EOC – Enhanced Watch

Municipal EOC Activations:

None

CAPABILITIES STATUS:

PA All-Hazards Type-3 Incident Management / Team – Mission Capable
PA-Task Force 1 (PA-TF1) – Mission Capable

INFRASTRUCTURE STATUS:

Major Road Closures:	I-476 south in Luzerne County
Power Outage Reports:	As of 0536 hours, 1,780 customers
Telephone Outage Reports:	None

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

OPEN:

ROAD CLOSURE – Luzerne County, 8/28/24 – A dump truck hauling pavement millings from a construction project struck an abandoned Suscon Industrial Railroad bridge, which crosses over I-476 at mile marker 117.5 in Pittston Township. Southbound I-476 is closed and the Turnpike is implementing a Plan X. The trapped queue has been released by the scene. A large diesel fuel spill of unknown amount that was contained to the roadway. Northbound I-476 has the left lane closed with minimal backlog. The contracted Hazmat Company is responding. Southbound Plan X will be from the Clarks Summit Exit 131 to the Wyoming Valley Exit 115.

MISSING ENDANGERED PERSON ADVISORY – Chester County, 8/27/24 – The Pennsylvania State Police are searching for a 13-year-old female described as 5'05", 120 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, black t-shirt, brown pants, and a 13-year-old male described as 6'00", 125 lbs., light brown hair, Black t-shirt, brown pants. Both were last seen in the area of Unionville Road, East Marlborough Township on 8/27/24 at approximately 1500 hours. Police believe these individuals may be at special risk of harm or injury or may be confused.

SINKHOLE – Northampton County, 8/27/24 – A 5-foot-round, 5-foot-deep sinkhole has developed that is encroaching approximately 2 feet into the shoulder of Main Street in Palmer Township. Both eastbound lanes of Main Street are closed between Van Buren Road and Carson Court.

ADVERSE WEATHER - Statewide, 8/18/24 - Several rounds of thunderstorms and showers with high winds caused flooding, power outages, evacuations, and road closures. In Susquehanna County, water rescue crews responded to a residence on PA-106 in Clifford Township to evacuate residents due to rising floodwaters. Other residents along PA-106 experienced high water but refused to evacuate. In Herrick Township, PA-171 was closed in both directions near PA-374 due to flooding. The Erie County 911 Center lost commercial power and was on backup generator for several hours. Several local roads flooded, and a mobile home shifted off its foundation in Fells Township, Lackawanna County. Flooding was reported at PA-631 and Carbondale Road in Scott Township. All Watches and Warnings have expired. Power outages peaked at just over 18,800, with Erie County reporting the highest number of outages.

MISSING ENDANGERED PERSON ADVISORY (MEPA) – Tioga County, 8/10/24 - A MEPA was issued for a 66-year-old male that was last seen in the area of PA-249 in Deerfield Township on 8/9/24 at 1330 hours. He was wearing an orange t-shirt, gray shoes, white baseball hat, and muck boots. Police believe this person may be at special risk of harm or injury. At the request of Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and Tioga County EMA, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) was contacted for a mission assignment for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cell Forensics Team. At 1915 hours on 8/11/24, search operations were suspended. Crews continued the search on 8/12/24. Tioga County requested Pennsylvania State Police Aviation support to aid in the search. As of 8/13/24, this transitioned from a search mission to recovery operations.

MISSING ENDANGERED PERSON ADVISORY (MEPA) – Dauphin County, 8/10/24 - A MEPA was issued for a 76-year-old male that was last seen in the area of Pheasant Road in West Hanover Township on 08/10/2024 at 0810 hours. He was wearing a yellow shirt, black shorts and white sneakers. Police believe this person may be at special risk of harm or injury or may be confused. On 8/16/24, PSP updated the clothing description of the missing

individual as last seen wearing a white shirt, black shorts, and navy-blue shoes with white soles.

STORAGE TANK RELEASE – Delaware County, 8/9/24 - A leak in the bottom of a storage tank holding 137,000 barrels of gasoline caused 500 barrels to leak into a diked containment area at Energy Transfer Partners in Chester Township. Contractors are on scene to remove the uncompromised product, make repairs, and remove the spilled product. The repairs are expected to take an extended period to complete. On 8/11/24, after further investigation, it was found that 2,500 barrels had leaked, and not 500 barrels as previously reported. On 8/15/24, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reported that cleanup operations are continuing, with gasoline being removed from the tank and containment area. DEP is still monitoring the situation due to a high benzene and explosive level in the immediate area. There is no report of danger to the public as operations continue.

ADVERSE WEATHER - TROPICAL STORM DEBBY – Statewide, 8/8/24 - On August 9, 2024, the Commonwealth Watch and Warning Center (CWWC) went into Enhanced Watch and Partial Activation to monitor Tropical Storm Debby. Several counties activated their Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), with Cumberland, Luzerne, and Tioga counties remaining operational. The storm triggered Tornado and Flood Watches, causing widespread damage, including power outages, road closures, and flooding that required multiple swift water rescues.

Significant incidents included the flooding of apartment buildings in Avondale Borough, large power outages in Harrisburg, and an EF-1 tornado in Dauphin County. In several counties, Boil Water Advisories (BWAs) were issued due to water treatment plant failures, affecting thousands of residents and leading to hospital diversions and evacuations.

Governor Shapiro declared a Disaster Emergency for 21 counties, later expanding it to 28. Damage assessments began immediately, with local and state teams, along with federal partners like FEMA, evaluating the extent of the destruction. Multi-Agency Resource Centers (MARC)s were set up in the hardest-hit areas to assist residents with recovery efforts. Agricultural losses were significant, with thousands of acres of crops destroyed.

By August 23, Pennsylvania requested a Major Disaster Declaration due to the extensive damage. Relief efforts continued, with the Incident Management Team overseeing operations until transitioning responsibilities to local authorities on August 27. The relief Incident Management Team (IMT) transitioned incident management to Tioga County authorities at 1800 hours, August 27, 2024. Staff will continue conducting initial damage assessments for Public Assistance (PA) in Cambria and Elk counties. Teams have completed assessments in Cameron and Indiana Counties.

WATER LEAK – Lancaster County, 6/1/24 - A 3/4" cap on a water line broke on the 3rd floor of the Lancaster County Government Building, 150 North Queen Street in the City of Lancaster. The leak caused water damage to the 3rd floor as well as the floors below. A damage assessment was conducted by the Emergency Management staff, the County Facilities Director, and Complete Restoration. On 6/2/24, the County Commissioners decided to close the government center on Monday, 6/3/24, while evaluation of water damage in the building continues. The center reopened to the public on 6/10/24, but many of the offices are out of their normal locations and the facility is still in recovery mode.

ROAD CLOSURE DUE TO SUBSIDENCE – Cambria County, 4/25/24 - An engineer for West Taylor Township contacted the county EMA about subsidence of the roadway in the 100 block of Batzel Road. Emergency management staff responded and noted considerable

subsidence of the roadway. This is reportedly an ongoing issue where the township lays down new asphalt as a temporary measure. Electrical service and a cable line are pulled tight between the nearby residence and a utility pole, which seems to have shifted. There is also considerable twisting of the guardrail. Cement barriers will be requested to close the roadway. There are no residents that are currently affected by this closure. There will be a minor detour for emergency vehicles. Engineers are working with the township to develop a long-term repair plan. A decision is being waited on from the municipality.

TRAIN DERAILMENT – Columbiana County, Ohio, 2/3/23 - On 2/3/23, Beaver County crews responded to a major train derailment near East Palestine, Ohio, involving 53 railcars, some carrying vinyl chloride, which caught fire. Although initial EPA monitoring showed no impact on Pennsylvania, air monitoring and a potential impact model were conducted. A shelter-in-place order was issued for the nearby one-mile zone in Beaver County, later upgraded to an evacuation for 20 homes when vinyl chloride cars showed a temperature rise. Cleanup efforts began, including a controlled burn to release chemicals, while Norfolk Southern established a Family Assistance Center.

Throughout February and March, Pennsylvania state agencies, including PEMA and the Department of Health, actively monitored air and water quality, provided health resources, and coordinated evacuations and public information efforts. Norfolk Southern agreed to financial reparations for damages and ongoing community support, while excavation of contaminated soil and water continued. Monitoring and cleanup efforts persisted, with significant milestones achieved by mid-2023, such as the reopening of affected roads, the conclusion of excavation under the tracks, and the ongoing offer of assistance for indoor cleaning within the evacuation zone. EPA and PA DEP continue to monitor the area for contamination.

CLOSED:

SEARCH DETAIL – Lancaster County, 8/27/24 - The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) were searching for an 86-year-old white male in the area of 5220 Diem Road in Salisbury Township. He was known to have dementia and was last seen at 1630 hours on August 27th. Fire and police crews assisted in the search with drones and a K9. He was located safe later that evening.

SHOOTING – Philadelphia County, 8/27/24 - Four adults were involved in a shooting near 3200 G Street, City of Philadelphia. All four were transported to Temple Hospital. One was reported in critical condition, and three are in stable condition. The shooter has not been apprehended, but Police will continue to investigate.

ROAD CLOSURE – Allegheny County, 8/27/24 - PA-28 North was closed at exit 13 in East Dear Township, for a two-vehicle passenger car accident with a fatality. There were no fuel spills. The trapped queue was released. A detour was established with a one-mile backlog. PSP conducted accident reconstruction and the roadway reopened shortly after three hours.

EVACUATION – Northampton County, 8/27/24 - A strong odor of gas was reported coming from one of the apartments above a daycare at 2022 Main St., Northampton Borough. There are seven apartments above the daycare as well as Santa Fe Taco Company. The odor was caused by a stove that was left on overnight. No alarms were activated in the building, and no one reported symptoms. Approximately 45 people were evacuated between the apartments and the daycare. The fire department vented the building, and residents along with the daycare were allowed to return to the building. The scene was turned over to UGI.

911 OUTAGE – Franklin, Tioga, Blair County, 8/27/24 - Franklin, Tioga and Blair Counties received an email from AT&T advising they are experiencing a network service outage impacting the ability to deliver AT&T Mobility wireless 911 calls in their area. The specific cause was unknown. All issues were resolved within three hours.

SCHOOL BUS ACCIDENT – Dauphin County, 8/27/24 – A vehicle accident involving a Londonderry Elementary School van occurred on I-83 South at the Derry Street exit in Swatara Township. The student and the driver were transported to a local hospital for evaluation and treatment.

SCHOOL BUS ACCIDENT – Cumberland County, 8/27/24 - An accident involving a Mechanicsburg Area School District school bus and a passenger car occurred on US-15 North, Rossmoyne Road off-ramp in Lower Allen Township. There were seven students and one driver on the bus. Two individuals from the car and one student from the bus were injured and transported to local hospitals. The bus was towed from the scene.

911 SERVICE ISSUE – Erie County, 8/26/24 - A 911 issue impacted landline phones in Girard Township, due to a suspected fiber cut. Verizon 911 notified Erie County of the issue impacting 911 services that may affect 911 calls from reaching the 911 Center. Wireless test calls were conducted and are functioning normally, only landlines were impacted. Non-emergency communications with State Police in Girard have resumed without further occurrence or issue.

DISASTER DECLARATIONS:

8/20/24 – Governor Shapiro amended the 8/9/24 Proclamation of Disaster Emergency to add seven additional counties to include Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Elk, Indiana, and York as ongoing assessments show significant damages due to catastrophic flooding from the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby.

8/20/24 – Putnam Township, Tioga County issued a Declaration of Disaster due to adverse weather.

8/19/24 – Shippen Township, Tioga County issued a Declaration of Disaster due to adverse weather.

8/19/24 – The following municipalities in Susquehanna County issued a Declaration of Disaster due to adverse weather: Clifford Township, Harford Township, Lenox Township, Middletown Township.

8/18/24 - Westfield Township, Tioga County issued a Declaration of Disaster due to adverse weather.

8/16/24 - Union County issued a Declaration of Disaster due to adverse weather.

8/16/24 - The following municipalities in Union County issued Declarations of Disaster due to adverse weather: Mifflinburg Borough, New Berlin Township, Gregg Township, East Buffalo Township, West Buffalo Township, and Buffalo Township.

8/15/24 - Tioga County issued a county Declaration of Disaster due to adverse weather.

8/15/24 - The following municipalities in Tioga County issued Declarations of Disaster due to adverse weather: Bloss Township, Duncan Township, Westfield Borough, Tioga Township,

Liberty Township, Liberty Borough, Knoxville Borough, Gaines Township, Elkland Borough, Deerfield Township, Clymer Township, and Brookfield Township.

8/13/24 - Potter County issued county Declaration of Disaster due to adverse weather.

8/13/24 - The following municipalities in Potter County issued Declarations of Disaster due to adverse weather: Abbott Township, Allegany Township, Austin Borough, Bingham Township, Coudersport Borough, Eulalia Township, Galeton Borough, Genesee Township, Harrison Township, Hebron Township, Hector Township, Homer Township, Keating Township, Pike Township, Summit Township, Sweden Township, Sylvania Township, Ulysses Borough, Ulysses Township, West Branch Township, and Wharton Township due to impacts from adverse weather.

8/13/24 - Cameron County issued disaster declarations for Shippen and Gibson Townships due to impacts from adverse weather.

8/13/24 - Cogan House Township, Lycoming County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

8/12/24 - The following municipalities in Lycoming County have issued Declarations of Disaster due to adverse weather: Jackson Township, Susquehanna Township, and Williamsport City.

8/10/24 - Cumberland County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a large water main break affecting multiple municipalities.

8/10/24 - The following municipalities in Lycoming County have issued Declarations of Disaster due to adverse weather: Gamble Township and Pine Township.

8/9/24 - Lycoming County issued a county Declaration of Disaster due to adverse weather.

8/9/24 - The following municipalities in Lycoming County have issued Declarations of Disaster due to adverse weather: Anthony Township, Gamble Township, Hepburn Township, Lewis Township, Lycoming Township, McIntyre Township, Mifflin Township, Nippenose Township, Old Lycoming Township, Pine Township, Salladasburg Borough, South Williamsport Borough, and Woodward Township.

8/9/24 - The following municipalities in Susquehanna County have issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather: Choconut Township, Middletown Township, and Susquehanna Depot Borough

8/9/24 - Governor Josh Shapiro issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for Adams, Bedford, Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Fulton, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Pike, Potter, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties, due to the impacts of the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby, which caused dangerous conditions, including flash and riverine flooding across the named counties.

8/9/24 - Liberty Township, Susquehanna County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

8/9/24 - Clymer Borough, Indiana County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

8/9/24 - Green Township, Indiana County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

8/9/24 - Penbrook Borough, Dauphin County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

8/9/24 - Reed Township, Dauphin County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

8/8/24 - Duboistown Borough, Lycoming County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

7/22/24 - Small Business Administration Declaration issued for the four-alarm apartment building fire on Roosevelt Boulevard in the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County. The physical damage loan application deadline is 9/20/24. The economic injury loan application deadline is 4/22/2025.

7/22/24 - City of Philadelphia issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency as a result of the large-scale fire which took place on 7/11/24 at the Roosevelt Apartments located at 7400 Roosevelt Boulevard.

6/7/24 - City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a multi-residential structure fire at the 2nd Avenue Commons Shelter on 6/4/24.

4/11/24 - Oakdale Borough, Allegheny County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/10/24 - Jefferson Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/10/24 - Jackson Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/10/24 - Perry Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/10/24 - Wayne Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/10/24 - Center Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/9/24 - Aleppo Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/8/24 - Washington Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/8/24 - Richhill Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/5/24 - Gilmore Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/4/24 - Nippenose Township, Lycoming County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/4/24 - Deemston Borough, Washington County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

9/25/23 - Blawnox Borough, Allegheny County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a water main break and damages to Freeport Road.

9/19/23 - Fairchance Borough, Fayette County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a dam issue that has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and property of Fairchance Borough on or about 9/19/23.

8/14/23 - Plum Borough, Allegheny County, issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a house explosion on 8/13/23.

9/10/21 - The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, requested a major disaster declaration from the President through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide additional support for state, county and municipal governments, and individuals affected by the remnants of Hurricane IDA between 8/31/21 and 9/5/21. The declaration includes Individual Assistance to individuals and households in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia, and York counties, and assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in all areas of the Commonwealth. Public Assistance is under review. The President approved the declaration on 9/10/21 under Major Disaster Declaration FEMA-4618-DR. 9/24/21 – Amendment No. 1 designates Bedford and Northampton counties for Individual Assistance. 10/8/21 – Amendment No. 2 designates Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery counties for Public Assistance (already designated for Individual Assistance). 10/14/21 – Amendment No. 3 designates Bedford, Philadelphia, and York counties for Public Assistance (already designated for Individual Assistance). In addition, Fulton, Huntingdon, Luzerne, and Schuylkill counties for Public Assistance. 10/20/21 – Amendment No. 4 designates Delaware County for Public Assistance (already designated for Individual Assistance), and Dauphin County for Public Assistance.

8/31/21 - The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, signed a statewide Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on 8/31/21 in response to severe weather event Hurricane Ida that affected the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania causing widespread threats of serious flash and riverine flooding and other adverse impacts throughout the Commonwealth.

3/30/20 - Governor Tom Wolf requested a major disaster declaration from the President through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide additional support for state, county and municipal governments and certain nonprofits, as well as individuals who are struggling during the COVID-19 outbreak. The request for a major disaster declaration will provide the same emergency protective measures available under the nationwide emergency proclamation; the following Individual Assistance programs: Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Community Disaster Loans, and the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Program; and Statewide Hazard Mitigation. The President approved the declaration on 3/30/20 under Major Disaster Declaration FEMA-4506-DR.

11/27/18 - A Major Disaster Declaration was declared on 11/27/18 for severe storms and flooding that occurred 8/10/18 – 8/15/18. Public Assistance (Cat A-G) was approved for Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna, Lycoming, Montour, Northampton, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming counties. In addition, all areas in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The designation is FEMA-4408-DR.

CONTIGUOUS STATE EVENTS OF POTENTIAL INTEREST TO PENNSYLVANIA:

Delaware:	Normal Operations
Maryland:	Normal Operations
New Jersey:	Normal Operations
New York:	Normal Operations
Ohio:	Normal Operations
West Virginia:	Enhanced Monitoring - Possible flooding and drought

24-Hour Projected Weather Statewide:

National Weather Service, 0431 hours, 8/28/24

A surge of mid-summer heat and humidity will help to fuel strong to potentially severe thunderstorms across parts of the Commonwealth today into tonight. The greatest risk of damaging thunderstorm wind gusts is from the Interstate 80 corridor to the Maryland line.

High temperatures this afternoon will range from the upper 70s along Lake Erie to the mid and upper 90s across parts southern Pennsylvania. Heat indices above 100 degrees are expected across the south-central Alleghenies and the Lower Susquehanna, Lehigh, and Delaware Valleys including the Harrisburg and Philadelphia metro areas.

An unsettled and humid pattern is forecasted into Labor Day weekend with periods of locally heavy rain possible. Conditions will trend seasonably cooler and less humid to begin the first week of September.

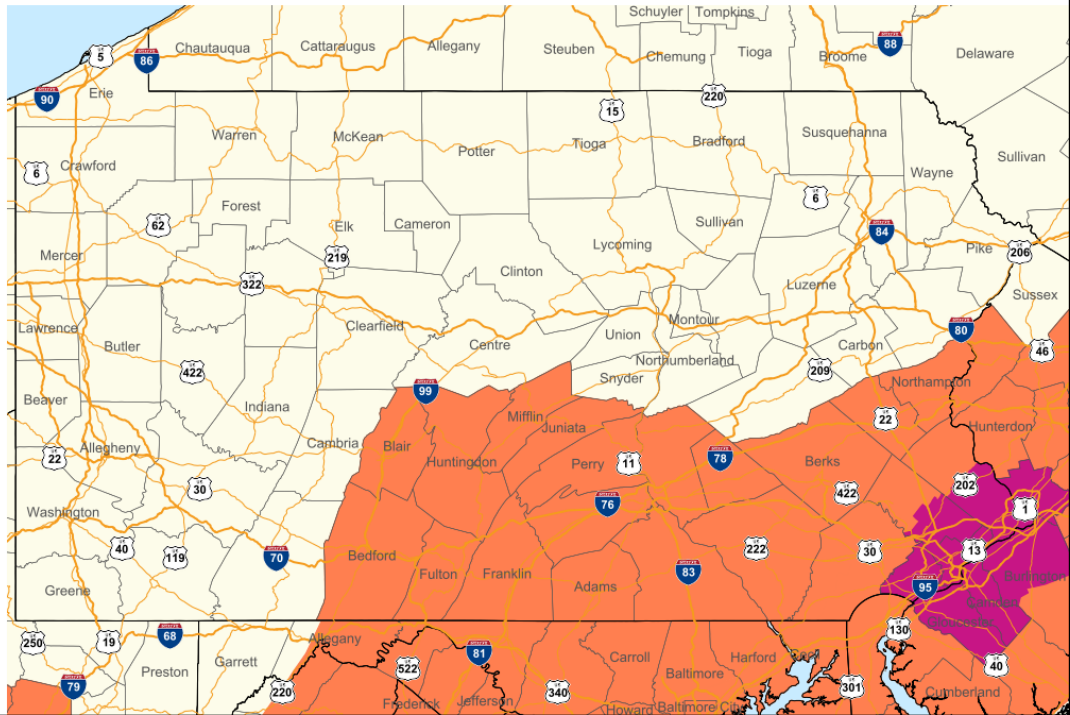
WATCHES AND WARNINGS:

An Excessive Heat Warning was issued until 2000, 8/28/24 for the following counties: Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia



Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

■ Excessive Heat Warning
■ Heat Advisory



Graphic Created
August 28th, 2024
4:20 AM EDT

TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK:



Two-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

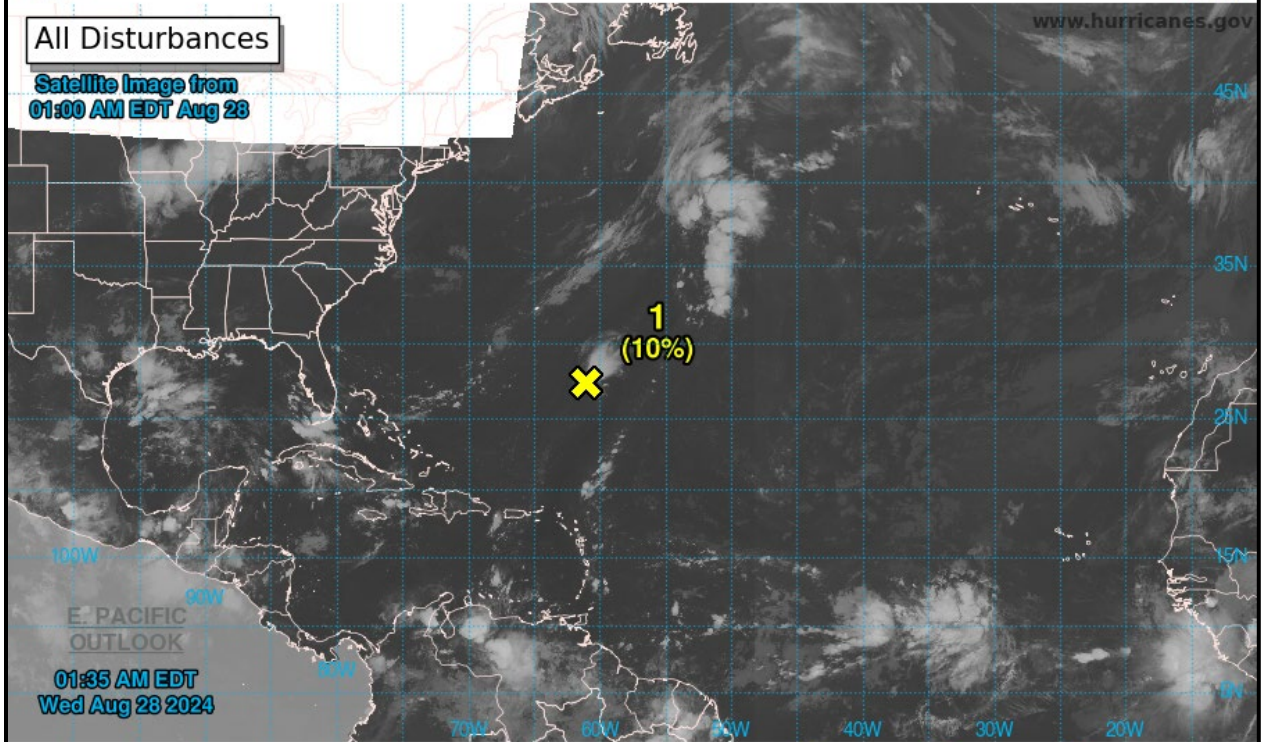
National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



All Disturbances

Satellite Image from
01:00 AM EDT Aug 28

www.hurricanes.gov



01:35 AM EDT
Wed Aug 28 2024

Current Disturbances and Two-Day Cyclone Formation Chance: < 40% 40-60% > 60%
Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: Depression Storm Hurricane
 Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants