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For information, call 713-529-3076**

**WRC's 2010 Hurricane Season Outlook  
Cyclones Just Miss the Coast with the Highest Risk for Landfall  
But Hammer the Coast with the Second Highest Risk of Landfall**

**Houston, TX** – Weather Research Center (WRC) in Houston forecasted a 90 percent chance of a tropical storm or hurricane making landfall along the west coast of Florida during the 2010 hurricane season. A few storms came close to verifying this forecast including Tropical Storm Bonnie which made landfall on the tip of Florida in July. Tropical Storm Nicole and Hurricane Paula re-curved east and missed the west coast of Florida later in the season. The coasts with the second highest risk of a landfall by a tropical cyclone were Mexico and eastern Florida with a 70 percent chance. This forecast verified with five storms making landfall along the Mexico Coast: Alex, Hermine, Karl, Matthew and Richard. The East Coast of Florida forecast also verified with Tropical Storm Bonnie making landfall along the tip of Florida in July.

WRC's 2010 outlook forecasted at least eight named storms in the Atlantic Basin with five intensifying into hurricanes. The season began slowly with only 3 storms forming through the beginning of August. However, from August 21 to September 26, ten more storms developed back to back spanning 36 days in which at least one named storm was in the Atlantic Basin. This 36 day period was the longest since 2004. September lived up to being the most active month, with eight named storms forming, three of which became major hurricanes. During the season, a total of 19 storms developed, six of which lasted less than three days.

The outlook also anticipated 25 hurricane days and 57 tropical storm days during this season. There were 48 hurricane days and 44 tropical storm days. Fortunately, only one storm made landfall along the U.S. Coast.

During the 27-year period from 1984 to 2010, there have only been four years (1987, 1992, 1999 and 2010) when a tropical storm or hurricane did not make landfall in the section of the United States coastline that had the highest risk. In all four of these years, cyclones made landfall in the section of the coast with the second highest risk. This gives the OCSI an 85.2 percent accuracy rate.

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## 2010 WRC OCSI FORECAST FOR THE ATLANTIC

<u>COAST</u>	<u>WRC OCSI</u>	<u>CLIMATOLOGY</u>	<u>2010</u>
Texas	60%	51%	
Mexico	70%	40%	Alex, Hermine, Karl, Matthew, Richard
Louisiana to Alabama	40%	59%	
West Florida	90%	71%	
East Florida	70%	41%	Bonnie
Georgia to N. Carolina	20%	56%	
East Coast of U.S.	20%	36%	

### Other 2010 Predictors from WRC's OCSI

	OCSI Forecast	2010
Number of Named Storms	8	19
Number Intensifying into Hurricanes	5	12
Number of Hurricane Days	25	48
Number of Tropical Storm Days	57	44
US Landfalls	3	1
Category 3, 4 or 5 Storms in the Atlantic Basin	30%	5

The 2011 Outlook indicates the Gulf of Mexico to be more active. The highest risk of a tropical storm or hurricane landfall is the coast from Louisiana to West Florida with a 90 percent chance. The coast of Texas and the coast of Georgia to North Carolina have the second highest risk, 70 percent, of a cyclone landfall. The years used for this forecast are 1870, 1881, 1892, 1904, 1916, 1926, 1936, 1947, 1957, 1967, 1979, 1989 and 1999.

During these years used to determine the 2011 Outlook, there have been 5 years (1926, 1947, 1957, 1989 and 1999) when a Category 4 hurricane made landfall on the U.S. Coast. These include Hurricane Bret in 1999 on the South Texas Coast; Hurricane Hugo along the South Carolina Coast in 1989; Hurricane Audrey in 1957 along the Texas/Louisiana Border; 1947 Hurricane which was a Category 5 then weakened to a Category 4 prior to landfall on the East Coast of Florida and then tracked across the Gulf, making landfall in Louisiana as a Category 1 hurricane; and the famous Key Biscayne Florida Hurricane in 1926.

Another memorable storm in this phase of the OCSI is Hurricane David in 1979 which struck Cape Canaveral. The last time a hurricane made landfall near Cape Canaveral was in 1926. Also in 1979, Hurricane Frederic made landfall in Mobile, Alabama which also had not had a direct strike of a hurricane since 1926.

So it appears that 2010 was the calm before the cyclones return to the U.S. coast.

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### Other 2010 Predictors from WRC's OCSI

	OCSI Forecast
Number of Named Storms	10
Number Intensifying into Hurricanes	6
Number of Hurricane Days	69
Number of Tropical Storm Days	30
US Landfalls	5
Category 3, 4 or 5 Storms in the Atlantic Basin	80%

### 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 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](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 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](http://www.wxresearch.com).