

GAB Robins

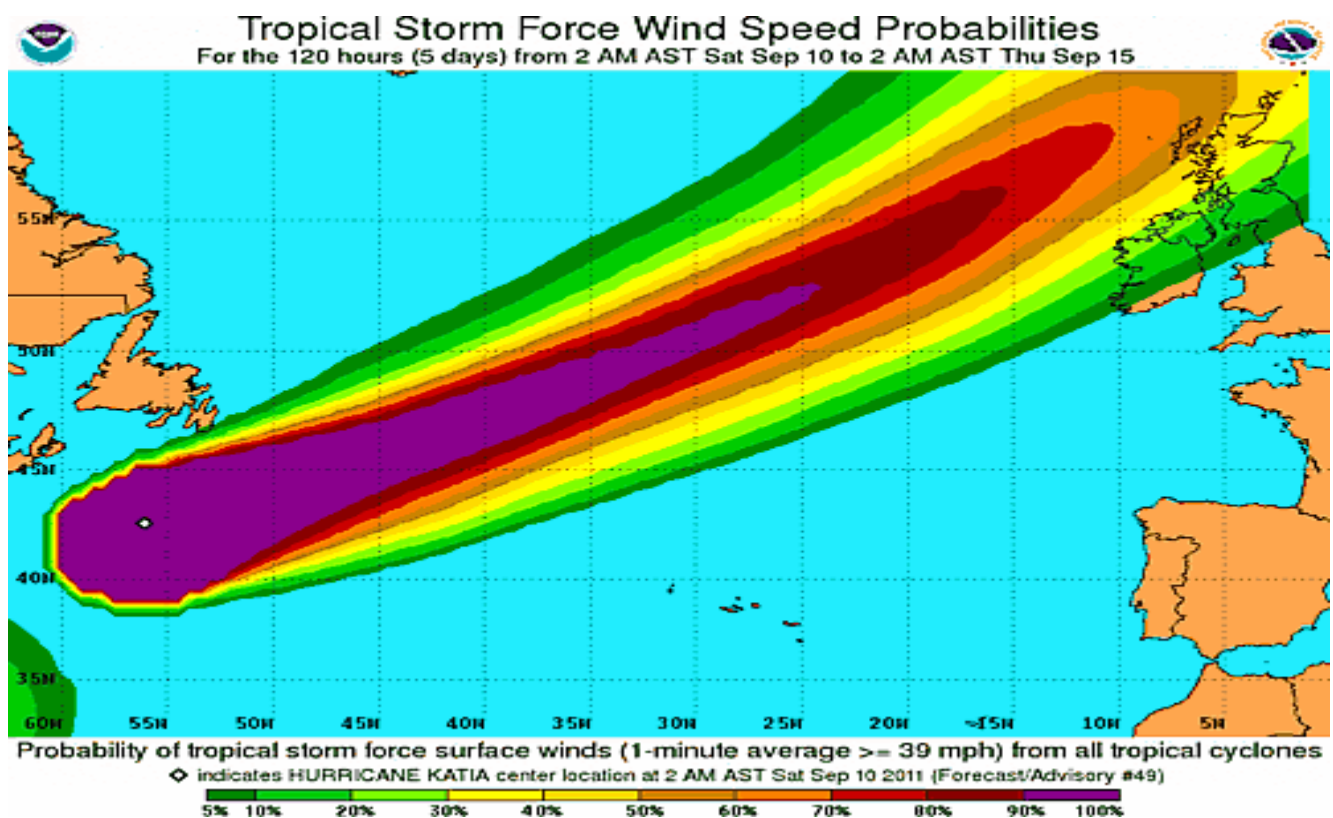
Surge Bulletin



12 September 2011

Current Surge Plan Status: AMBER

The remains of Hurricane Katia set to hit Scotland and Northern England



Update

The Met Office has issued an amber alert, warning of disruption to commuters and the possibility of damage to trees and structures as the remains of Hurricane Katia reach the British Isles today.

The strongest winds are expected in west central Scotland, and through the central belt, peaking mid to late afternoon. Gusts could reach 60 to 70mph, and up to 80mph over exposed coastal areas and hills, extending to Northern Ireland and parts of northern England.

At its peak, Katia was rated a category four hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale, which rates them from one to five, five being the strongest. It is the second major hurricane of the 2011 Atlantic season, after Irene in August.

As it passes through the northern British Isles, it will be a powerful extra-tropical cyclone. This means that it will not have a warm centre where the strongest winds are found. Instead, winds will be spread out over a larger area of gale to storm force with accompanying rain. This does not happen often, but is not unprecedented either.

As this is a 'high impact' weather system, there is the potential for damage especially with trees, and the winds will be strong enough to cause some structural damage to buildings.

Actions

Our adjusting and SPECS building inspection teams have been on alert over the weekend. We have changed our Surge status to **AMBER** and we have moved key staff into the areas most likely to be affected. In addition;

- Extra resource has been made available in our Manchester and Brighton Service Centres.
- Working hours of Service Centres will be extended if required.
- Out of hours team extended to handle additional calls if the situation deteriorates outside of core hours.
- All adjusters in Scotland and northern areas will attend to urgent losses immediately.
- Adjusters in south on alert to move to affected areas in Scotland and the North.
- Major and Complex team on alert with staff ready to attend any major incidents.
- Our contractor network, BRICS, has extra staff available to undertake emergency works.
- BRICS has extra resources available to assist in predicted 'hot spots'.
- SPECS building inspection service is fully prepared for intake of claims in Scotland and northern England.
- Further SPECS inspectors available to move to affected areas.
- Additional SPECS staff in place at Ollerton Command Centre.

Current Surge Plan Status

AMBER Status of alert arising from claims received and data that indicates likely event.

We have changed our Surge Plan status to amber to prepare for any potential influx of claims. The situation will be monitored closely and our status will remain at this level unless there is a further worsening of the situation in the next 24 hours.

Expected Activity

Our Met Office partners have issued a severe weather warning for Scotland, Northern Ireland and the north west of England, as highlighted on the map.

Heavy rain and gale force winds are also expected to develop in other areas during this afternoon / evening and Tuesday. These have the potential to bring rainfall levels in some areas of 25 -50mm with a risk of flash flooding in places.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will issue further updates as the situation develops.

Please feel free to contact your account managers if necessary or me.

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