

the Outlook

As we move into the peak of the hurricane season the National Hurricane Center is monitoring 8 separate systems five of which pose or could pose a threat to land. Two systems both expected to reach hurricane status are headed toward the Hawaiian Islands. The Hurricane Center is also watching a couple tropical disturbances off the southwestern coast of Mexico that have the potential to intensify and track up the Baja coast. Tropical Depression Eight currently southeast of Cape Hatteras, NC looks to approach the coast on Tuesday before re-curving back out to sea on Wednesday.

Of greatest concern at the moment is Tropical Depression Nine moving through the Keys into the Gulf of Mexico. This system has been a headache for forecasters over the past week as no real model consensus has formed until recently. TD 9 has slowed due to interaction with Cuba and drier air. Recent model runs have shown a better consensus among the various models. Once this system pulls away from Cuba steady intensification is expected likely reaching tropical storm strength on Monday. TD 9 will move on a west-northwest track through Tuesday morning, slow down and turn north in the Central Gulf of Mexico late Tuesday. There remains significant spread in the intensity and timing of TD 9s landfall in Florida. Some models bring the storm in as a category 1 Hurricane on Wednesday afternoon while other models bring TD 9 in as a tropical storm on Thursday morning.

There is consensus on the storm being a borderline tropical storm/Cat 1 hurricane at landfall north of Tampa Bay late Wednesday or Thursday. There remains quite a bit of uncertainty with this storm system with the 5 day projected rainfall amounts of 4-8 inches expected over most of Florida. We will continue to closely monitor this system and other tropical disturbances in what looks to be an active tropical season and keep you up to date as we gather more information.

