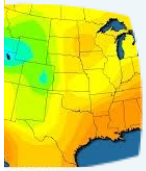

ISSUE 19 | Summer | 2017

Tallahassee topics

NEWS AND NOTES FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE.

The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Tallahassee, FL provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for Southeast Alabama, Southwest & South Central Georgia, the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico coastal waters. Our primary mission is the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the local economy.

Hurricane Preparedness

By Katie Moore

We saw last year with Hurricane Hermine that it only takes one storm to disrupt your life. As Hurricane Season (June 1 through November 30) starts, we encourage you determine your risk, make a plan, and build an emergency kit, so you're prepared for any storms you may face this year.

Determine Your Risk

Hurricanes can produce storm surge and heavy rain which can cause devastating flood damage. While coastal areas are the most susceptible to flooding from storm surge, everyone is at risk of flooding from heavy rainfall. Call your insurance company or agent to make sure you're covered for potential flooding from a hurricane.

Hurricanes have strong winds and can also produce tornadoes! These wind threats can result in damage to homes and other structures as well as cause trees to fall on roads and powerlines, blocking road access and knocking out power. Take some time now to trim trees in your yard, secure doors and any loose outdoor items, and shop for window coverings to protect your home or business. Make sure your emergency plan and kit account for likely power outages.

Make a Plan

First, determine if you live in an evacuation zone or a home that is unsafe during a hurricane. Find out if you're in an evacuation zone here: http://flash.org/EvacuationZoneSurvey.pdf Consider if your home structure can handle sustained winds of 74 MPH or greater.

Next, determine where you would go and how you would get there. It doesn't have to be far- your plan could be to stay with a friend or relative who doesn't live in an evacuation zone or an unsafe home. Talk with that person to see if you can stay with them if a hurricane comes. Don't forget about your pets! Most local shelters won't permit pets and if you're staying with someone, you'll want to make sure they'll be OK with your pets staying there too.

Your plan should also include a meet up point (in case you get separated from your family) and a way to communicate. Texting is better than calling in an emergency as cell towers are in higher than

(Continued on page 3)

Employee Spotlight:
Craig Carpenter

Electronics Technician

By Katie Moore & Craig Carpenter

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You were in the Army before joining the weather service. Can you tell us a little about working with electronic systems there?
I spent 21 years working on Air Traffic Control systems and subsystems in the military. Of those 21 years, I spent 7 years as an Instructor where I trained young Soldiers the basics of electronics.

How did you get your start in the weather service?
I first started out in Lake Charles, LA where I was selected to fill the ET position there. I worked there for 2 years before transferring to the office here 8 months ago.

What's a typical day like for an ET?
Usually consists of traveling to a remote site and repairing a broken sensor.

What's your favorite part of the job?
The feeling of accomplishment when you figure out what's wrong with a tricky malfunction.

What's the most challenging part of the job?
Ensuring each facility stays at 100% operational status.

When you're not working here, what do you like to do?
Just about anything outdoors. I like to fish, golf, go to the beach, and listen to live bands.

Forecasting One to Two Weeks into the Future
By Jeff Fournier

Currently a forecaster's ability to consistently and skillfully forecast day-to-day weather is limited to about 7 days. However, forecasters are still able to make some broad generalizations about forecast weather conditions in the 1-3 week time frame. While we can't forecast daily high and low temperatures or rain chances, we can often provide useful information about how temperatures and rain chances will compare with the average weather conditions for that time of year. Such generalized forecasts may not be very useful for planning a large family picnic, but they can be useful to some. For instance, an emergency manager who is concerned about recent river rises in a vulnerable community might be interested in a 1-3 week forecast calling for above-average rainfall.

A *teleconnection* is one of the tools used to make longer-range predictions. It is a well-observed weather pattern which corresponds to specific temperature and rainfall anomalies across a geographic region. There are several of these patterns across the globe, including the El Nino/La Nina cycle. Teleconnections are often described by a single number, which is either positive or negative. Whether the number is positive or not describes which phase the teleconnection is in, as these patterns oscillate back and forth over time.

One of the oldest and well-known teleconnections is the *North Atlantic Oscillation* (NAO). This index is derived by finding the pressure difference between two locations in the North Atlantic Ocean- one representing the Azores high and the other representing the Icelandic low. (Both of these features are semi-permanent, large-scale weather systems). When the NAO is positive, forecasters generally forecast above-average temperatures and rain chances across much of the eastern United States. Conversely, a negative NAO usually coincides with below-average temperatures and rain chances in the east. However, this index, like many others, are much more reliable during the cool season.

Integrated Warning Team Meeting for Marine Partners
By Emma Weston

On April 25th, NWS Tallahassee held its third Integrated Warning Team Workshop at the Bay County Emergency Operations Center. The focus for this IWT was marine and beach products with over 20 attendees including emergency management, broadcast meteorologists, life guards and the U.S. Coast Guard. The workshop started with defining the numerous NWS marine products and getting feedback on both criteria and communication of the products and warnings. The second half of the workshop focused on rip currents with inputs from local lifeguards about how they form, what weather patterns enhance them, the beach flag system and the NWS Surf Zone Forecast. With numerous tourists coming to enjoy the Florida Panhandle beaches each year, there was a lot of discussion on how to educate and warn the visiting public about rip currents and pop up thunderstorms. The workshop was very successful and feedback included "We learned a lot at the meeting and found the information extremely useful and will be sharing some of the pamphlets with our outlying units. We look forward to working with you again in the future."

Attendees of the Marine Integrated Warning Team Meeting in Bay County

CALL US 24/7

(850) 942-8831

or

(850) 942-8833

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

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weather.gov/tae

Spring Weather Safety (Continued From Page 1)

normal use. Local phone lines may be knocked out by fallen trees, so consider having your family members check in with an out-of-town relative if possible.

Build an Emergency Kit

Your emergency kit should include at least a one week supply of food, water (1 gallon per person per day), and medications. Remember, you'll probably lose power during a hurricane, so flashlights, a battery powered radio, and a portable cell phone charger may come in handy. When a storm approaches, it's a good idea to fill up your car with gas and get extra cash out beforehand. If there is widespread tree damage, it may be hard for new shipments of gas to make it into town and card machines and ATMs may be down for a while. For additional ideas about what to include in your emergency kit, go to https://www.ready.gov/kit

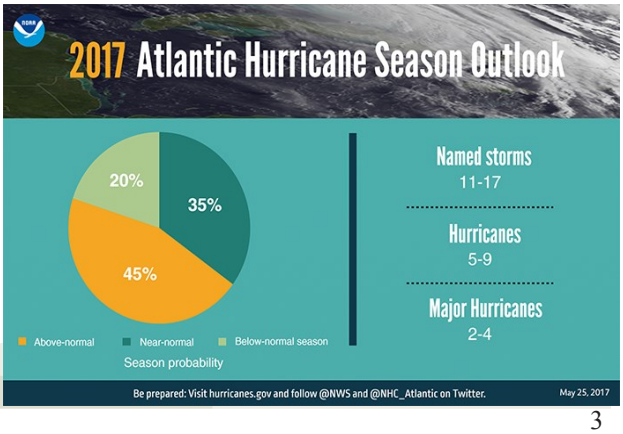
Outlook for the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season

By Mark Wool

For the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through November 30, NOAA forecasters predict a 45 percent chance of an above-normal season, a 35 percent chance of a near-normal season, and only a 20 percent chance of a below-normal season.

Forecasters predict a 70 percent likelihood of 11 to 17 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 5 to 9 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 2 to 4 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher). An average season produces 12 named storms of which six become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

These numbers include Tropical Storm Arlene, a rare pre-season storm that formed over the eastern Atlantic in April.



Management-Admin Team

Jane Hollingsworth, MIC
Mark Wool, WCM
Parks Camp, SOO
Doug Sherrick, ESA
Chris Duggan, ASA
Toan Tran, ITO
Kelly Godsey, Hydrologist

Lead Forecasters

Jeff Fournier
Don Van Dyke
Donal Harrigan
Jessica Fieux
Blair Scholl

Journeyman Forecasters

Tim Barry
Katie Moore
Justin Pullin
Andy Lahr
Vacant

HMTs

Ricardo Humphreys, OPL

Interns

Claudia (Jeanie) McDermott
Emma Weston
Vacant

Electronic Technicians

Ron Eimiller
Craig Carpenter

Outreach Efforts

By Mark Wool

Springtime was a busy period for outreach for the NWS Tallahassee office. On April 1st, WCM Mark Wool, (pictured right) MIC Jane Hollingsworth and senior forecaster Jessica Fieux staffed a booth at the Springtime Tallahassee Jubiliee in downtown Tallahassee. FSU student volunteers Joey Patton (pictured left), Kirsten Chaney and Federico Di Catarina also helped greet the steady stream of festival goers and discussed severe weather safety and other topics. The cloud in a bottle demonstration was a hit!

Otherwise during the season, on March 1st, Mark joined the on-air meteorologists from WTVY in Dothan at a NOAA Weather Radio programming event in Enterprise, AL on the anniversary of the deadly EF-4 tornado that devastated the high school there in 2007. On March 7th and 21st, we hosted two office tours for the entire Magnolia School, grades K-8. The students saw weather experiments, and learned how we forecast the weather and launch weather balloons. On April 25th, we gathered with partners from our coastal counties to discuss ways to improve our marine program. See article on page 2. On May 10th, forecaster Tim Barry staffed a booth at the annual 4-H Ecology Field Day here in Tallahassee. On May 25th, NWS Tallahassee conducted a day-long training session for area emergency managers on new products and services that will be provided this hurricane season. The training occurred here on the FSU campus.

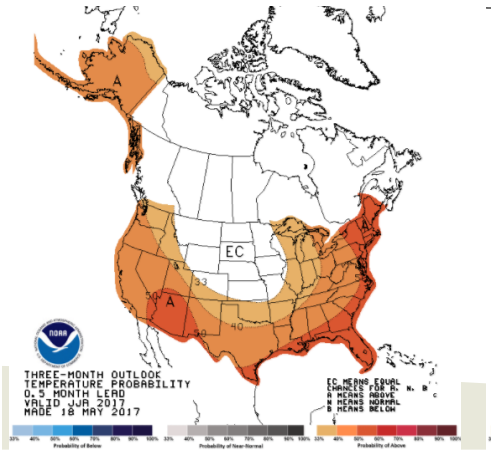
Climate Recap for Spring

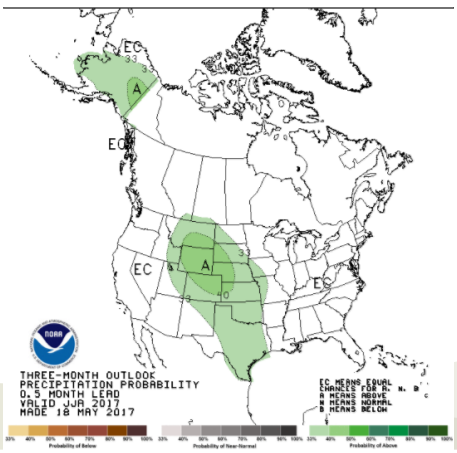
The climate for Tallahassee during the 3-month period of March through May was hotter than normal with an average temperature of 69.2 degrees, 2.3 above normal. The maximum temperature recorded at the Tallahassee International Airport during spring was 94 degrees on May 16th and May 28th. The lowest temperature was 27 degrees on the March 16th. There were no temperature records tied or broken during spring.

Climatologically, spring is Tallahassee's driest season with April on average the driest month of the year. This spring was drier than normal with rainfall measuring 9.87", 2.60" below normal. March was very dry with only 1.19" of rain, 4.75" below normal. Although April saw near normal rainfall, 2.93" of the 3.17" total occurred within a 24 hour period on the 3rd. May received 5.51" inches, which was 2.04" above normal. However, most of the rain in May occurred on just two days, with 2.43" on the 4th and 1.52" on the 24th. A thunderstorm at the airport produced a peak wind gust of 43 mph from the northwest on April 3rd and May 12th.

Climate Outlook for Summer

By Tim Barry





Looking ahead to summer (June through August) the Climate Prediction Center calls for an enhanced chance for experiencing above normal temperatures and equal chances of experiencing above, below, or normal rainfall. The average temperature for Tallahassee during summer is 81.3 degrees and the average rainfall is 22.25 inches. On average, about 38% of Tallahassee's annual rainfall occurs during summer, which is Tallahassee's convective season.