

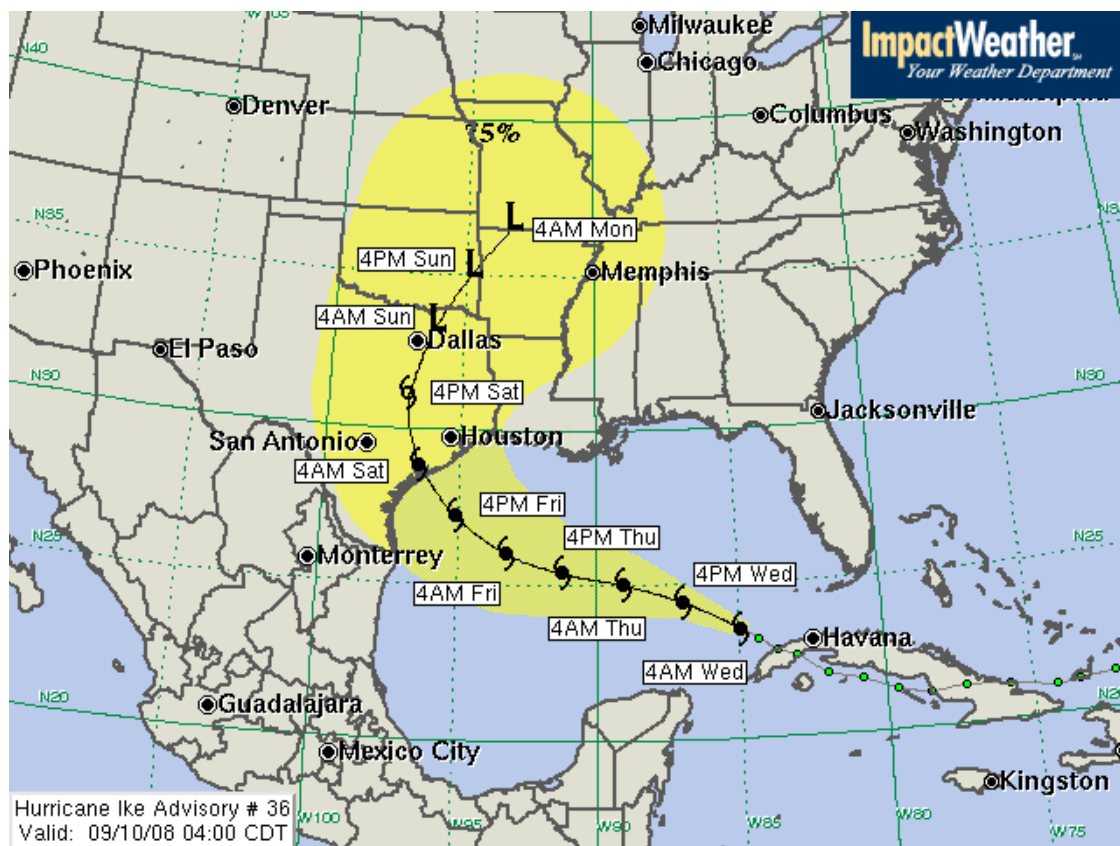


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Hurricane Ike Advisory #36

Valid: 04:00 AM CDT Wednesday, September 10, 2008



Current Status

At 4AM CDT, Hurricane Ike is near 23.5N/84.9W, or about 125 miles north of the western tip of Cuba. Maximum sustained winds are near 85 mph. Movement is to the west-northwest near 8 mph.

Forecast

The model guidance is in good agreement over the next 24-48 hours as Ike tracks toward the central Gulf of Mexico. Thereafter, there is greater model spread, but they suggest a turn more northward on Friday and that is what we are forecasting. On this track Ike would cross the Texas coast Saturday morning in the Matagorda Bay area. Confidence level for the first three days remains above average but there is still some uncertainty on exactly when an approaching cold front will turn Ike towards the north. Once inland, Ike should begin to accelerate to the north and north-northeast along the frontal boundary, reaching the Texas/Oklahoma border on Sunday.

Ike is showing signs of intensification and we think sustained winds will peak around 120 mph by Thursday evening, making Ike a major Category three hurricane. Forecast keeps Ike a Category 3 hurricane as it approaches the Texas coast, however, our confidence in the exact intensity at landfall is low. Ike could make landfall with sustained winds anywhere from 100 to 135 mph. Squalls and tropical storm force winds will arrive well before the center reaches the coast.

Other Possibilities

The main concern remains the timing of the northwest turn prior to landfall. Any delay in this turn will increase the landfall threat farther southward to the Corpus Christi area. If the turn should occur a little earlier, the landfall threat increases along the upper Texas coast, including the Houston/Galveston area. We will not be very confident in the precise landfall point until within 12-24 hours of landfall once the turn begins on Friday.

Sincerely,

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