



S T A C K
F A C T S

September 20, 2005
Electronic Bulletin No. 697
Re: Hurricane Rita

Dear Valued Customer,

Hurricane Rita (85mph) continues to strengthen as it swirls through the Florida Keys with bursts of heavy rain and strong winds. A hurricane warning remains in effect for the Keys and all along the south Florida coast from Golden Beach (just north of Miami) to Chokoloskee on the southwest coast.

In addition to the violent squalls, isolated tornadoes are possible in the Keys and also farther north across the southern end of the peninsula. Storm surge flooding of four to six feet above normal tide levels is forecast for the Keys in areas of onshore flow. Heavy surf will accompany the surge. Rainfall amounts of six to eight inches are expected, although isolated totals of up to twelve inches are not out of the question. Rita is forecast to continue on a westward track into the Gulf of Mexico later today and tomorrow, possibly powering up into a dangerous major hurricane (winds over 110 mph) by the end of the week.

With this system close on the heels of the destruction that Hurricane Katrina left in its wake, it is likely that rail traffic moving through the southeast will be further impacted, once again affecting departure times and creating critical asset imbalances which will affect the flow of traffic throughout the network.

We will continue to monitor this situation and provide more information relevant to the rail network impacts of Hurricane Rita.

We appreciate your business.

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