

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY**Office of Cybersecurity, Energy
Security, and Emergency Response

Tropical Storm Idalia | Update #3

REPORT TIME & DATE: 5:00 PM EDT | Wednesday, August 30, 2023**REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** Public

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At approximately 7:45 AM EDT, the eye of Tropical Storm Idalia made landfall along the coast of the Florida Big Bend, near Keaton Beach, as a Category 3 storm. As of 2:00 PM EDT, Idalia was located 100 miles west-southwest of Savannah, GA moving northeast at 20 MPH with maximum sustained winds of 75 MPH. Following landfall, the tropical storm is anticipated to continue moving across southeastern Georgia through this evening, near the coast of South Carolina tonight, and just offshore the coast of southern North Carolina on Thursday. Flash and river flooding is likely across Georgia and the eastern Carolinas through Thursday, August 31.

Electricity Sector Summary

- There are approximately 295,000 customer outages in Florida and 209,000 outages in Georgia as of 3:00 PM EDT on August 30.
- As Idalia passes, utilities will begin damage assessments and restoration efforts, as conditions permit. Utilities in the impacted area pre-staged crews, equipment, and materials in prior days to prepare for the storm.
- Currently, utilities have not yet determined estimated restoration times. Restoration estimates will be determined once utilities begin conducting damage assessments.

Oil & Natural Gas Sector Summary

- As of August 30, the ports of Jacksonville, Canaveral, Tampa, Manatee, Charleston, and Savannah were closed. The ports of Pensacola and Panama City have reopened.

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS & WAIVERS

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

To provide vital supplies and transportation services to a disaster area in the United States, emergency declarations may be issued by the President, Governors of States, or Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). These declarations trigger the temporary suspension of certain federal safety regulations, including hours of service, for motor carriers and drivers engaged in specific aspects of the emergency relief effort. See 49 CFR 390.23 for the actual emergency regulation.

Emergency Declarations and HOS Waivers as of 2:00 PM EDT 08/30/2023				
State/Territory	Details	Effective Dates		Status
		Start	End	
Florida	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	8/28	Until Rescinded	Active
Florida	State of Emergency	8/26	10/27	Active
Georgia	State of Emergency	8/29	9/8	Active
North Carolina	State of Emergency	8/28	9/27	Active
South Carolina	State of Emergency	8/28	9/13	Active

Sources: State government websites

- The Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles issued an [emergency order](#) in response to Governor Ron DeSantis' Executive Order 23-171 suspending certain regulations and requirements for commercial motor vehicles and drivers in various Florida counties due to the risk of dangerous weather conditions. The hours-of-service requirements for motor carriers providing emergency relief are exempt until September 25.
- Kentucky's Transportation Secretary, Jim Gray, issued an [emergency order](#) that temporarily lifts certain regulations for commercial vehicles involved in power restoration and debris clearing after Tropical Storm Idalia. This suspension is meant to support utility and emergency crews in aiding storm victims. The order remains in effect until September 30, allowing commercial drivers to bypass driving time and weigh station restrictions during emergency response.

WAIVERS

- **EPA Gasoline RVP Requirements:** On August 30, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a waiver of Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) requirements in Florida to help reduce fuel supply shortages as part of EPA's response to Tropical Storm Idalia. Under this temporary waiver, regulated entities may produce, sell, and distribute higher-volatility winter gasoline in Florida with an RVP of no more than 11.5 pounds per square inch (psi), or 12.5 pounds per square inch if the gasoline contains between 9% and 15% ethanol. The waiver is effective immediately and will continue through September 15.
- The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued notices of intent and received confirmation on August 29 from Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina not to object to waivers of certain pipeline operator qualifications and pre-employment and random drug and alcohol testing requirements in support of hurricane response and/or recovery.