



® Weather Research Center



5104 Caroline Houston, Texas 77004 Phone: 713-529-3076 Fax: 713-528-3538 E-mail: wrc@wxresearch.org

**For Immediate Release
November 16, 2009
For information, call 713-529-3076**

Ida Verifies Weather Research Center’s 2009 Seasonal Hurricane Outlook

Houston, TX – There have been 56 years since 1900 with known November cyclones in the Atlantic. According to meteorologist Jill F. Hasling, Weather Research Center’s [WRC] 2009 Seasonal Hurricane Outlook verified with Ida making landfall in Alabama on November 10, 2009. WRC’s 2009 forecast indicated that the Gulf coast, from Louisiana to Alabama, had the highest chance of experiencing a tropical storm or hurricane landfall this season. The outlook also called for seven named storms in the Atlantic with four becoming hurricanes. The 2009 season had nine named storms, three of which strengthened into hurricanes.

This year began late with the first storm, Ana, not forming until August 11. Since 1900, there have been 20 other hurricane seasons when the first storm developed after August 11. The table below lists these years, the start dates and the names of the storms.

	Year	Start Date	Name of First Storm
1	1992	16-Aug	Andrew
2	1984	28-Aug	Arthur
3	1983	15-Aug	Alicia
4	1977	29-Aug	Anita
5	1974	12-Aug	Alma
6	1967	28-Aug	Arlene
7	1962	26-Aug	Alma
8	1950	12-Aug	Able
9	1949	21-Aug	
10	1942	17-Aug	
11	1941	11-Sep	
12	1935	18-Aug	
13	1930	21-Aug	
14	1927	19-Aug	
15	1925	18-Aug	
16	1920	7-Sep	
17	1914	15-Sep	
18	1910	23-Aug	
19	1905	6-Sep	
20	1900	27-Aug	

-more-

There have only been 56 years since 1900 and 66 years since 1878 with tropical cyclones forming in November or December. Five of these years (1879, 1890, 1902, 1924 and 1934) were in the same OSCI phase as 2009. In four of these years, there were November hurricanes and in one year, there was a tropical storm. Nineteen of the 66 years had more than one November or later tropical cyclone in a year.

2009 Forecast Details

WRC's Orbital Cyclone Strike Index (OCSI) was developed in 1984 to indicate which section of the United States coastline has the highest risk of experiencing a tropical storm or hurricane landfall. The 2009 forecast was based on the activity in the following years: 1879, 1890, 1902, 1914, 1924, 1934, 1945, 1955, 1965, 1977, 1987 and 1997. The risk of tropical cyclones occurring in the Atlantic Basin by month was as follows: May - 10%, June - 50%, July - 30%, August - 80%, September - 100%, October - 100% and November - 40%.

2009 WRC OCSI FORECAST FOR THE ATLANTIC

COAST	WRC OCSI	CLIMATOLOGY	OBSERVED
Texas	40%	51%	
Mexico	40%	40%	
Louisiana to Alabama	70%	59%	Ida
West Florida	60%	71%	Claudette
East Florida	30%	41%	
Georgia to N. Carolina	50%	56%	
East Coast of US	30%	36%	
Gulf Oil & Gas Leases	90%	88%	

Other 2009 Predictors from WRC's OCSI

	OCSI Forecast	Observed
Number of Named Storms	7	9
Number Intensifying into Hurricanes	4	3
		Bill – Fred – Ida
Number of Hurricane Days	7	12
Number of Tropical Storm Days	47	20
US Landfalls	3	2
Category 3, 4 or 5 Storms in the Atlantic Basin	50%	Bill - Fred

WRC's forecast for the number of named storms in 2009 was seven with four intensifying into hurricanes. The University of Colorado's April forecast was 12 named storms with seven becoming hurricanes. When you compare WRC's to Colorado's Seasonal Forecast for the number of named cyclones since 1984, WRC's outlook has been within one storm 10 of the years and Colorado's has been within one storm 8 of the years. WRC's model was developed to give users an idea which section of the US coast has the highest risk of experiencing a tropical cyclone in any year.

During the 26-year period from 1984 to 2009, 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 89 percent accuracy rate.

Next year, WRC's outlook shows the highest risk of landfall along the west and east coasts of Florida. The outlook indicates that there will be 8 named storms with 5 intensifying into hurricanes. Below are specifics of the 2010 outlook.

2010 WRC OCSI FORECAST FOR THE ATLANTIC

COAST	WRC OCSI	CLIMATOLOGY
Texas	60%	51%
Mexico	70%	40%
Louisiana to Alabama	40%	59%
West Florida	90%	71%
East Florida	70%	41%
Georgia to N. Carolina	20%	56%
East Coast of US	20%	36%

Other 2010 Predictors from WRC's OCSI

	OCSI Forecast
Number of Named Storms	8
Number Intensifying into Hurricanes	5
Number of Hurricane Days	25
Number of Tropical Storm Days	57
US Landfalls	3
Category 3, 4 or 5 Storms in the Atlantic Basin	30%

About Weather Research Center and the Orbital Cyclone Strike Index

Houston-based Weather Research Center is one of a handful of organizations that makes seasonal hurricane predictions. WRC uses a model called Orbital Cyclone Strike Index (OCSI) which uses the solar cycle (an indication of the solar system's 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 as well as the global circulation pattern of the earth. These orbital influences are reflected in the 11.1-year sun spot cycle.

In addition to its ongoing research, WRC also provides storm and hurricane information via the Internet through Storm Navigator®. This service offers detailed storm updates and related information. WRC's current and past predictions can be found at 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 worldwide, severe weather advisories, marine forecasts, long-range outlooks, environmental studies and forensic meteorology services. WRC 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.

Jill F. Hasling, WRC President, 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 Weather Research Center and the John C. Freeman Weather Museum, please call (713) 529-3076 or visit www.wxresearch.com.

###