

Tropical Depression 18 Forms In Caribbean

As of 11:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Monday, October 22, 2012, NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, issued its tropical weather outlook due to the presence of Tropical Depression 18 in the southwestern Caribbean plus a surface trough in the central tropical Atlantic.

Satellite images and surface observations indicate that the low pressure system over the southwestern Caribbean Sea has acquired sufficient organization to be classified as a tropical depression. NOAA says that the exact center of Tropical Depression 18 is still a little difficult to pinpoint - but the system has closed surface circulation and convective banding has increased markedly since overnight. Tropical Depression 18 has been moving slowly southwestward. NOAA forecasts little movement of Tropical Depression 18 over the next day or so. NOAA's storm tracker forecasts that this system will take a north-northeasterly storm track during the next 5 days. Tropical Depression 18 is forecast to be at its closest to South Florida on Friday, then head into the open Atlantic waters off the coast of Central Florida on Saturday. Meanwhile, a surface trough interacting with an upper-level low is producing a small area of showers and a few thunderstorms that have become a little better organized over the central Atlantic about 700 mile east-northeast of the Leeward Islands (marked as 2 above). NOAA says that environmental conditions are expected to be conducive for some development before upper-level winds become less favorable on Tuesday.

NOAA believes that this system has a medium chance (50%) of becoming a tropical cyclone during the next 48 hours as it moves northwestward to northward at about 10 miles per hour.