



Tropical Storm Idalia | Update #4

REPORT TIME & DATE: 5:00 PM EDT | Thursday, August 31, 2023

REPORT DISTRIBUTION: Public

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As of 2:00 PM EDT, Tropical Storm Idalia was located 120 miles southeast of Cape Lookout, NC moving east at 20 MPH with maximum sustained winds of 65 MPH. On the forecast track, the center of Idalia will move away from the coast of North Carolina today and tonight. At approximately 7:45 AM EDT on August 30, the eye of Hurricane Idalia made landfall along the coast of the Florida Big Bend, near Keaton Beach, as a category 3 storm, continuing with high winds through northern Florida, southeastern Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Electricity Sector Summary

- As of 3:00 PM EDT on August 31, there are 256,000 customer outages across Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. This is down from 500,000 customer outages across the region during the storm's peak on August 30.
- Utilities are beginning 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, most utilities have not determined estimated restoration times. Restoration estimates will be determined once utilities have begun damage assessments.

Oil & Natural Gas Sector Summary

- As of August 31, the ports of Tampa, Manatee, and Wilmington were closed. The ports of Jacksonville, Pensacola, Panama City, Canaveral, Savannah, and Charleston 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Florida	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	8/28	Until Rescinded	Active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, has 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.