WASHINGTON – As Tropical Storm Barry moves toward land, FEMA urges all residents to execute emergency planning and final preparedness actions now for dangerous storm surge, heavy rains and high winds.

A large and slow-moving system, Tropical Storm Barry is forecasted to strengthen to a Category 1 hurricane before making landfall on the central Louisiana coastline early Saturday. In the central Gulf Coast, rain accumulations between 10 and 20 inches are expected, through early next week, with isolated maximum rainfall amounts of up to 25 inches. In the Lower Mississippi Valley, rain accumulations between 4 and 8 inches are expected, with isolated maximum amounts of 12 inches.

This is not a coastal-only event. Inland residents should remain vigilant and make final preparations now.

Many of the areas in Tropical Storm Barry’s predicted track are still engaged in recovery activities from previous disasters, including ongoing flooding that began in early 2019. As a result, the significant rainfall predicted and the potential for response on top of recovery could mean the storm could have significant impacts.

FEMA recommends residents in the path of Tropical Storm Barry:

- Follow instructions from local officials. If the storm is impacting your area and local officials give the order to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Avoid flooded areas. Be prepared to take detours and adjust your route due to road closures if there is standing water. Just 12 inches of floodwater can flood a car or small SUV. Turn around don’t drown.
- Set up sandbags or get course to the highest ground available.
- Be aware of electrical hazards. Do not touch or go near downed power lines and poles. Contact the power company to report downed lines.
- Prepare a plan to evacuate if you live in a mobile home or are in a flood zone. If you do not have one, call to arrange for one. If you need help, contact local officials.
- If there is sustained heavy rain, disaster assistance is often available to homeowners, renters and non-profit organizations. It’s important to apply for help even if you aren’t sure you qualify. For help, call FEMA at 800-621-3362 or go online to www.fema.gov.