



SEVERE WEATHER UPDATE - TROPICAL STORM LEE

September 2, 2011

For Immediate Release

As of Friday, September 2, 2011, at 12:46 pm, the National Weather Service has reported that Tropical Depression #13 has now strengthened into Tropical Storm Lee. The storm continues with heavy rain bands, continuing to spread across much of southeastern and south-central Louisiana.

STORM TRACKING

At 12 PM, the center of Tropical Storm Lee was located near latitude 27.4 N, longitude 91.5 W, or about 190 miles south-southwest of New Orleans, about 250 miles southwest of Gulfport, Mississippi. Storm motion was NW or 325 degrees at 2 mph. Storm intensity was 40 mph.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

STORM SURGE AND STORM TIDE

As tropical storm lee approaches the coast, there is an increasing chance for combined storm surge and tide waters up to 3 feet above sea level within areas closer to the coast. In worst case flood inundation, this could be up to 2 feet above ground level somewhere within the surge zone.

Minor storm surge flooding can be expected outside hurricane protection levees in areas around lakes Pontchartrain, Maurepas and along the immediate Mississippi coast and bays. Some non elevated homes in these areas may experience flooding. Minor tidal flooding of property and some flooding of low lying roads may occur.

FLOODING

A FLASH FLOOD WATCH IS IN EFFECT FOR PORTIONS OF SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA AND SOUTH MISSISSIPPI.

This is a slow moving storm that will dump a lot of rain throughout the area. Storm total accumulations are expected to exceed 10 inches across a large area with some locations

possibly receiving between 15 and 20 inches through Tuesday. This will present a high risk of flash flooding as soils become saturated and area streams become elevated.

WINDS

As Tropical Storm Lee approaches, we can expect sustained tropical storm force winds to begin early Saturday afternoon. Maximum winds are forecast to be in the 40 to 50 mph range with gusts to 75 mph.

TORNADOES

There is a slight risk of tornadoes mainly from stronger storms within spiral bands that move ashore from coastal areas. The tornado threat may increase farther inland over the weekend as tropical storm lee makes landfall and moves slowly over the region.

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