2020 Hurricane Season: Outlook and Information

Sean Miller
Lead Forecaster
National Weather Service
Miami/South Florida Weather Forecast Office
sean.p.miller@noaa.gov
South Florida Is Hurricane Country

39 Hurricanes Have Passed Within 65 miles of our area since 1865

MAJOR HURRICANES 1920-1965: (45 years)
Average of 1 strike every 3 years!

MAJOR HURRICANES 1966-2017: (51 years)
Average of 1 strike every 10 years!

Wilma
Frances/Jeane
Andrew
Irma
Charley
Seasonal Outlook for 2020

Higher probability of Above Normal Number of Storms

What we know: an active hurricane season is ahead.

What we don’t know: the likelihood of a hurricane striking any specific location.

Action: prepare for the possibility that a hurricane may affect your area.

2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook

- Named storms: 13-19
- Hurricanes: 6-10
- Major hurricanes: 3-6

Season probability:
- Above-normal: 30%
- Near-normal: 60%
- Below-normal season: 10%

Be prepared: Visit hurricanes.gov and follow @NWS and @NHC_Atlantic on Twitter.

May 2020
Seasonal Outlook for 2020

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2020 Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Names*

- Arthur
- Bertha
- Cristobal
- Dolly
- Edouard
- Fay
- Gonzalo
- Hanna
- Isaias
- Josephine
- Kyle
- Laura
- Marco
- Nana
- Omar
- Paulette
- Rene
- Sally
- Teddy
- Vicky
- Wilfred

*Names provided by the World Meteorological Organization

Quick start: we’ve already had three named storms.

Did you know: two of the three storms had impacts in South Florida before becoming named systems.

Important: you don’t need a named storm for significant local impacts!

Be prepared: Visit hurricanes.gov and follow @NWS and @NHC_Atlantic on Twitter.

May 2020
So how many will hit Florida?

Here’s where things get tricky

The seasonal forecast tells us if it’s likely to be an active hurricane year by looking at *large scale and seasonal climatic patterns*. These can be predicted with some skill in advance.

Individual storm development and track is controlled *by smaller scale weather patterns*. Little skill in predicting beyond the next 5 to 7 days.

Key message: we have virtually no skill in predicting individual storms weeks or months in advance or in determining which areas are most likely to be hit in any given season.
Tropical Cyclone Hazards

Multiple Hazards – Not Just Wind!

- Wind
- Surge
- Rain
- Rain
- Surge
- Tornadoes
It's "Just" A Category 1...

"Weak" Hurricanes can cause massive damage with flooding and storm surge!

Since 2010 Category 1 Storms Have Caused...

- 175 direct fatalities
- $103 Billion in damages

Key: hurricane categories describe expected wind speeds. Other hazards exist so you must listen for details!

South Florida Flooding – Unnamed System (2010)
The Forecast Cone

You’ve Seen It Everywhere But What Does It Mean?

The cone represents the likely track of a tropical cyclone’s center.

The cone shows the forecast over the next several days.

The cone becomes wider with time owing to forecast uncertainty.

The cone may shift with time. Make sure you have the most recent forecast information!

Key: impacts may occur well outside of the cone. This is especially true for large or disorganized systems. You still need to watch the forecast closely even if you’re near the edge or even outside of the cone!
Have a trusted source for reliable weather information.

Be cautious with information shared on Social Media. It may be unreliable or out of date.

Avoid clickbait and posts with sensational titles.

Key: have a reliable and trusted weather information source. Official sources include the National Hurricane Center (https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/) and the National Weather Service (https://www.weather.gov/miami/) serving South Florida.
Forecast Storm Surge Inundation Values

Graphic depicts the peak height that water could reach above normally dry ground somewhere within the specified areas.

Graphic located at the National Hurricane Center website.
New For 2020

60 Hour Forecast Information: All Products and Cone Graphic

60-hour Forecast Information on the Cone Graphic

60-h Forecast Information on Cone Graphic

60-h forecast information also used as input for PSurge and for TC wind speed probabilities

60 Hour track, intensity, and hurricane/tropical storm wind information now provided

Will be provided in all NHC products and shown graphically via the cone
It’s 3 days from a potential major Hurricane landfall in South Florida...

- Are you and your family ready?
- Is your home or business ready?
- Do you need to leave?
- Preparedness is key!

**Are You Ready?**
Do you know what to do?
Questions or Comments?  
Let me know!

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