



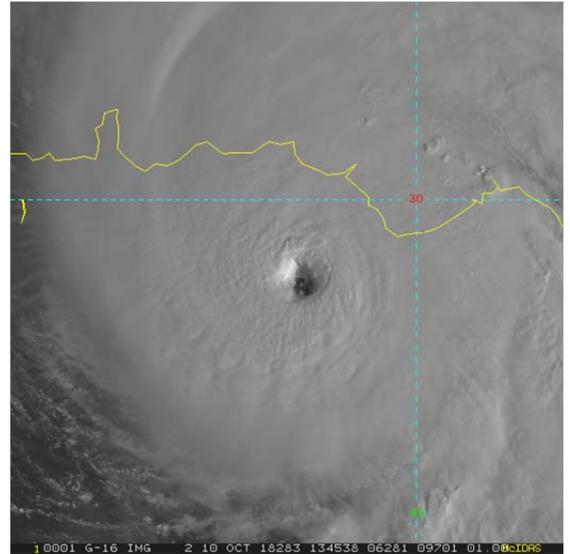
Major Hurricane Michael

Executive Summary

MICHAEL is on track to make landfall on the Florida Panhandle in the next few hours as a major Category 4 hurricane. Damaging winds and destructive storm surge will be widespread. Tropical storm strength winds and localized flash flooding are likely to extend far inland across Georgia and the Carolinas.

MICHAEL

Date/Time	10am CDT Oct 10, 2018
Location	29.4N, 86.0W
Windspeed/Pressure	145mph, 928mb
Speed/Direction	14mph NNE



Forecast Summary

Overnight Tuesday MICHAEL put on a burst of intensification and emerged as a formidable Category 4 strength hurricane with 145mph sustained winds. The storm was able to close off a hurricane eye. Once this happened, the storm became protected against any influence of drier air or environmental winds. The storm was then able to tap into the rich energy source of the warmer-than-normal waters and strengthen.

There is nothing between Florida and the storm other than energy rich waters, and MICHAEL may even strengthen further before making landfall this afternoon. Florida looks set to endure a strong category 4 landfalling hurricane (Figure 1), the strongest ever for the Florida Panhandle. Although a category 3 landfall is still possible. Even a category 5 landfall is possible, though unlikely.

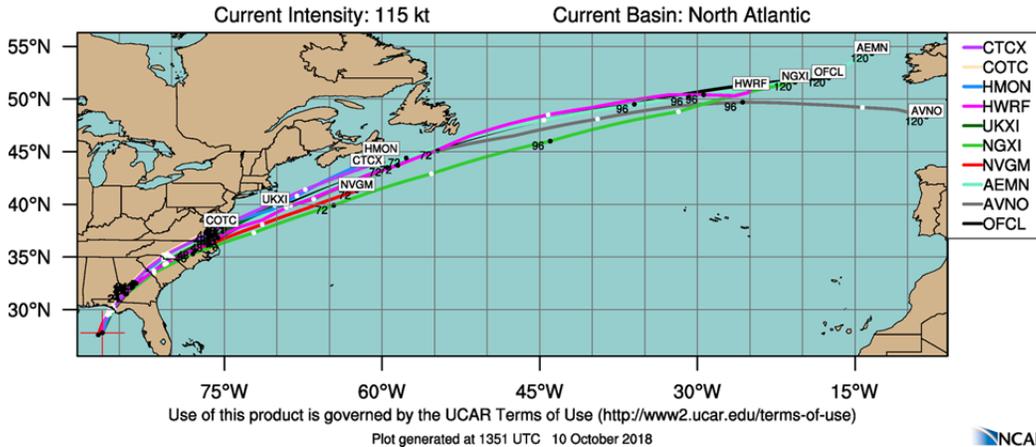
The track forecast for MICHAEL has been excellent. We continue to have higher than normal confidence of a continued northward track and then a slight bend to the northeast just prior to landfall. As before, locations between Pensacola and Apalachicola are most likely to see a direct landfall. But damaging winds and destructive storm surge will extend over a greater area.

Apalachee Bay looks set to endure the highest storm surge, with up to 13 feet of surge in places. The shallow continental shelf that extends tens of miles into the Gulf is particularly prone to accumulating storm surge that then spills out over the land.

Beyond Florida, MICHAEL will zip across Georgia and the Carolinas before emerging off the U.S. East Coast as a powerful extra-tropical storm (Figure 1). Tropical storm strength winds will be widespread inland, with flash flooding possible. But major river flooding, as we saw from Hurricane Florence, is not expected.

MAJOR HURRICANE MICHAEL (AL14)

Late-cycle track guidance initialized at 0600 UTC, 10 October 2018



MAJOR HURRICANE MICHAEL (AL14)

Early-cycle intensity guidance
initialized at 1200 UTC, 10 October 2018

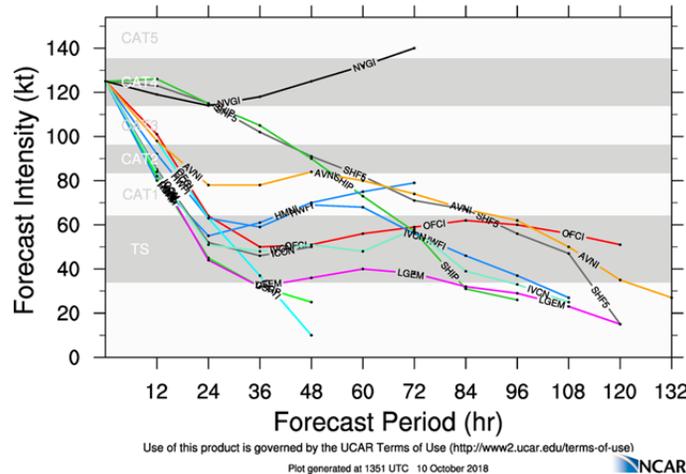


Figure 1: The latest model forecast tracks and intensity for Hurricane Michael. Source: NCAR/TCGP. For updated forecasts, please visit: <http://www.ral.ucar.edu/hurricanes/realtime/current/>

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