Preparing for 2022 Hurricane Season in South Florida

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Atlantic Season Outlook - 2022

2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook

- Named storms: 14-21 (14)
- Hurricanes: 6-10 (7)
- Major hurricanes: 3-6 (3)

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

May 2022
2022 Seasonal Forecast

Important Factors

• Ongoing La Niña likely to persist
• Above average SSTs in the Atlantic and Caribbean
• Weaker vertical wind shear
• Weaker tropical Atlantic trade winds
• Enhanced west African monsoon, which supports stronger African Easterly Waves
2022 Storm Names

Alternate name list will no longer use the Greek alphabet

Be prepared: Visit hurricanes.gov and follow @NWS and @NHC_Atlantic on Twitter.
Hurricane season is a marathon, not a sprint. Be ready by June 1 but remain vigilant through hurricane season.

- August through October is most active period.
- Seasonal outlooks/forecasts don’t tell most of the story. **It is NOT a landfall forecast!** Number of overall storms not a strong indicator of an area’s actual chances of being hit.
Significant increase in activity in August, September, and October
South Florida is Hurricane Country!

Tracks of Center of Hurricanes Passing Within 50 Miles of Miami Since 1865

Total: 33
South Florida is Hurricane Country!

Tracks of Center of Hurricanes Passing Within 50 Miles of West Palm Beach Since 1865

Total: 37
Tropical Cyclones are multi-hazard IMPACT events!

No matter the category!!
Forecast Cone: Pros and Cons

- Forecast cone tells you where the **center** of the storm is **most likely** to go.
- Actual storm position will be within the circle 2/3 (67%) of the time.
Forecast Cone: Pros and Cons

- Forecast cone doesn’t give information on any of the storm’s other hazards, such as storm surge, flooding rainfall, and tornadoes.

- Forecast cone doesn’t give any information on the size of the storm or the extent of the area it could impact. Forecast cone is “one size fits all”.

- Impacts extend WELL outside the cone, especially as the storm gets closer.
A Hurricane Forecast Depicts the Most Likely Scenario...

Not the ONLY Possible Scenario!

There are multiple alternate scenarios which must be considered in EVERY hurricane forecast.

Taking this into consideration is crucial for making responsible decisions that lead to actions proportional to the threat.
Hurricane Threats and Impacts

Local Threat and Impact Information

- Hurricane Threats and Impacts graphics show the potential level of impact AND geographical extent for each of the storm’s four primary hazards, based on a **reasonable worst case scenario**

- Provides a **whole picture of the potential threat levels for each hazard with any given storm**

- Based on a **range of possible scenarios**, not only the official forecast

[weather.gov/miami]
Hurricane Threats and Impacts

Local Threat and Impact Information

- For what potential threats/impacts should I plan/prepare?

- Based on a range of possible scenarios, not only the official forecast

- Colorized threat maps with potential impacts statements for each hazard
  - Wind Threat
  - Storm Surge Threat
  - Flooding Rain Threat
  - Tornado Threat

weather.gov/miami
Watches & Warnings

**Hurricane Watch**
- Hurricane conditions are possible somewhere within the watch area, generally within 48 hours

**Hurricane Warning**
- Hurricane conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area, generally within 36 hours

**Note:** The lead time for Hurricane Watches and Warnings is tied to the anticipated arrival time of tropical-storm-force winds.

Watches & warnings are a risk communication tool, not an explicit forecast!
Remember: There is inherent uncertainty in tropical cyclone forecasts!
Where To...

- Get the latest information from trusted sources
  - National Weather Service
  - LOCAL media outlets
  - Local officials (city, county)
  - National and social media: good, **BUT** rely on information originating from the above sources

- **Weather.gov/miami**
  - Facebook & Twitter: NWSMiami
Be Hurricane Smart

- Hurricane forecasts are updated by the NWS every 6 hours
- Hurricanes (and all weather) are part of a continuously evolving process. Forecast scenarios CAN and DO change
- Don’t fall into “anchoring bias” trap. It can put your life at risk!
- NWS forecasters work 24 hours a day to make sure you have the latest information to keep you and your family safe
Be Hurricane Smart

• Know whether you live and/or work in an evacuation zone
• If so, where you plan on spending the storm should be part of your hurricane plan
• If not, plan to “shelter in place”, or at a relative/friends home. Do not wait until last minute to leave town
U.S. Atlantic Indirect TC Fatalities – 2017-2021

- Almost 300 indirect fatalities
- Spread among numerous causes
- Biggest causes are vehicle incidents (49), carbon monoxide poisoning (48), power/electrocution (39), and heat (38)
- Deaths related to power outages, heat, and CO poisoning account for 42% of the total
- Medical related issues, including heat, account for about 23% of total
Important “Take-Aways”

• Use seasonal tropical forecasts as a reminder to have your hurricane preparedness plan in place before the start of the season!

• Hurricanes bring a variety of threats (damaging winds, storm surge, tornadoes, and flooding rainfall), but each storm is different

• Weather.gov/miami (your one-stop source for ALL South Florida weather information)
Thank you and Stay Safe!

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