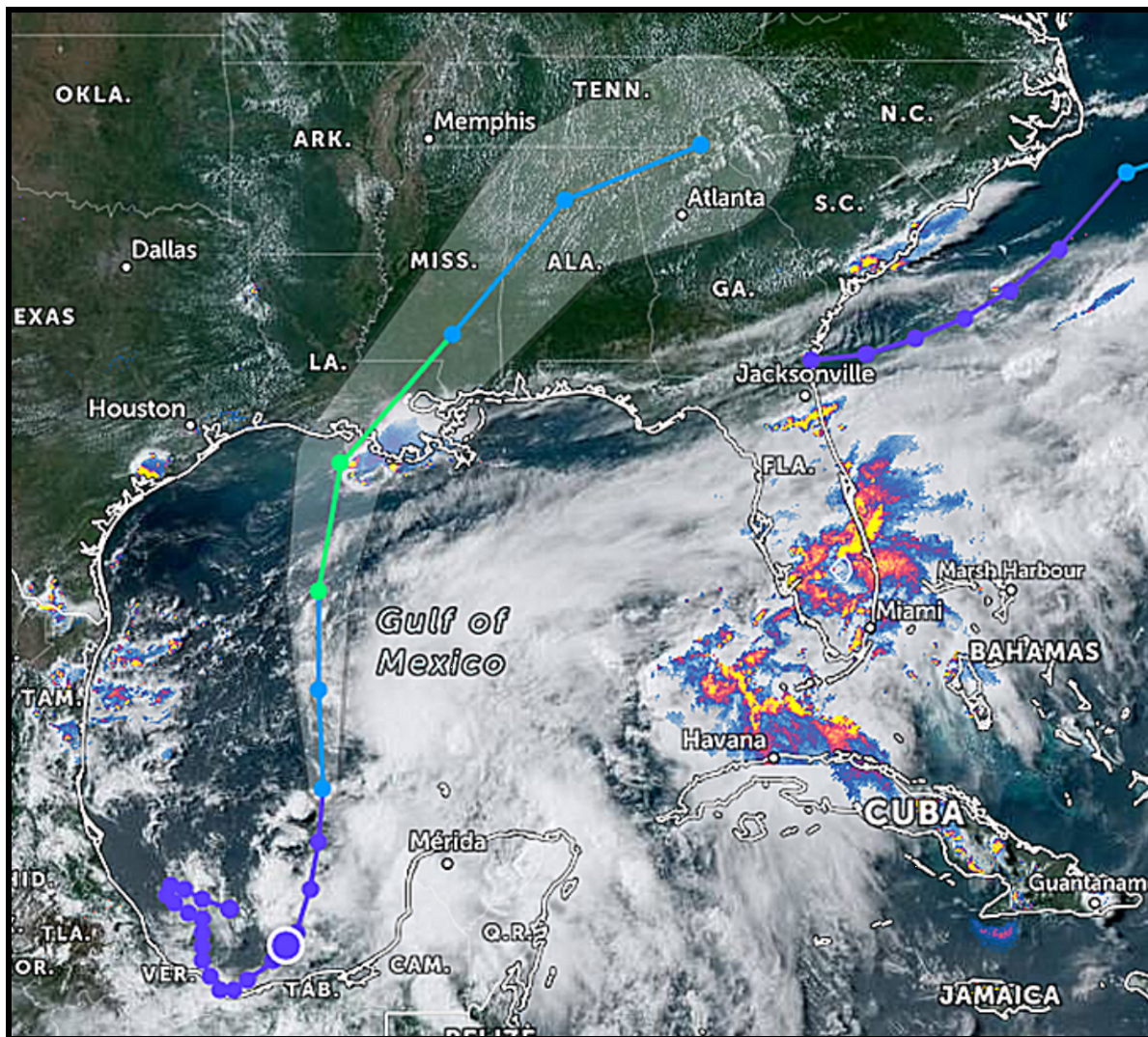


Potential Tropical Cyclone Three Forming In Gulf Of Mexico

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, June 17 (World Weather Inc.) – *Potential Tropical Cyclone Three was forming in the southern Gulf of Mexico this afternoon and will move northerly through the west-central Gulf of Mexico toward the southeast coast of Louisiana during the next couple of days. The system should become Tropical Storm Claudette around 1800 GMT Friday when the storm will be approximately 238 miles south southwest of Lafayette, La. Landfall is still expected shortly before dawn Saturday southeast of Lafayette, La. and not far from Morgan City, La.*

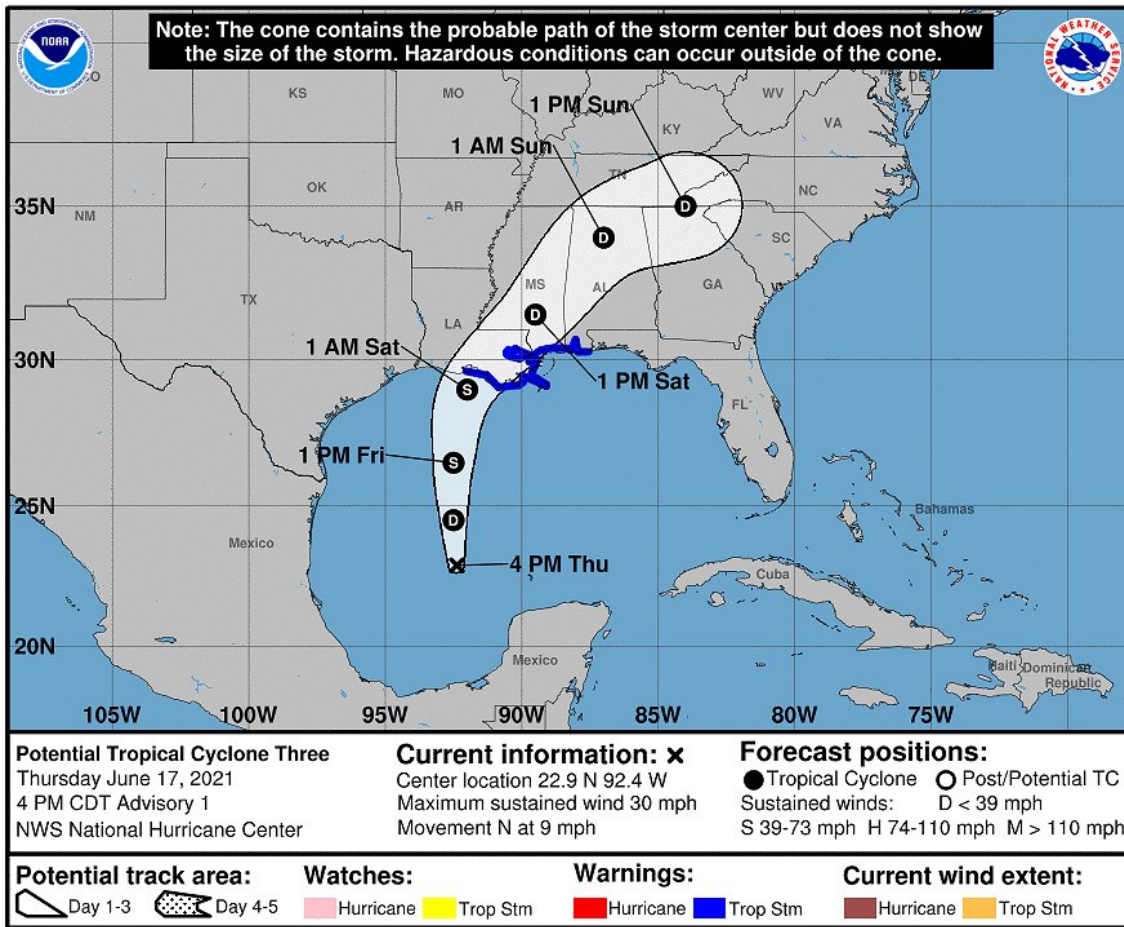


At 1600 CDT today the center of the developing storm was located 475 miles south of Morgan City, La. at 22.9 north, 92.4 west moving northerly at 9 mph and producing wind speeds of 30 mph.

Potential Tropical Cyclone Three is not well organized, but conditions are improving and the system will likely become a tropical depression overnight tonight and then a tropical storm during the early afternoon Friday. The storm will move mostly to the north over the

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next couple of days with a slow turn to the northeast expected shortly before landfall Friday night. The storm should move inland between Lafayette and Morgan City, La. shortly before dawn Saturday.



The storm is not expected to reach hurricane intensity and wind speeds at the time of landfall will vary from 40 to 60 mph. The southeast coastal area of Louisiana and other coastal areas as far to the east as the Mobile Bay, Alabama area may experience some of the stronger wind speeds. Damage from excessive wind is expected to be quite low. The storm's accelerated movement to the northeast after landfall should also help to minimize the flood risk. Rainfall of 3.00 to more than 8.00 inches is expected from southeastern most Louisiana to northern Georgia with a few local totals to 10.00 inches. Rainfall to the west of the storm center is expected to stay light which should include some of the central and western sugarcane areas in southern Louisiana.

Damage potentials to agricultural area not very great, but a few areas of flooding could damage soybeans, peanuts and/or corn produced in low-lying or poorly draining areas. Some sugarcane in southeastern Louisiana will be negatively impacted by flooding rainfall, as well, but the region should be quick to drain next week.

The storm will dissipate over the interior southeastern states later in the weekend with remnants of the storm producing additional rain in a part of the region into early next week.

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