

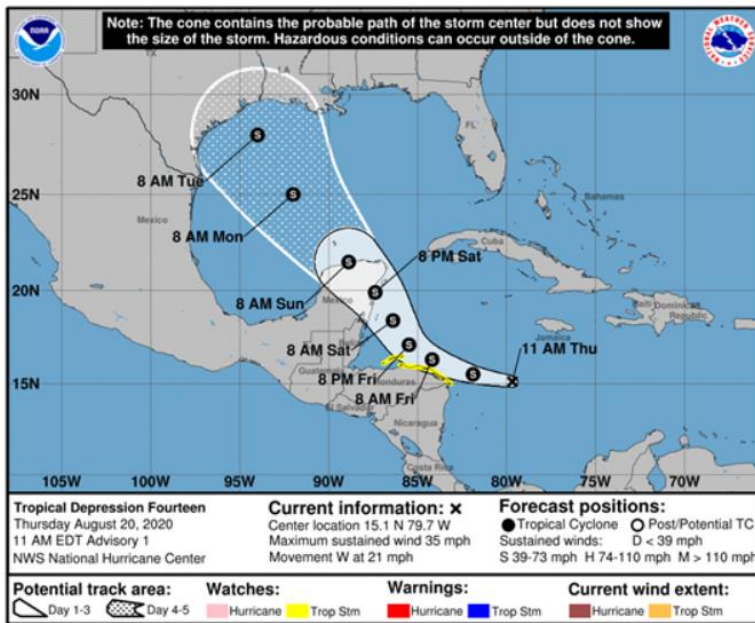


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 20, 2020 – 11AM

Tropical Depression 14 Formed

Status Update from the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – The National Hurricane Center has found sufficient circulation in the Caribbean to support formation of a tropical depression 14 (TD14). This system is expected to gradually organize/strengthen over the next several days as it moves across the Yucatan and into the western Gulf of Mexico Sunday. While there is still a lot of inherent uncertainty this far out, this increases the chances of impacts early next week along the upper TX Coast. Our next update will be at 5pm today.



PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

- Understand that your planning may be different this year because of the need to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.
- Give yourself more time than usual to **prepare your emergency food, water, and medicine supplies**. Home delivery is the safest choice for buying disaster supplies; however, that may not be an option for everyone. If in-person shopping is your only choice, take steps to **protect your and others' health when running essential errands**.
- Protect yourself and others when filling **prescriptions** by limiting in-person visits to the pharmacy. Sign up for mail order delivery or call in your prescription ahead of time and use drive-through windows or curbside pickup. If available order a 60 or 90 day supply to have on hand.
- Pay attention to local guidance about updated plans for evacuations and shelters, including **potential shelters for your pets**.
- If you need to evacuate, prepare a "go kit" with **personal items** you cannot do without during an emergency. Include items that can help protect you and others from COVID-19, such as hand sanitizer, or

bar or liquid soap if not available, and two cloth face coverings for each person. Face covers should not be used by children under the age of 2. They also should not be used by people having trouble breathing, or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the mask without assistance.

- When you check on neighbors and friends, be sure to follow **social distancing** recommendations (staying at least 6 feet, about 2 arms' length, from others) and **other CDC recommendations** to protect yourself and others.
- If you need to go to a disaster shelter, follow CDC recommendations for staying safe and healthy in a **public disaster shelter** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

STAY SAFE AFTER A HURRICANE

In addition to following guidance for staying safe and healthy **after a hurricane**, note that:

- You should continue to use **preventive actions** like washing your hands and wearing a **face covering** during clean up or when returning home.
- It may take longer than usual to restore power and water if they are out. Take **steps to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning** if you use a generator.
- If you are injured or ill, contact your medical provider for treatment recommendations. Keep wounds clean to prevent infection. Remember, accessing medical care may be more difficult than usual during the pandemic.
- Dealing with disasters can cause stress and strong emotions, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is natural to feel anxiety, grief, and worry. **Coping with these feelings and getting help** when you need it will help you, your family, and your community recover.
- People with preexisting mental health conditions should continue with their treatment and be aware of new or worsening symptoms. Additional information can be found at the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration** page.

STAY INFORMED

- Register for **AlertMCTX**, the county's official emergency alert system, to receive real-time weather alerts and post-storm recovery information.
- More information about how to prepared for this year's hurricane season is available **here**.
- Download the ReadyMCTX app. This app shows shelter and donation center locations when activated, and additional information from our office.
- Recovery information is available at www.mctx.org/recover_

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Meghan Ballard Arthur

Homeland Security Planner and Public Information Officer

Montgomery County Office of

Homeland Security & Emergency Management

O: 936.523.3907 | C: 936.522.6571

meghan.arthur@mctx.org