

Weekend Severe Weather Potential information:

Given the long stretch of nice weather we've been experiencing across Bradford County and that many outdoor activities are planned for this weekend including the Strawberry Festival, below is a brief summary of a possible severe weather event that may unfold Saturday into Sunday.

An unusually powerful storm system is forecast to move through the Southeast United States over the weekend, which could result in a significant severe weather event across Florida.

A strong low pressure system is forecast to develop over the northern Gulf of Mexico and move northeast across North Florida or southern Alabama/Georgia over the weekend, while a trailing cold front moves across the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Peninsula Sunday.

The strength and movement of the low pressure system is unusual for Florida during April, but would favor development of a squall line over the Gulf of Mexico, which would then move rapidly across the Florida Peninsula.

Such a pattern has the potential to bring damaging thunderstorms winds, large hail, and tornadoes. Though there are still computer model differences, as is usually the case at the 4-5 day timescale, enough consistency is present to indicate a rather stormy weekend across the region with a multi-faceted hazardous weather threat through Sunday.

Timing of this event appears to be late Saturday afternoon into Sunday morning, with the peak of the event most likely occurring Saturday night.

Prior to arrival of the squall line, there also may be several periods of scattered thunderstorm development during the afternoon/evening hours today, tomorrow and Friday across North and Central Florida.

In addition, strong winds associated with the storm system could result in strong and frequent rip currents at area beaches, as well as minor coastal flooding and/or minor beach erosion due to high surf.

NOTE: The Bradford County Emergency Management Facebook page is set up to post instant severe weather alerts. If you are on Facebook, be sure to "Like" Bradford County Emergency Management (www.facebook.com/BradfordEmergency) for the latest information, safety tips and weather warnings. Your Emergency Management Team will be posting and updating as conditions warrant.