



BAHMET 7.6A

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT

Updated at 6:00 PM EDT on Friday, 23rd October, 2026

...STRONG NORTHEAST WINDS AND DANGEROUS SEAS FROM SUNDAY THROUGH AT LEAST TUESDAY...

...HEAVY RAIN, FLASH FLOODING AND COASTAL FLOODING EXPECTED...

This statement updates the Special Weather Statement issued at 6:00 PM on Thursday, 22nd October, 2026.

...Near-gale to gale-force conditions are expected over the Gulf Stream and the Atlantic waters of the Northern Bahamas from Sunday through Tuesday, with seas of 10 to 17 feet on Atlantic exposures...

...Strong to severe thunderstorms are possible tonight. Heavy rain and flash flooding are possible from Saturday through Monday, especially in the Central and Southeast Bahamas...

...The highest tides of the season (king tides) on Sunday and Monday, combined with large swells, will bring a significant risk of coastal flooding from Sunday through Tuesday...

At 2:00 PM EDT, a trough of low pressure extended from the central Atlantic through a weak low near 27°N 71°W, about 370 miles east of Abaco, south-westward to western Cuba. Numerous showers and thunderstorms were occurring south-east of the trough. A cold front is moving slowly southward toward The Bahamas, and strong high pressure is building over the eastern United States. Low pressure is expected to deepen near the Central Bahamas over the weekend and to linger near or north of the Central Bahamas through midweek. The tight pressure gradient between the high and the low will produce strong northeasterly winds over the Northern and Northwest Bahamas and the Gulf Stream from Sunday through at least Tuesday, easing on Wednesday. Large swells from Subtropical Storm Josephine will subside slightly on Saturday before a new and larger northeasterly swell arrives from Saturday night.

A moist and unstable air mass, supported by an upper-level trough, will keep showers and thunderstorms active across the Northwest, Central and Southeast Bahamas tonight. Some thunderstorms may become strong to severe, with frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts, torrential downpours and possible waterspouts. From Saturday through Monday, periods of heavy rain are expected, especially over the Central and Southeast Bahamas. Showers and thunderstorms will also increase over the Northern and Northwest Bahamas on Sunday and Monday. Rainfall totals of 2 to 4 inches are possible, with locally higher amounts. There is a moderate risk of flash flooding in low-lying and flood-prone areas.

Marine Impacts:

Winds and Seas:

Northeasterly winds of 15 to 20 knots will continue over the Northern and Northwest Bahamas tonight and Saturday. From Sunday afternoon, winds will strengthen to 25 to 30 knots, with gusts to gale force, over the Gulf Stream and the Atlantic waters north of Grand Bahama and Abaco. These conditions will persist through Tuesday. Elsewhere in the Northern and Northwest Bahamas, northeasterly winds of 20 to 25 knots, with gusts to 30 to 35 knots, are expected from Sunday night through Wednesday. Seas on Atlantic exposures will build to 10 to 16 feet from Sunday night and remain 9 to 14 feet through Wednesday, with up to 17 feet north of Grand Bahama and Abaco. Over the Gulf Stream, northeasterly winds blowing against the current will produce steep, dangerous seas of 9 to 13 feet, occasionally 17 feet, from Sunday night through Tuesday. In the Central and Southeast Bahamas, winds will be variable near the low, and seas on Atlantic exposures will build to 7 to 13 feet from Sunday night.

Atlantic Swells:

Northerly swells will subside slightly on Saturday. A larger northeasterly swell will reach the Atlantic exposures of the Northern and Northwest Bahamas on Saturday night and Sunday, and the

Central and Southeast Bahamas on Sunday night and Monday. Seas will remain high on Atlantic exposures through at least Wednesday. Swells will break heavily across reefs, cuts and harbour entrances, making these passages dangerous to navigate.

Advice to Mariners:

Small craft should remain in port. Mariners in all areas should secure their vessels by Saturday evening. Vessels should not attempt to cross the Gulf Stream from Sunday through Wednesday. Mariners should closely monitor marine forecasts issued by the Bahamas Department of Meteorology.

Rip Currents and Surf:

Dangerous rip currents and rough surf will continue along Atlantic-facing and north-facing beaches in all regions. Rip currents and surf will become life-threatening from Sunday through at least Wednesday. This includes the northern beaches of New Providence and Grand Bahama. Beachgoers, swimmers and pleasure-craft operators should remain out of the water.

Expected Marine Alert Levels:

Region	Expected Alert	Period
Northern Bahamas	Small Craft Advisory Near Gale to Gale conditions over the Gulf Stream and Atlantic waters north of Grand Bahama and Abaco	Tonight – Wednesday Sunday – Tuesday
Northwest Bahamas	Small Craft Advisory Near Gale conditions possible	Tonight – Wednesday Sunday night – Tuesday
Central Bahamas	Small Craft Advisory on Atlantic exposures Small Craft Caution in open waters	Tonight – Wednesday
Southeast Bahamas	Small Craft Advisory on Atlantic exposures Small Craft Caution in open waters	Tonight – Wednesday

Projected Sea Heights for the Territorial Waters of the Bahamas

Period	Northern Bahamas	Northwest Bahamas	Central Bahamas	Southeast Bahamas
Tonight (23rd October)	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft Gulf Stream: 5–7 ft, occasionally 9 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft
Saturday (24th October)	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft Gulf Stream: 5–7 ft, occasionally 9 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 5–7 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 5–7 ft
Saturday Night (24th October)	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft, building to 10–15 ft north of Grand Bahama and Abaco late Gulf Stream: 4–6 ft, occasionally 8 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 5–7 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 5–7 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 4–7 ft
Sunday (25th October)	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft, 10–16 ft north of Grand Bahama and Abaco Gulf Stream: 6–9 ft, building to 8–11 ft, occasionally 14 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 5–7 ft, building to 8–12 ft north of 24°N	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 4–8 ft
Sunday Night (25th October)	Sheltered: 6–9 ft Atlantic: 9–14 ft, 11–17 ft north of Grand Bahama and Abaco Gulf Stream: 9–13 ft, occasionally 17 ft	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 10–16 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–9 ft, 10–16 ft north of 24°N	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 5–8 ft, 7–11 ft north of 23°N
Monday (26th October)	Sheltered: 6–9 ft Atlantic: 10–15 ft, 11–17 ft north of Grand Bahama and Abaco Gulf Stream: 9–13 ft, occasionally 17 ft	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 10–16 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 7–11 ft, 10–16 ft north of 24°N	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 7–10 ft, 9–13 ft north of 23°N

Period	Northern Bahamas	Northwest Bahamas	Central Bahamas	Southeast Bahamas
Tuesday (27th October)	Sheltered: 6–9 ft Atlantic: 9–14 ft Gulf Stream: 9–13 ft, occasionally 17 ft, easing to 8–11 ft	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 9–14 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 7–10 ft, 9– 14 ft north of 24°N	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–9 ft, 9–13 ft north of 23°N
Wednesday (28th October)	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 9–14 ft Gulf Stream: 6–9 ft, occasionally 11 ft	Sheltered: 4–7 ft Atlantic: 9–14 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft, 10– 15 ft north of 24°N	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 4–7 ft, 7–10 ft north of 23°N

Land Impacts:

Coastal Flooding and Erosion:

The highest astronomical tides of the season (king tides) will occur on Sunday and Monday. Combined with large northeasterly swells and strong onshore winds, these tides will bring a significant risk of coastal flooding from Sunday through Tuesday, mainly around the morning and evening high tides. Moderate coastal flooding is likely, and major coastal flooding is possible, along north- and east-facing coastal roads and low-lying shorelines, especially in the Northern and Northwest Bahamas. Heavy rainfall at the time of high tide may worsen flooding by slowing drainage. Wave overwash and significant coastal erosion are likely along Atlantic-facing shorelines. Residents and property owners in coastal and low-lying areas should complete their preparations on Saturday. Motorists and pedestrians should avoid flooded coastal roads and keep away from sea walls and exposed shorelines.

Flash Flooding:

Heavy rainfall from Saturday through Monday may cause flash flooding of roads, homes and low-lying areas, especially in the Central and Southeast Bahamas. Residents in flood-prone areas should clear drains and move valuables to higher ground on Saturday. Motorists should not drive through flooded roads.

Severe Thunderstorms:

Strong to severe thunderstorms are possible tonight over the Northwest, Central and Southeast Bahamas. Residents should stay indoors and away from windows during thunderstorms, and should not shelter under trees. The BDM will issue Severe Weather Warnings if required.

Wind Hazards:

Strong and gusty northeasterly winds from Sunday through Tuesday may topple loose objects, signs and tree limbs, and may cause power interruptions in the Northern and Northwest Bahamas. Residents should secure loose outdoor items, furnishings and construction materials by Saturday evening.

Projected Wind Speeds and Gusts for the Bahamas

Period	Northern Bahamas	Northwest Bahamas	Central Bahamas	Southeast Bahamas
Tonight (23rd October)	NE 15–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt	NE 15–20 kt Stronger gusts in thunderstorms	NE–E 10–15 kt Stronger gusts in thunderstorms	E–SE 10–15 kt Stronger gusts in thunderstorms
Saturday (24th October)	NE 15–20 kt 20–25 kt over the Gulf Stream and north of Grand Bahama and Abaco Gusts to 30 kt	NE 10–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt	E 10–15 kt	NE–E near 10 kt, becoming light and variable
Saturday Night (24th October)	NE 15–20 kt 20–25 kt over the Gulf Stream and north of Grand Bahama and Abaco Gusts to 30 kt	NE 10–15 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt	Light and variable, becoming SE near 10 kt
Sunday (25th October)	NE 15–25 kt 25–30 kt over the Gulf Stream in the afternoon Gusts to 35 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt, increasing to 20–25 kt in the afternoon Gusts to 30 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt	S–SE 10–15 kt
Sunday Night (25th October)	NE 20–25 kt 25–30 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 40 kt	NE 20–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt	E 10–15 kt	SE 15–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt

Period	Northern Bahamas	Northwest Bahamas	Central Bahamas	Southeast Bahamas
Monday (26th October)	NE 20–25 kt 25–30 kt over the Gulf Stream and north of Grand Bahama and Abaco Gusts to 40 kt	NE 20–25 kt Gusts to 35 kt	W–NW 10–15 kt, variable near the low	S–SW 15–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt
Tuesday (27th October)	N–NE 20–25 kt 25–30 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 35 kt	N–NE 20–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt	NW–N 15–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt	SW 10–15 kt, shifting W
Wednesday (28th October)	N–NE 20–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt	N–NE 20–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt	NW–N 10–20 kt	Light and variable

**Gale-force gusts (34 knots or more) shown in red. Sheltered = offshore waters in the lee of the islands and banks. Atlantic = Atlantic-exposed waters. Gulf Stream = waters west of Bimini and Grand Bahama.*

The BDM will continue to monitor this system closely and will issue further statements as necessary. The position and strength of the low remain uncertain, and changes to the forecast winds, seas and rainfall are possible. Residents should use Saturday to complete their preparations.

BDM urges residents to closely monitor all weather updates and forecasts broadcast on television and radio, as well as through its WhatsApp channel and Facebook page (Bahamas Meteorology). Additionally, the BDM offers a user-friendly, regularly updated website to ensure the most current information is easily accessible: <https://met.gov.bs>.

Issued by:
The Bahamas Department of Meteorology