



San Francisco Bay Area -- National Weather Service
February 5, 2015: 2:45 P.M. PST
(Do not use after Feb 6)

Briefing on upcoming storm

Overview

A powerful storm system remains on track to impact the San Francisco/Monterey Bay Region beginning on Thursday and continuing through the weekend. The greatest concern will be across the North Bay due to the potential for locally heavy rainfall that will likely lead to flash flooding and minor flooding of small streams and low lying areas. In addition, strong and gusty southerly winds will increase the threat for down trees which may result in isolated power outages.

FORECAST CONFIDENCE

- **High for the overall storm system.**
- **Moderate to high: areas of heaviest rainfall and strongest wind speeds. (there is some potential that system may stall and produce higher rain totals)**

UPDATED INFORMATION

- Flash Flood Watch for the North Bay to begin late Thursday night.
- Wind Advisory for a portion of the region from early Friday morning through late Friday Night.
- Minor adjustments to rainfall amounts.
- Slight chance of thunderstorms to the forecast for Friday afternoon and evening.

VIDEO BRIEFING: <http://youtu.be/c9tY7ENmYRs>

TIMING

RAIN

- North Bay: Begins Thursday with moderate to heavy rainfall expected late Thursday Night into Friday Afternoon.
- SF Bay Area: Begins Friday Morning with heavy rainfall at times during the afternoon commute.
- Santa Cruz Mountains and Monterey Bay Area: Begins Friday Afternoon.

After a brief lull in rainfall on Saturday, more rainfall is expected Sunday into early Monday morning.

WIND

- Southerly winds increase late Thursday night.
- Winds strongest early Friday through evening hours. Especially over the Santa Cruz Mountains inland to the East Bay Hills and points northward.

LOCATIONS

- **North Bay (heaviest rain in area)** 3" to 6" will be possible with the potential for upwards of 10" in the coastal ranges through Monday.
- **Coastal mountains (Santa Cruz and Monterey County)** are expected to pick up 3" to 6" with isolated higher amounts.
- **Urban areas of the San Francisco and Monterey Bay region** can expect 2" to 4" of rainfall while the southern interior will likely receive less than 2". Please see attached graphics for more details.

IMPACTS

*Current Watches/Warnings/Advisories:

- Flash Flood Watch in effect for late Thursday Night through Saturday Morning.

Flash Flood Watch for the Following Areas:

[Coastal North Bay including Point Reyes National Seashore](#)

[North Bay Interior Valleys](#)

[North Bay Mountains](#)

- Wind Advisory in effect for early Friday Morning through early Saturday Morning.

Wind Advisory for the Following Areas:

[San Francisco](#)

[Coastal North Bay including Point Reyes National Seashore](#)

[North Bay Interior Valleys](#)

[North Bay Mountains](#)

[San Francisco Bay Shoreline](#)

[San Francisco Peninsula Coast](#)

[East Bay Interior Valleys](#)

[East Bay Hills and the Diablo Range](#)

[Santa Cruz Mountains](#)

[Santa Clara Valley including San Jose](#)

- For all current watch/warning/advisories: <http://1.usa.gov/1boSTTW>

*Impact 1 (Rain) :

- Rain will begin over the North Bay on Thursday and then progress southward through our entire area on Friday.
- After a lull in precipitation on Saturday, additional rainfall is likely Sunday into early Monday.
- Isolated amounts especially for coastal ranges will likely be even higher.

- Local flooding is possible especially for North Bay Valley spots plus intersections with poor drainage. Rain will likely be heavy at times.

***Impact 2 (*Wind*):**

- Wind will increase through the day on Thursday with gusty conditions expected late Thursday through Friday.
- Southwesterly winds will locally gust in excess of 40 mph for areas north of Monterey Bay.
- Higher elevation spots could see gusts over 60 mph. Some trees could be toppled which may lead to power outages and road hazards.

***Impact 3 (*Marine & Coastal Flooding*):**

- Hazardous conditions are expected across most of the coastal waters due to gusty southwesterly winds and building seas. For detailed marine advisories, please visit the following link: <http://1.usa.gov/1boSTTW>
- At this time, it appears coastal flooding will not be a widespread threat as high tides during this event are forecast to be lower than during the previous storm event. Excessive runoff during high tides may cause minor issues, especially in areas prone to coastal flooding in Marin County on the bay-side.

***Impact 4 (*Slick Roadways*):**

- Due to the extended period of dry weather, **the first round of rain will make roads very slick which could make for much longer than normal commute times.**
- **The Friday Morning commute** will likely be greatly impacted for the North Bay.
- **The Friday Afternoon commute** will be impacted for the the entire San Francisco Bay Area.

REQUESTED INFORMATION

- We are interested in what actions you may take as a result of this approaching storm system.
- We also request information on storm damage caused by the strong winds or issues related to flooding.
- Please send reports and photos by replying to this email message or by calling our office.

Monitor NWS Monterey [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for further updates.



Windy Thursday Night through Friday

Urban areas:

20 – 30 mph with gusts to 40 mph

Higher elevations:

30 – 40 mph with gusts to 50 mph

Impacts:

- Potential for downed trees and power lines
- Driving will be difficult at times

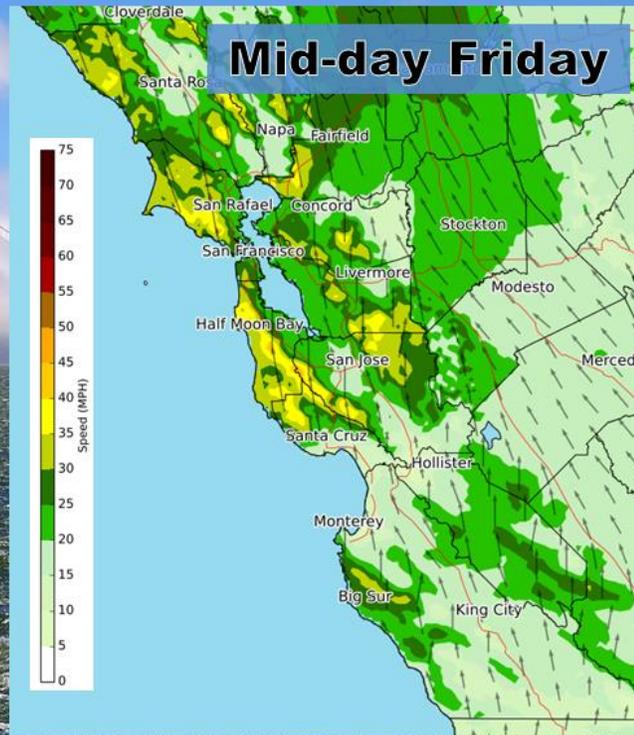


Photo by Theo van Vliet (Flickr)



Storm Late This Week

Rainfall:

North Bay: 3 – 6 inches
Urban Bay Area: 2 – 4 inches
Coastal Mountains: 3 – 6 inches
Coastal North Bay: up to 10"

Winds:

Windy along the coast, with gusts up to 50 mph

Timing:

Rain beginning in the North Bay
Thursday
Heaviest on Friday
Rain possible through Monday

Impacts:

- Urban and small stream flooding
- Possible flash flooding
- Downed trees and power lines

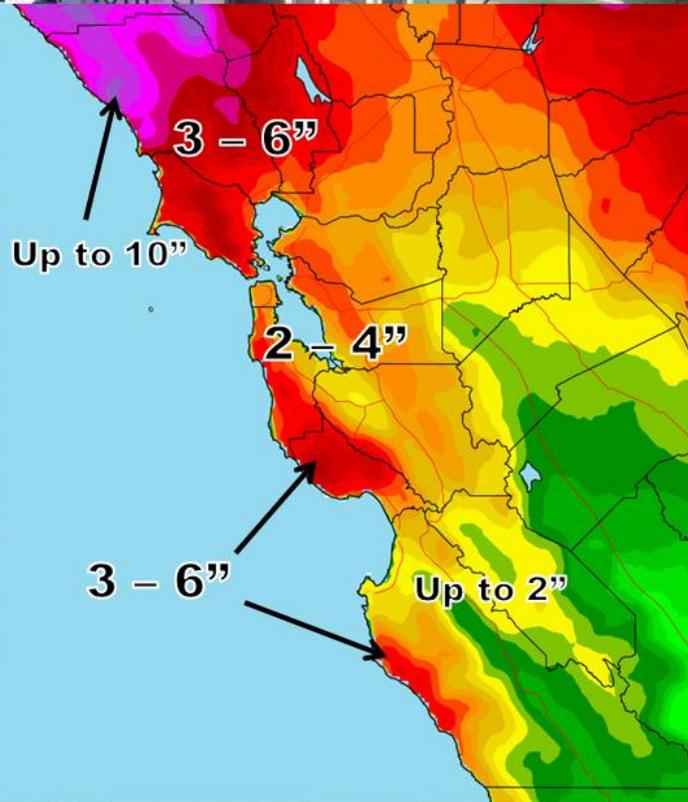


Photo by bark (Flickr)