



® Weather Research Center



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**More Than 12 Named  
Tropical Storms and Hurricanes in the Atlantic is a Rare Event.**

**Houston (2007)** – According to meteorologists at Houston’s Weather Research Center, there have only been 9 years since 1871 when there were more than 14 named storms during the year. With Colorado State University’s Atlantic Tropical Storm and Hurricane Forecast update issued yesterday calling for 10 more cyclones in the Atlantic basin this year, Weather Research Center’s meteorologist Jill F. Hasling expressed how few years have had 10 more named storms after September 1. “There have only been 7 years since 1871 that have had 10 named storms after September 1.” [1887 had 12 storms, 1949 had 10, 1953 had 10, 1961 had 10, 1969 had 12, 2000 had 10, 2001 had 11 and 2005 had 18.] That gives us a 5% chance in any year of having 10 more named storms this year, which is what we need to reach a total of 15 named storms for the season. So far we have had the following named tropical cyclones in the Atlantic.

1. Tropical Storm Barry Jun 1-2
2. Tropical Storm Chantal Jul 31- Aug 1
3. Hurricane Dean Aug 12-23
4. Tropical Storm Erin Aug 15-19
5. Hurricane Felix Aug 31-Sep 4

Andrea was a Subtropical Storm which occurred in May and is not counted by the Weather Research Center OCSI prediction.

Weather Research Center’s (WRC) Orbital Cyclone Strike Index [OCSI] model predicts a total of 7 named storms with 4 of these named storms intensifying into hurricanes this year. The number of expected cyclones is not as important as where the cyclones will make landfall.

Meteorologist Jill Hasling reminds us that it really does not matter how many storms we have each season but where they make landfall and how intense they are. She also points out that the peak of hurricane season usually runs from August 15 to September 15. It appears that the tropics continue to be very active with tropical waves moving off of the African coast so people should continue to check to tropics for any threats.

The table below indicates the years that had 12 or more named tropical cyclones [tropical storms and hurricanes]. Since 1871, there have been 25 years with more than 11 cyclones in a year.

| <b>Atlantic &gt; 16 Storms</b> | <b>&gt;15</b> | <b>&gt;14</b> | <b>&gt;13</b> | <b>&gt;12</b> | <b>&gt;11</b> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1887                           | 17            |               |               |               |               |
| 1893                           |               |               |               |               | 12            |
| 1916                           |               |               | 14            |               |               |
| 1933                           | 21            |               |               |               |               |
| 1936                           | 16            |               |               |               |               |
| 1949                           |               |               |               | 13            |               |
| 1950                           |               |               |               | 13            |               |
| 1953                           |               |               | 14            |               |               |
| 1955                           |               |               |               |               | 12            |
| 1964                           |               |               |               |               | 12            |
| 1969                           | 18            |               |               |               |               |
| 1971                           |               |               |               | 13            |               |
| 1984                           |               |               |               |               | 12            |
| 1988                           |               |               |               |               | 12            |
| 1990                           |               |               | 14            |               |               |
| 1995                           | 19            |               |               |               |               |
| 1996                           |               |               |               | 13            |               |
| 1998                           |               |               | 14            |               |               |
| 1999                           |               |               |               |               | 12            |
| 2000                           |               |               | 14            |               |               |
| 2001                           |               | 15            |               |               |               |
| 2002                           |               |               |               |               | 12            |
| 2003                           | 16            |               |               |               |               |
| 2004                           |               | 15            |               |               |               |
| 2005                           | 27            |               |               |               |               |
|                                |               |               |               |               |               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   | <b>7</b>      | <b>2</b>      | <b>5</b>      | <b>4</b>      | <b>7</b>      |

The Houston-based Weather Research Center is one of a handful of organizations that make seasonal hurricane predictions. WRC uses a model called Orbital Cyclone Strike Index (OSCI) which uses the solar cycle [an indication of the solar systems orbit] to predict the risk for coastal residents each hurricane season. The OCSI model is based on the premise that there are orbital influences that are reflected in the global circulation pattern on the sun and as well as the global circulation pattern of the earth. These orbital influences are reflected in the 11.1 year sun spot cycle.

During the 23-year period from 1984 to 2006, there have only been three years (1987, 1992, and 1999) when a storm or hurricane did not make landfall in the section of the United States coastline that had the highest risk. In all three of these years cyclones made landfall in the section of the coast with the second highest risk. This gives the OCSI an 87% accuracy rate.

The OCSI was developed by Houston meteorologists, Dr. John C. Freeman and Jill F. Hasling. This index has been used since 1984 to make annual hurricane season forecasts of which section of the North American coast has the highest risk of experiencing a tropical storm or hurricane.

In addition to its ongoing research, WRC also provides storm and hurricane information via the Internet through Storm Navigator®. This service helps provide detailed storm updates and related information. WRC's current and past predictions can be found at [www.wxresearch.com/outlook](http://www.wxresearch.com/outlook).

Founded in 1987, the non-profit Weather Research Center manages a worldwide forecasting operation and provides groundbreaking research to scientists around the world. Meteorologists provide tropical cyclone advisories world wide, severe weather advisories, marine forecasts, long-range outlooks, environmental studies and forensic meteorology services. Weather Research Center provides research into tropical cyclones as well as real-time weather forecasts. WRC can also provide you with an assessment of your severe weather and tropical weather plans.

President Jill F. Hasling is a Fellow and Certified Consulting Meteorologist from the American Meteorological Society as well as a member of the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists.

For more information about The John C. Freeman Weather Museum at Weather Research Center, please call (713) 529-3076 or logon to [www.wxresearch.org](http://www.wxresearch.org).

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