



® Weather Research Center



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**Other Meteorologists Update Seasonal Outlooks Because of a
Quiet Start to the 2009 Atlantic Hurricane Season –
Only 30 Other Atlantic Seasons Have Been as Quiet**

Houston, TX – Since Weather Research Center [WRC] does not update their Seasonal Hurricane Outlook during the season, they continue to expect a total of seven named storms in the Atlantic with four intensifying into hurricanes. There have been 30 other hurricane seasons when the first storm formed after August 1, since 1900. There have been only four seasons [1941, 1920, 1914 and 1905] when the first storm formed after September 1. The last time we experienced a similar late season start was 2004 when Alex formed on August 1, according to Weather Research Center [WRC] meteorologist Jill F. Hasling. However, a late start does not mean a break. For example, Ivan the Terrible occurred in 2004 and in 1988, Gilbert became a large Category 5 hurricane. And who could forget Hurricane Alicia in 1983 which was a Category 3 hurricane when it made landfall in Galveston.

The peak of activity for the Atlantic Hurricane Season is from August 15 to September 15 so we still need to be prepared.

WRC's 2009 outlook gives the Louisiana to Alabama coast the highest risk of experiencing a tropical storm or hurricane. Additionally, the outlook anticipates seven hurricane days and 47 tropical storm days during this year's season.

Below is a table of the date of the first named storms in the years indicated. There were 30 years from 1900 to 2008 when the date of the first storm was after July 31. There were 18 years when the date of the first storm was August 15 or later, 12 years when the date of the first storm was after August 20, and four seasons when the date of the first storm was after August 31. The latest date for the first named storm was September 15. In other words you have 27.5% chance of having the first storm after July 31st, 16.5% chance of having the first storm after August 14th, 11% chance of having the first storm after August 20th and 3.7% chance of having the first storm after August 31st.

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	Year	Start Date	Name of First Storm
1	2004	1-Aug	Alex
2	2000	3-Aug	Alberto
3	1992	16-Aug	Andrew
4	1988	5-Aug	Alberto
5	1987	9-Aug	Arlene
6	1984	28-Aug	Arthur
7	1983	15-Aug	Alicia
8	1980	1-Aug	Allen
9	1977	29-Aug	Anita
10	1974	12-Aug	Alma
11	1967	28-Aug	Arlene
12	1963	2-Aug	Arlene
13	1962	26-Aug	Alma
14	1950	12-Aug	Able
15	1949	21-Aug	
16	1942	17-Aug	
17	1941	11-Sep	
18	1938	8-Aug	
19	1935	18-Aug	
20	1930	21-Aug	
21	1928	3-Aug	
22	1927	19-Aug	
23	1925	18-Aug	
24	1920	7-Sep	
25	1918	1-Aug	
26	1914	15-Sep	
27	1911	4-Aug	
28	1910	23-Aug	
29	1905	6-Sep	
30	1900	27-Aug	

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. The 2009 forecast is 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 is 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
Texas	40%	51%
Mexico	40%	40%
Louisiana to Alabama	70%	59%
West Florida	60%	71%
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 Forecasts
Number of Named Storms	7
Number Intensifying into Hurricanes	4
Number of Hurricane Days	7
Number of Tropical Storm Days	47
US Landfalls	3
Category 3, 4 or 5 Storms in the Atlantic Basin	50%

Significant storms in this phase of the OCSI:

- 1924: 2 strong hurricanes – Cat 4 on East Coast and Cat 3 along West Florida
- 1945: 3 strong hurricanes – Cat 3 East Florida, Cat 4 Texas and Cat 4 in Miami
- 1955: 3 hurricanes moved up the East Coast – Connie, Diane and Ione
- 1965: Hurricane Betsy struck Louisiana

There have been two years in this group with only one tropical cyclone, but also two years with 11 named storms and one year with as many as 12 named storms. The number of cyclones, however, is not as important as the area of the Gulf they traverse, their wind intensity and wind field size, and where they make landfall.

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.

During the 25-year period from 1984 to 2008, 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 88 percent accuracy rate.

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.

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