



Weather Research Center



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BUSY HURRICANE SEASON FOR THE GULF OF MEXICO

WRC's 2011 Hurricane Season Outlook Indicates the West Coast of Florida and the Louisiana to Alabama Coast have the Highest Risk of Tropical Cyclone Landfall

Houston, TX – Weather Research Center (WRC) in Houston is forecasting a 90 percent chance of a tropical storm or hurricane making landfall along the Gulf Coast from Louisiana to Key West, Florida during the 2011 hurricane season. The secondary predictors in the index call for at least 10 named storms with 6 of them intensifying into hurricanes. There is an 80 percent chance that a Category 4 hurricane will form in the Atlantic as well as a 60 percent chance of more than 5 tropical storms or hurricanes making landfall somewhere along the U.S. Coast.

2011 WRC OCSI FORECAST FOR THE ATLANTIC

<u>COAST</u>	<u>WRC OCSI</u>	<u>CLIMATOLOGY</u>
Texas	70%	51%
Mexico	40%	40%
Louisiana to Alabama	90%	59%
West Florida	90%	71%
East Florida	60%	41%
Georgia to N. Carolina	70%	56%
East Coast of U.S.	30%	36%

Other 2011 Predictors from WRC's OCSI

	<u>OCSI Forecast</u>
Number of Named Storms	10
Number Intensifying into Hurricanes	6
Number of Hurricane Days	69
Number of Tropical Storm Days	30
U.S. Landfalls	5
Category 3, 4 or 5 Storms in the Atlantic Basin	80%

The 2011 Outlook indicates the Gulf of Mexico to be more active with the highest risk of a tropical storm or hurricane landfall along the coast from Louisiana to West Florida. The coast of Texas and the coast of Georgia to North Carolina have the second highest risk of a cyclone landfall with 70 percent.

The index also calls for a long season with June having a 60 percent chance of having a tropical cyclone form and November having a 30 percent chance.

The years used to determine the 2011 Outlook include 1870, 1881, 1892, 1904, 1916, 1926, 1936, 1947, 1957, 1967, 1979, 1989 and 1999. During these years, there have been 5 years (1926, 1947, 1957, 1989 and 1999) when a Category 4 hurricane made landfall along the U.S. Coast. These include Hurricane Bret in 1999 along the South Texas Coast; Hurricane Hugo in 1989 along the South Carolina Coast; Hurricane Audrey in 1957 along the Texas/Louisiana Border; 1947 Hurricane which was a Category 5 before weakening 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.

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.

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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