

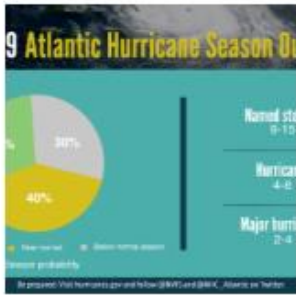
SUNCOAST OBSERVER

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the National Weather Service Tampa Bay Area, FL

www.weather.gov/tampa

6.25.2019

Top stories in this newsletter



2019 NOAA Atlantic Hurricane Season Forecast



Florida NWS Offices Provide Partner Trainings at Governor's Hurricane Conference



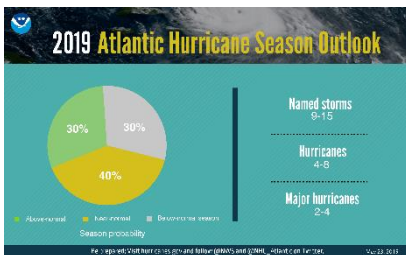
Make Your Hurricane/Disaster Supply Kits! New Recommendations In Place for 2019



NWS Tampa Bay Assists with Port Tampa Bay Hurricane Exercise

2019 NOAA Atlantic Hurricane Season Forecast

By: Jennifer Hubbard



For the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season, NOAA/NWS are predicting a near-normal season, with 9 to 15 named storms (storms that contain winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 4 to 8 becoming hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 2 to 4 of those being major hurricanes (winds of 111mph or higher, or Category 3, 4 or 5 storms).

The forecast reflects competing climate factors. There is an ongoing El Niño that is expected to persist through the summer. An El Niño typically suppresses hurricane activity in the Atlantic. But, countering to this is the expected combination of warmer-than-average sea-surface temperatures in the Tropical Atlantic and Caribbean Sea, and an enhanced west African monsoon, both of which favor increased hurricane activity. And the most important thing to remember with all of this is to be prepared and stay alert. It only takes one to change your life forever!

Florida NWS Offices Provide Numerous Partner Trainings at Governor's Hurricane Conference

By: Jennifer Hubbard



In mid-May, the Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference was held in West Palm Beach. This conference is held annually, with state, county, and municipal emergency management, first responders, and public works in attendance, among others, to learn from past successes and failures, hurricane readiness, and the latest tools and technologies to improve disaster response and recovery across the state and beyond. Sixteen presentations and trainings were given by NWS and NHC personnel from across the state over the course of the week, with topics ranging from basic tropical meteorology to panel discussions on Hurricane Michael to effective impacts messaging for tropical hazards.

Make Your Hurricane Supply Kits! New Recommendations for 2019

By: Jennifer Hubbard



Everyone should be sure to make a disaster emergency supply kit for themselves and their family for the hurricane season. If you gradually acquire the items, it can be affordable to put together a basic kit. Recommendations used to be to have enough food, water, and other supplies to last 3 days on your own. But since the recent storms of Michael and Irma, it is now recommended to have enough supplies for 7 days, as it took longer for power to be restored than in the past. Food should be non-perishable, so things like ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables, protein or fruit bars, peanut butter, crackers, etc. and you should have one gallon of water per person per day. Other important kit items are things like a manual can opener, flashlight, first aid kit, extra batteries, moist towelettes, a wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, and a battery-powered or hand-cranked radio/NOAA Weather Radio. Also, don't forget to plan for your pets. For a full list of recommended items and additional supplies, please visit <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>.

NWS Tampa Bay Assists with Port Tampa Bay Hurricane Exercise

By: Dustin Norman



On April 24th, NWS Tampa Bay took part in the 6th Annual Hurricane Exercise hosted by Port Tampa Bay. Meteorologist Dustin Norman collaborated with Port officials and the National Hurricane Center to create a hypothetical tropical cyclone mimicking Hurricane Michael, but turning it into Pinellas county as a 145 mph (Category 4) hurricane. This simulated hurricane highlighted potential impacts from a worst-case scenario across one of the most vulnerable regions in the country. Over 100 people were in attendance, including state, county, and municipal emergency management, Port Tampa executives, US Coast Guard, Customs and Border Patrol, MacDill AFB, First Responders, Florida Aquarium, and Tampa Electric.

Michael's quick intensification from a disturbance to a powerful Category 5 hurricane exposed many vulnerabilities in the planning, response, and recovery stages of even the most seasoned planners. This table-top exercise sought to address these issues before a simulation becomes reality.