



BAHMET 5

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NEWS ITEM

THIS IS A NEWS ITEM ON **HURRICANE RAFAEL** ISSUED BY THE BAHAMAS DEPARTMENT OF METEOROLOGY FORECAST OFFICE AT **6PM EDT**, WEDNESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2024.

...RAFAEL EXPECTED TO BECOME A MAJOR HURRICANE BEFORE LANDFALL IN WESTERN CUBA WITH LIFE-THREATENING STORM SURGE DAMAGING HURRICANE FORCE WINDS AND FLASH FLOODING EXPECTED...

AT 5:00 PM EST, THE CENTER OF **HURRICANE RAFAEL** WAS LOCATED NEAR **LATITUDE 22.6° NORTH AND LONGITUDE 82.7° WEST** OR ABOUT **45 MILES SOUTH-SOUTHWEST OF HAVANA CUBA** OR ABOUT **70 MILES NORTH OF THE ISLE OF YOUTH**.

RAFAEL IS MOVING TOWARD THE NORTHWEST NEAR 13 MILES PER HOUR. A GENERAL NORTHWESTWARD MOTION IS ANTICIPATED TONIGHT. A SLOWER WEST-NORTHWESTWARD TO WESTWARD MOTION IS EXPECTED FRIDAY THROUGH THE WEEKEND. ON THE FORECAST TRACK, RAFAEL IS EXPECTED TO CROSS CUBA THIS EVENING, AND EMERGE OVER THE SOUTHEASTERN GULF OF MEXICO LATER THIS EVENING OR TONIGHT. RAFAEL IS FORECAST TO MOVE OVER THE SOUTHERN GULF OF MEXICO THIS WEEKEND.

MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS ARE NEAR 115 MILES PER HOUR WITH HIGHER GUSTS. RAFAEL IS A CATEGORY 3 HURRICANE ON THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE. LITTLE CHANGE IN STRENGTH IS EXPECTED BEFORE RAFAEL MAKES LANDFALL IN WESTERN CUBA. SOME WEAKENING IS FORECAST WHILE RAFAEL CROSSES WESTERN CUBA, BUT THE STORM IS FORECAST TO REMAIN A HURRICANE OVER THE SOUTHEASTERN GULF OF MEXICO.

THE NEXT NEWS ITEM ON THIS SYSTEM WILL BE ISSUED AT 6AM THURSDAY.

PREPARED BY DUTY FORECASTER: **S. SEARS**
WEDNESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2024 @ 5:45 PM

