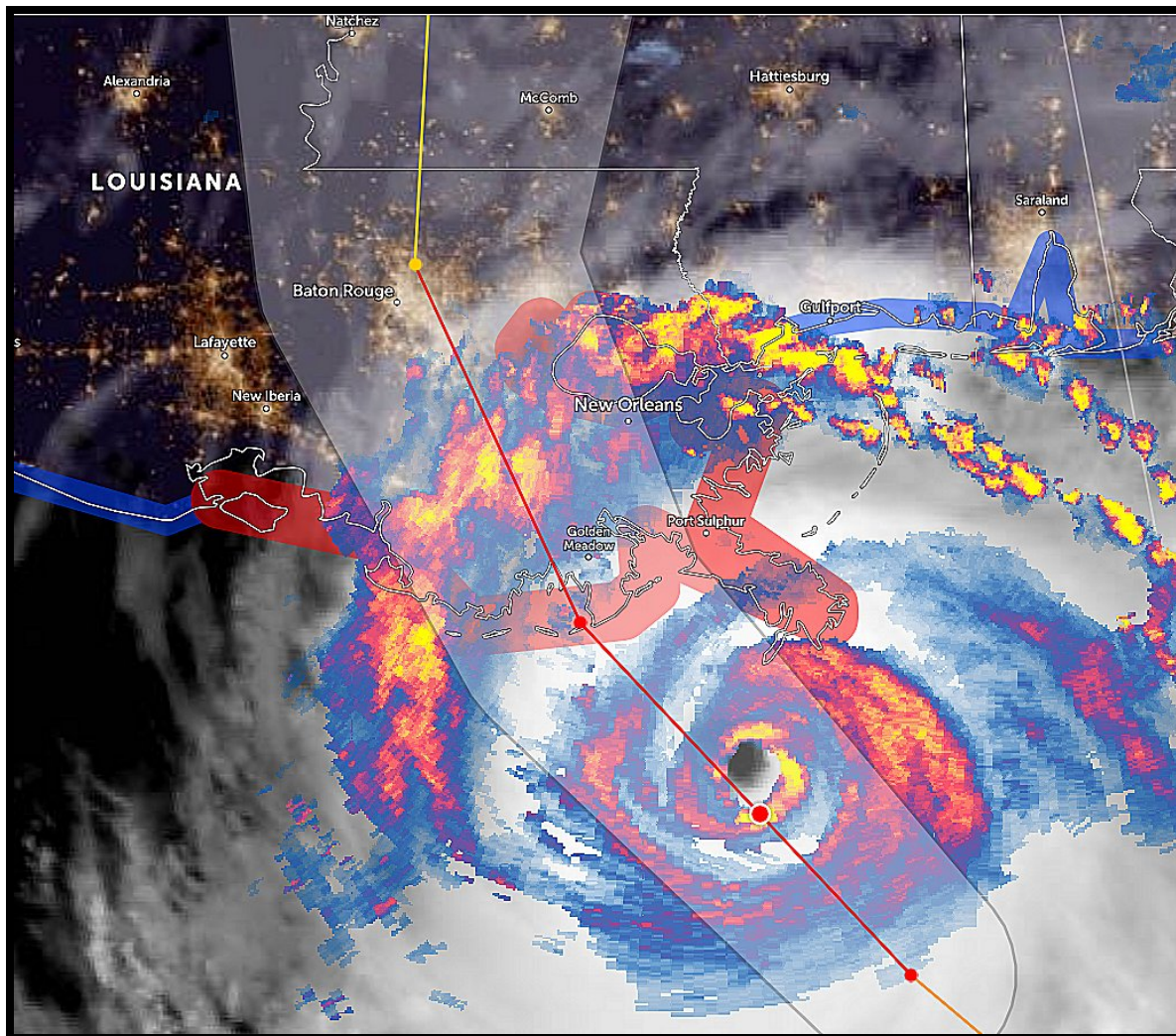


# Hurricane Ida Bringing Horrific Conditions to SE Louisiana

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, August 29 (World Weather Inc.) – Hurricane Force winds of 150 mph were occurring at 0800 CDT today and the storm was just 50 miles south southeast from Grand Isle, Louisiana and 100 miles south of New Orleans moving northwesterly at 15 mph. The storm center will reach near Houma, Louisiana during the middle part of the day today, but devastating wind and flooding along with torrential rainfall has already begun in much of the southeastern Louisiana. Damage potential to crops will be greatest in southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi. Urban and rural property damage in southeastern Louisiana will be greatest.

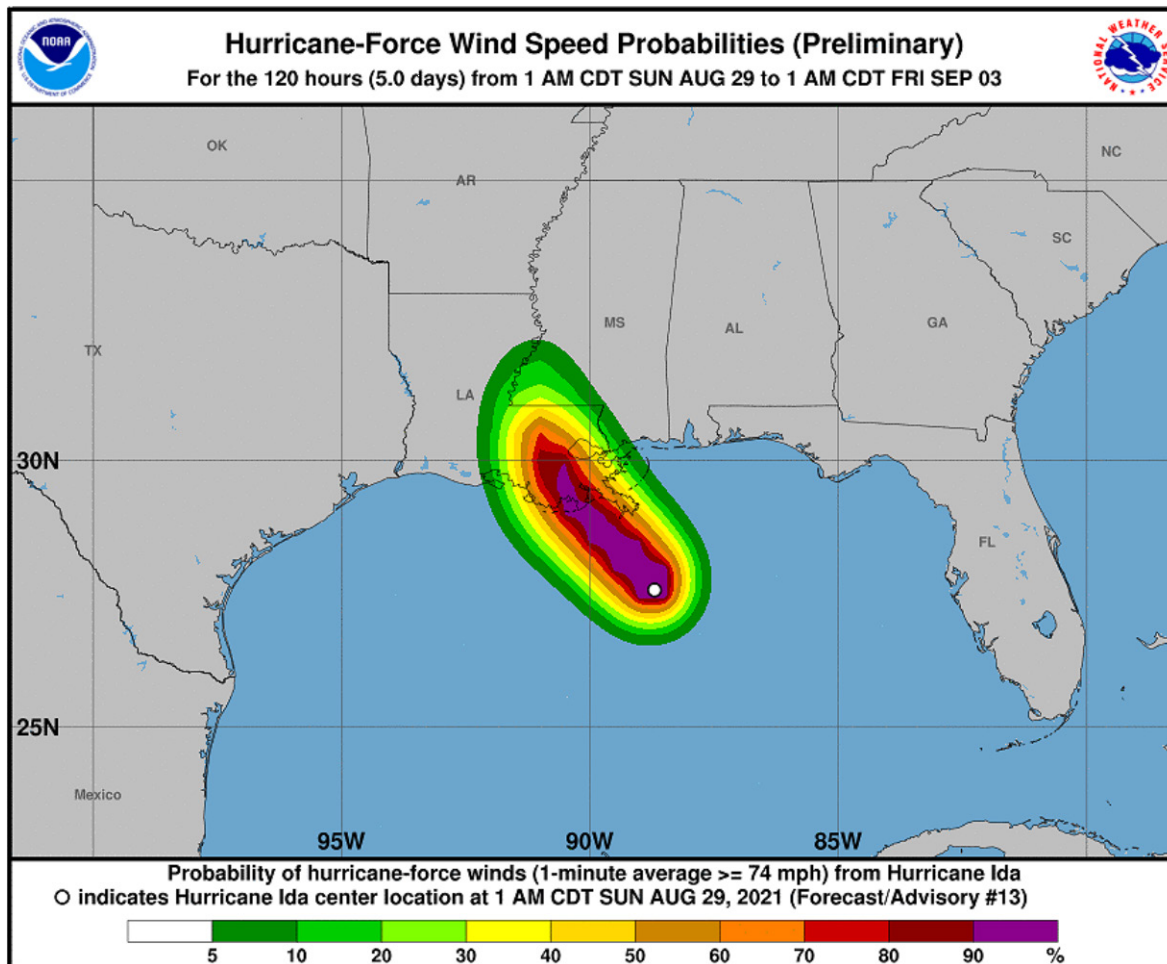


The center of the storm at 0800 CDT today was more precisely located near 28.6 north, 89.7 west and hurricane force wind was occurring out 50 miles from the storm center while tropical storm force wind (39-74mph) was occurring out 140 miles.

Ida is an extremely dangerous hurricane and its center of circulation will move from just west of Golden Meadow, LA to mid-way between New Orleans and New Iberia, La.

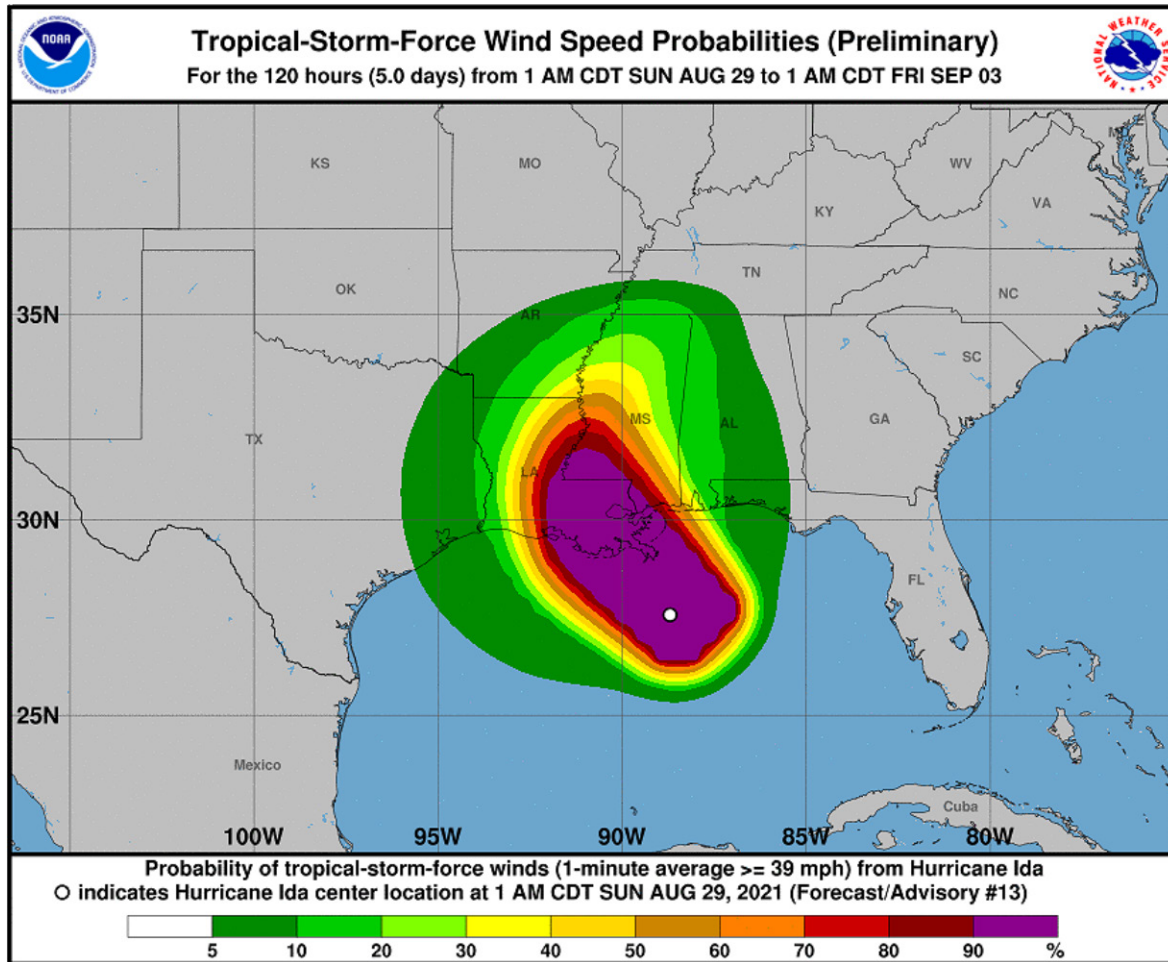
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this afternoon and tonight. The storm center will pass 37 miles to the west of downtown, New Orleans and 55 miles to the east northeast of New Iberia. Such a track will result in horrific damage to personal property, infrastructure and crops from the coast through the Morgan City, Houma and New Orleans region into Baton Rouge today and tonight. The storm center will pass nearly directly over Baton Rouge, although the peak wind speeds will be down to 80 mph at that time. Serious flooding will occur along the Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana coast, including the New Orleans area and some flooding is expected in the Mobile, Alabama and far westernmost part of the Florida Panhandle because of the storm surge.



Rainfall is still expected to range from 10.00 to 20.00 inches in southeastern Louisiana while varying from 6.00 to 12.00 inches in southern Mississippi. Damage to sugarcane in southeastern Louisiana will be very serious while crops in central and western parts of the state's production region will not be as seriously impacted although enough wind will lay the crop down. The wind in central and western sugarcane production areas will be from the north mostly and that will at least limit the twisting and mangling of cane leaving some potential for the crop to right itself again after the crop passes. That will not be the case east of New Iberia into eastern sugarcane production areas where the wind will be much too strong and will come from many directions resulting in serious lodging. Enough twisting and mangling of the crop will occur to result in notable losses.

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**In the meantime, the storm will bring serious flooding and wind damage to urban areas resulting in huge losses to trees and structures. Flooding from the excessive rain and storm surge will be horrific.**

The storm center will move through the Baton Rouge area around 0100 CDT Monday and then reach northeastern Louisiana near the Mississippi border by early afternoon Monday. Wind speeds at that time will be down to 50 mph and the storm should have been reclassified as a tropical storm by that time. The storm center will pass very near to Vicksburg, MS around mid-day Monday.

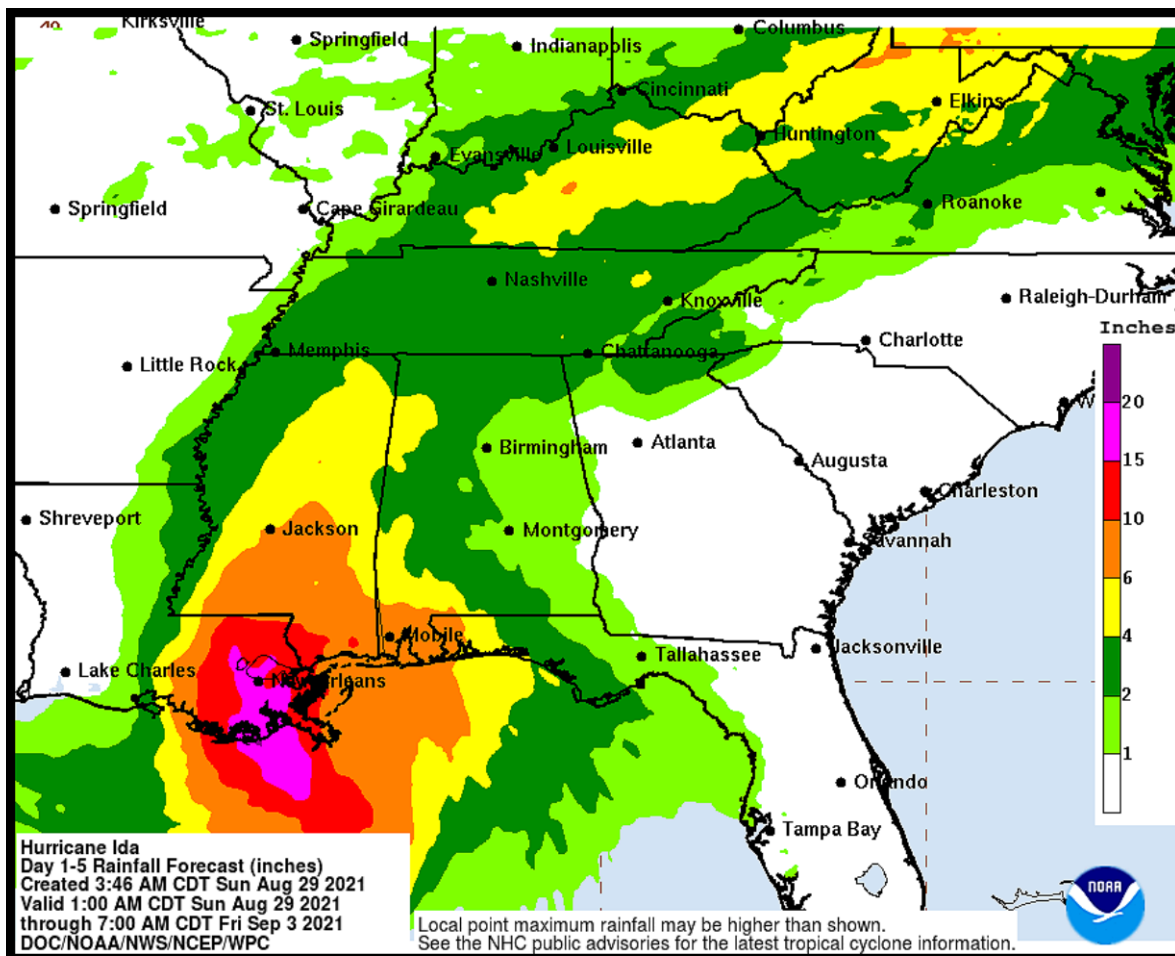
A turn to the northeast is expected Monday afternoon into Tuesday and the storm center will pass over Greenwood, MS and very near to Grenada and then southeast of Oxford and near New Albany before reaching Corinth Monday night into Tuesday morning. The storm will be slowly diminishing in intensity and will be producing wind speeds of 35 mph or less as it moves through northeastern Mississippi and into central Tennessee. The storm will be downgraded to depression status as it turns northeast through northern Mississippi and will remain a depression as it reaches the southeastern border of Kentucky Tuesday night and early Wednesday.

The storm will pass through some very important crop country where corn, soybeans, cotton and rice are produced. The storm's wind will lodge cotton and unharvested corn (although there is not much left) in southwestern Mississippi and northeastern

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Louisiana. Cotton damage from lodging may be greatest in northeastern Louisiana and neighboring areas of southwestern Mississippi, although wind speeds should be dropping below the damage threshold as the storm reaches those areas which may help minimize the impact from wind.

Heavy rainfall is expected from eastern Louisiana through most of Mississippi from the storm and that will likely extend into central Tennessee. *Flooding rainfall is expected to be most impactful to open boll cotton in Louisiana and Mississippi where some stringing of cotton fiber out of the bolls is possible. Most of the bolls have not been open for very long and the impact of heavy rain may be low – at least from stringing cotton out of the bolls. However, there will be increased potential for boll rot if sunny and warm to hot weather does not follow the storm for a while.*



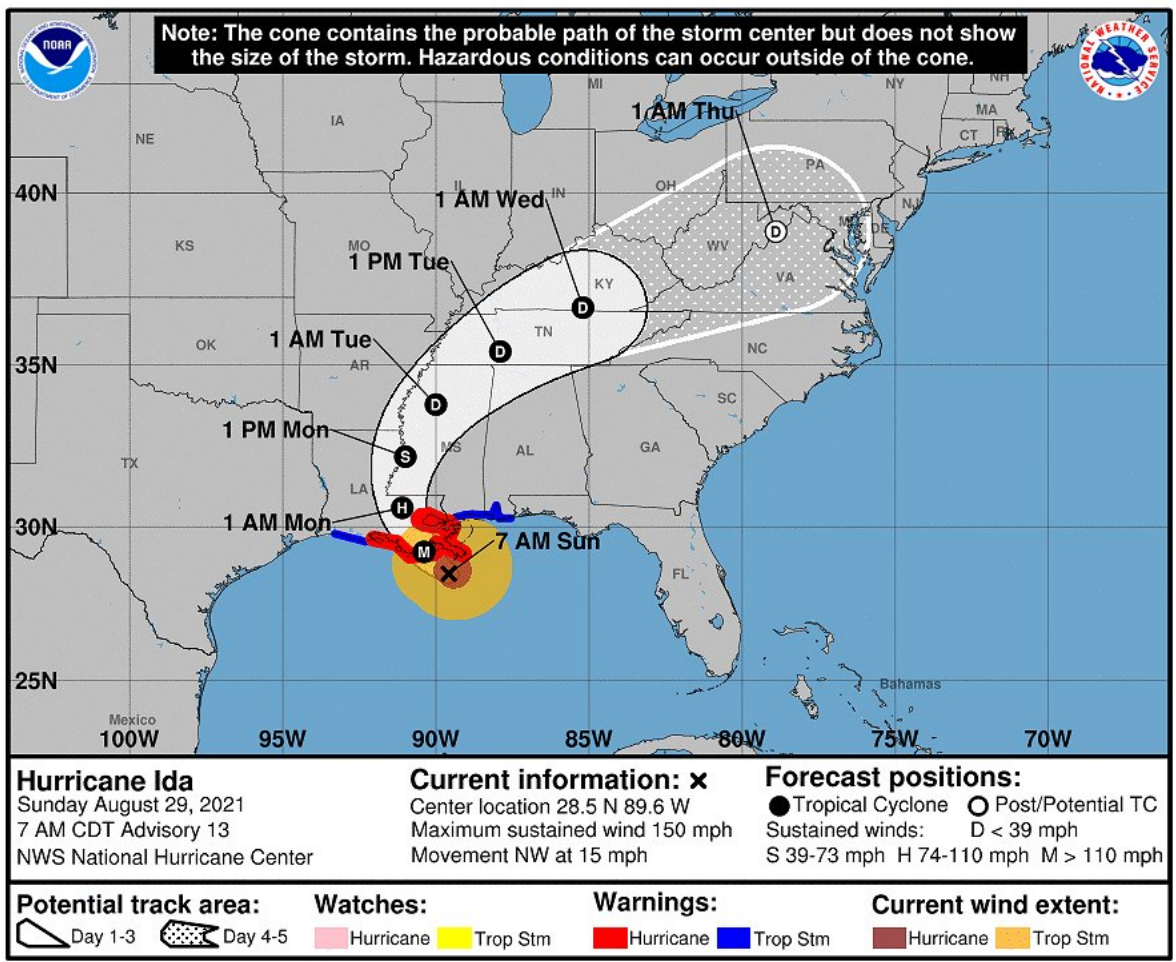
*Rice is probably most vulnerable to flooding rainfall, but the greatest storm impact will be east of the production region.* The crop is maturing and is ripe for harvesting in many areas. Torrential rainfall and windy conditions will knock some of the mature grain to the ground where it will not be harvestable. Some of the mature crop that does not drop to the ground may suffer a quality decline with some head sprouting possible if the region does not dry out immediately following the storm. *World Weather, Inc. expects losses to rice to be kept very low because of the storm's path will keep the greatest wind and rainfall outside of the key production areas.*

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**Soybeans** grown in low-lying areas may be flooded out and some loss to that crop is also possible, although the areas that get excessive rainfall will be low.

Most computer forecast models have suggested that drier weather will follow the storm for several days and that will be extremely important for the cleanup efforts and for crop recovery – if that is possible.

Hurricane Ida's greatest flooding will be in southeastern Louisiana and the damage from excessive-rain-induced flooding and the storm surge will result in the greatest loss of personal property in the region from the Mississippi/Louisiana border to the coast, including coastal areas of southeastern Mississippi. Rainfall in southern Mississippi south of a line from Vicksburg to Jackson and then to Mobile, Alabama will range from 6.00 to 10.00 inches while the remainder of Mississippi will receive 2.00 to 6.00 inches as will far western parts of Alabama. Rainfall from Tennessee through Kentucky to southeastern Ohio and West Virginia to Pennsylvania will vary from 2.00 to 5.00 inches. Flooding will be possible in these Ohio River Basin areas, but the damage will be very low and confined to low-lying areas.



**Overall, the most damaging weather to agriculture is expected in southern Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana.** Areas near the Mississippi River north of Baton Rouge through Memphis will not get nearly as much rain with amounts varying from 1.00

## **Hurricane Ida Bringing Horrific Conditions to SE Louisiana**

to 3.00 inches and many areas to the west of the Mississippi River in northeastern Louisiana and eastern Arkansas will not experience much adversity at all. That will spare many rice, corn, soybean, sorghum and cotton crops produced in those areas. **World Weather, Inc. believes losses to crops will occur, but mostly in southern Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana. Damage farther north will be lighter.**

**The urban and rural damage to property and sugarcane in southeastern Louisiana and far southern Mississippi will be, by far, the most serious impact from the storm. Widespread power outages are expected and they will last for days and the flooding in many areas in New Orleans will be extremely serious.**

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