



Hurricane Maria 9.25.17 Analysis

Risk Services Division

25 September 2017

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Hurricane Maria September 25, 2017 (2pm EST)

Summary

Maria is moving toward the north near 7 mph (11 km/h), and this general motion with some decrease in forward speed is expected through Tuesday night. On the forecast track, the center of Maria will move well east of the southeast coast of the United States during the next day or so.

Maria is expected to produce total rainfall accumulations of 1 to 2 inches over the Outer Banks of North Carolina through Wednesday.

Watches and Warnings

Tropical Storm Warning: Cape Lookout to Duck; Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds

Tropical Storm Watch: North of Duck to the North Carolina/Virginia border; North of Surf City to south of Cape Lookout

Storm Surge Watch: Cape Lookout to Duck

Impacts

- 6 confirmed fatalities
- Shelters: USVI: 6(-1) with 391 (-184) occupants; PR: 168 (-6) with 11,359 (+567) occupants
- Power Outages: USVI: 48k; PR: 1.6M (SLB as of 5:00 a.m.)
- Seaports in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands opening with restrictions
- Airports:
 - PR: San Juan Int open for commercial flights through Sept 30th
 - USVI closed except for military and hurricane relief
- Communications: Cell sites out of service PR: 95%; USVI: 77%
- Hospitals:
 - PR: 3 of 7 have some damage but operating on generators
 - USVI: Power has been restored to Schneider and Juan F. Luis Hospitals
- Guajataca Dam:
 - Flash Flood Emergency and evacuations remain in effect for the western Quebradillas Municipality (pop. 26k) and eastern Isabela Municipality (pop. 46k) due to a potential failure at the Guajataca Dam
 - Dam failure not imminent; USACE dam safety inspection ongoing
 - Water flow over the emergency spillway is eroding the spillway embankment



Flood risk area northwest of Puerto Rico

Dam Failure

The dam failure is highly likely to cause logistics disruptions in the near term, exacerbating the damages recently recorded in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Further, supply-chain operations may be delayed or disrupted by floods and landslides over at least the next two weeks.

Due to the evacuation order, clients with investments close to the two affected municipalities may also expect workforce commute delays in the short term. Clients and those affected should monitor local news for updates on any flooded or closed roadways and follow the National Weather Service's San Juan Twitter account (@NWSSanJuan) to ascertain the current status of the risk. According to the report of the Federal Communications Commission (last updated on September 21), more than 90% of the inhabitants of Isabela and Quebradillas municipalities are struggling with failures in telecom services.

Rumors and Scams

Rumor: FEMA Gas Rationing in Puerto Rico

- There are rumors that FEMA is rationing gasoline in Puerto Rico. This is false. FEMA does not have the authority to limit the amount of fuel for public consumption or purchase.

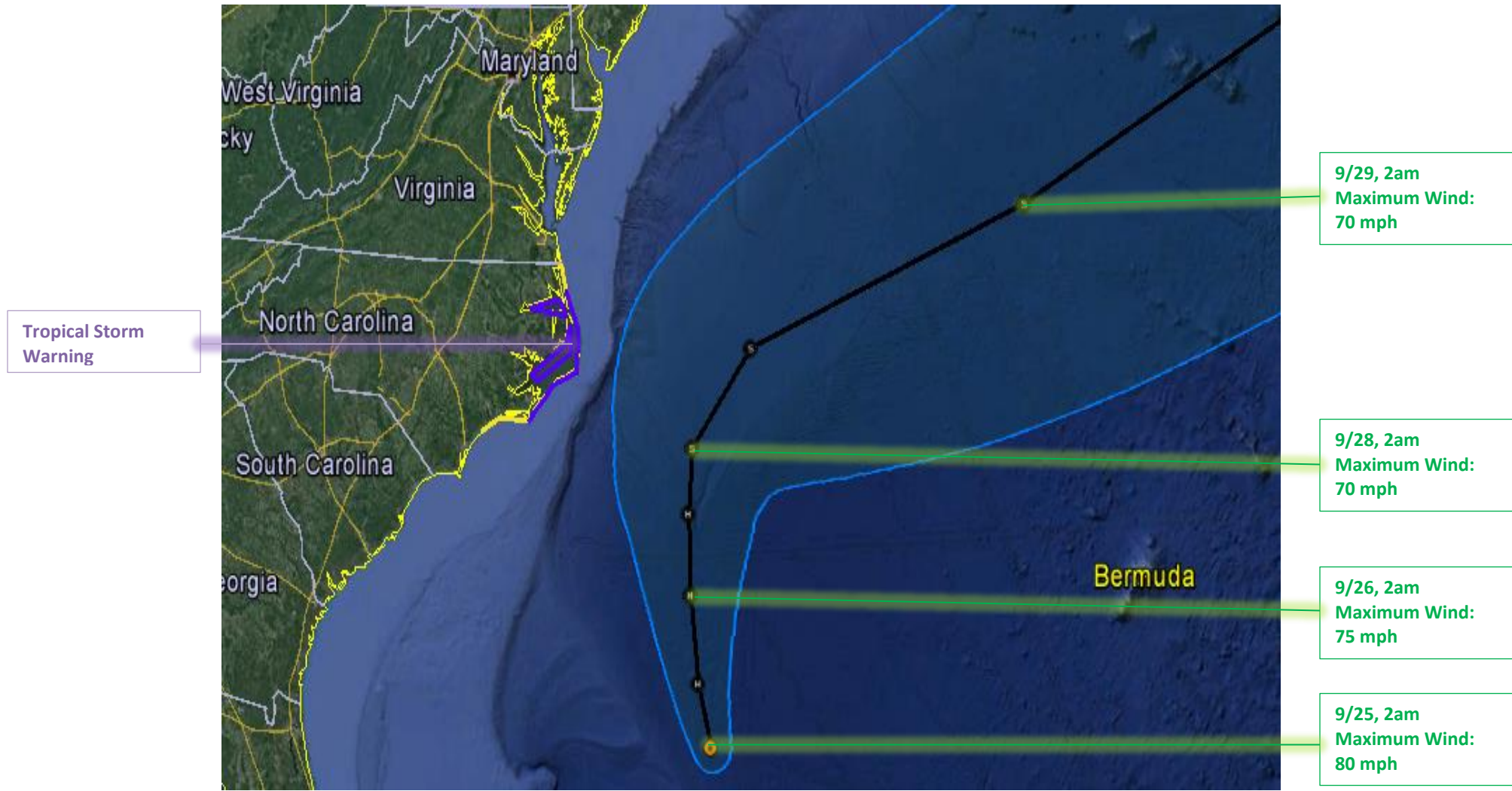
Rumor: Disaster Clean-up and Inspections

- There may be reports that disaster survivors should not remove flood-damaged sheetrock, flooring, carpet, etc. until the house is assessed by FEMA or insurance adjusters. This is false.
- Cleaning up and making temporary repairs to your storm-damaged property will not disqualify you from federal disaster assistance.
- Property owners are encouraged to document storm damage to their properties – either with photographs or video – and to then begin cleaning up and making whatever temporary repairs are necessary to make their homes safe and habitable again. Put your health and safety first, take pictures of your damaged home, make repairs to prevent further damage to your property, and keep your receipts to show the inspector.

Scam: Inspections or Contractor Repairs

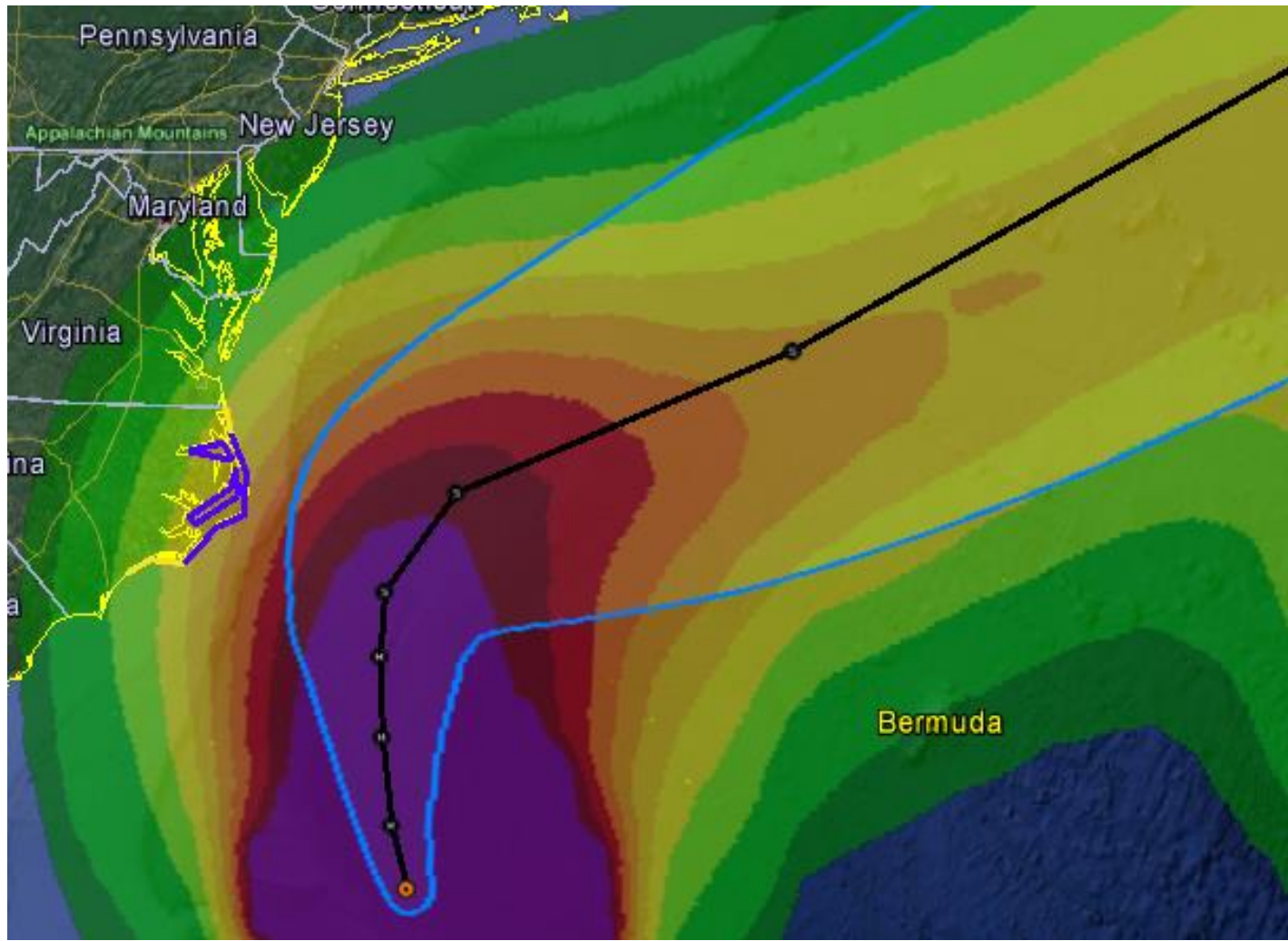
- There may be reports of FEMA inspectors asking for personal information or charging for services such as damage inspections or contractor repairs. This is a scam; scam artists may pose as government officials, aid workers, charitable organizations, or insurance company employees. Follow these steps:
 - Do not respond to texts, phone calls or personal requests seeking your personal information. The only time you should provide personal information is during the initial application process for FEMA help or when you initiate contact with FEMA to follow up on an application. FEMA inspectors only require verification of identity.
 - Ask for identification and don't be afraid to hang up on cold callers.
 - Contact government agencies using information posted on their websites or in other official sources.
 - Don't sign anything you don't understand or contracts with blank spaces.
 - If you suspect fraud, contact the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721 or report it to the [Federal Trade Commission](#).

Predicted Path



Wind Speed Probabilities

Yellow Line – 30 to 50 mph winds, **Orange Line** – 50 to 70 mph winds, **Red Line** – 70 to 90 mph winds, **Purple Area** – 90+ mph winds



For Additional Information:



American Red Cross
<http://www.redcross.org/>

US Coast Guard Storm Center
<https://www.uscg.mil/news/stormcenter/>

US National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov

US Federal Emergency Management Agency
<http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

FEMA – Mobile App
<https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>

Ready Gov
www.ready.gov

Listo Gov (Spanish)
www.listo.gov

Emergency Management Agencies
<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
http://www.cdema.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=417

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program
<https://step.state.gov/>