



THE SOUTH TEXAS REGIONAL COCORAHS NEWSLETTER

NWS
Corpus
Christi



Fall 2010 Edition

The Updated 2010 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook

by Tony Merriman

The 2010 Atlantic Basin hurricane season kicked off with a slow start with only three named tropical cyclones as of August 17, 2010. However, scientists at the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), the National Hurricane Center (NHC), and the Hurricane Research Division (HRD) are still forecasting an active 2010 Atlantic Basin hurricane season. The expected active hurricane season is primarily due in part to the developing La Niña conditions and record high sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the Atlantic Ocean. The La Niña conditions should minimize the wind shear over the Atlantic Basin and the record high Atlantic Ocean SSTs should provide ample energy for

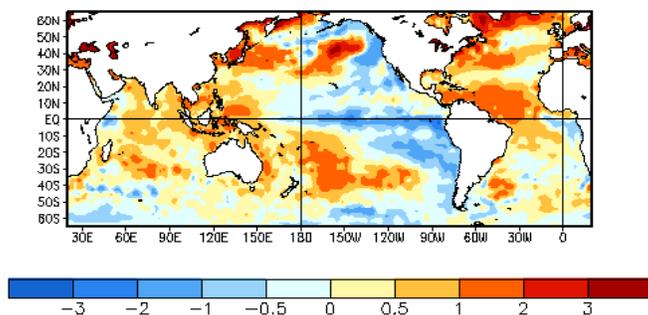
tropical cyclone development.

Due to the relatively slow start, the outlook for the total number of named storms, hurricanes, and major hurricanes for 2010

has decreased slightly. However, it only takes one hurricane landfall in South Texas to make it a bad season. The following table shows how the outlook has changed.

Date of Outlook	Named Storms	Hurricanes	Major Hurricanes
May 27, 2010	14-23	8-14	3-7
August 5, 2010	14-20	8-12	4-6

Average SST Anomalies
11 JUL 2010 - 7 AUG 2010



Developing La Niña conditions and above normal SSTs over the Atlantic should generate an active 2010 Atlantic Basin hurricane season.

Hurricane Alex

by Juan Alanis, Jr.

The first storm of the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season developed on June 25th in the eastern Caribbean Sea. Alex made its first landfall on June 26th just north of Belize City as a tropical storm with winds of

65mph. Alex weakened to a tropical depression while moving over the Yucatan Peninsula. However, Alex regained its strength once it re-emerged over the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Alex would strengthen to a Category 2 hurricane before making its final landfall near Soto La Marina, Mexico, or about 110 miles south of Brownsville around 9pm CDT on June 30th.

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Hurricane Alex (Cont.)

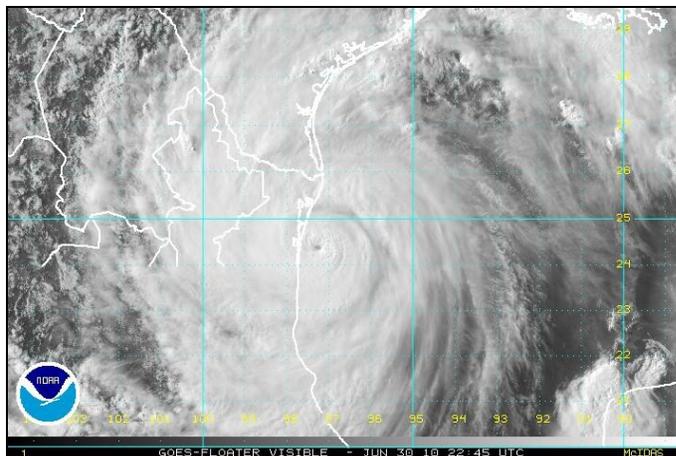
"Alex was the strongest June hurricane since Alma in 1966."



Maximum sustained winds at landfall were 105mph, with a central pressure of 947mb, making Alex the strongest June hurricane since Alma in 1966.

High winds and some tornadoes were observed across South Texas. However, the primary impact from Hurricane Alex was heavy rain and flooding. Many reports of 3 to 6 inches of rain were recorded with several areas in the Alice and Corpus Christi areas reporting between 7 and 10 inches. The heaviest rains from Alex occurred in Mexico. Nearly 18 inches of rain fell in Monterrey, Nuevo

Leon in 24 hours according to the Mexican government, with many more reports between 15 to 25 inches across Mexico's Nuevo Leon state.



Hurricane Alex making landfall as a Category 2 storm 110 miles south of Brownsville, TX. More information can be found at the following website: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/crp/?n=hurricanealex>

Rio Grande Flooding

by Juan Alanis, Jr.



Source: National Weather Service Storm Survey

Flood waters at the corner of Water St. and Santa Maria Ave. More information can be found at the following website: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/crp/?n=riograndeflood>

Heavy rains along the Rio Grande basin in the Mexican states of Coahuila and Nuevo Leon from the remnants of Hurricane Alex and Tropical Depression Two caused severe flooding in those areas. The heavy rainfall forced authorities to open flood control dams along the Rio Grande.

In Laredo, the Rio Grande rose to its highest level since the famous 1954 flood that washed away Laredo's only bridge at

the time. The river crested at 42.45 feet on July 9th at International Bridge One in downtown, and at 49 feet at the Laredo-Colombia Bridge. The flood waters forced the closure of Laredo's Colombia Bridge and Bridge #1 for several days, with the remaining two bridges open at very reduced capacity. Waters rose to the base of International Bridge One at its peak. The flood waters also forced the evacuations of many areas along the river including Laredo's

Mines Road, sections of the west side along Los Martinez Street, areas along Chacon creek and businesses along the Rio Grande in downtown Laredo, including the Rio Grande Plaza Hotel and the historic La Posada Hotel. The river and its tributaries also flooded homes and businesses in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. It also forced the closure of the city's only highway (Federal Hwy 85) into interior Mexico, cutting off the city from the rest of the nation for five days.



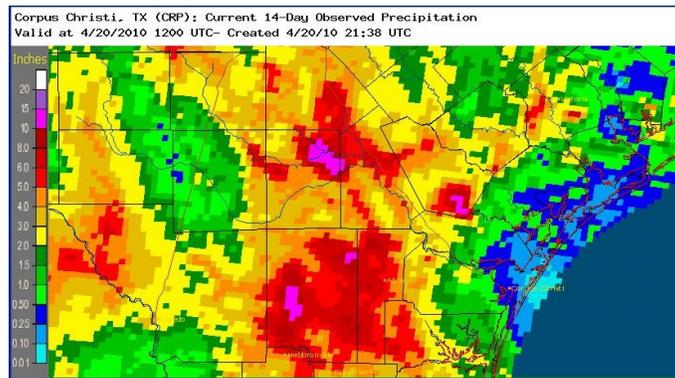
Significant Weather Reporting Feature

by Tony Merriman

Many areas of South Texas experienced flash flooding from April 12-17, 2010. It was because of real-time reports from observers like you that provided National Weather Service (NWS) warning forecasters with accurate and timely information. An observer in Jim Wells County in particular effectively utilized the "significant weather" reporting feature on April 16 and kept NWS forecasters updated hourly on conditions at his location. This extremely valuable information was incorporated into the flash flood

warnings and statements, which alerted the local residents of the exact impacts the heavy rainfall was having in their communities.

We really appreciate your daily reports. Your timely severe weather reports help us at the National Weather Service better protect life and property.



Rainfall totals for April 12-17, 2010. More information can be found here: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/crp/?n=april2010heavyrain>

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After you log in, click on the "significant weather" link on the left of the page. Your report goes directly to meteorologists at the National Weather Service.

Meet a Kleberg County Observer

by Tony Merriman



K.A. "Buddy" Childs has been the TX-KL-7 CoCoRaHS observer since February 2008. He also coordinated the first CoCoRaHS training session for Kleberg County in 2009.

Buddy is a South Texas native through and through. He was born and raised in Kingsville. He was an All-District and 2nd

team All-State player on H.M. King High School's only state finalist football team.

After high school, Buddy served in the Texas Army National Guard. When he turned 26, he became the youngest Ford dealer in the nation. He has since been a Ford dealer in Kingsville for 34 years. During that time, he was the Vice President for South Texas for the Texas Auto Dealers Association. Buddy also served on Ford's National Dealer Council. He was the representative of the 153 dealers located across the eastern half of Texas.

Buddy is very much involved in the community. He has held all of the offices in the Kingsville

chamber of commerce. He is currently the Mentor and Chaplain of the Texas A&M - Kingsville Javelina football team.

When he's not working or giving back to the community, Buddy enjoys fishing, hunting, and spending time with his family.





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National Weather Service Mission Statement:

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community.

Brief National Weather Service History:

The National Weather Service has its beginnings in the early history of the United States. Weather has always been important to the citizenry of this country, and this was especially true during the 17th and 18th centuries.

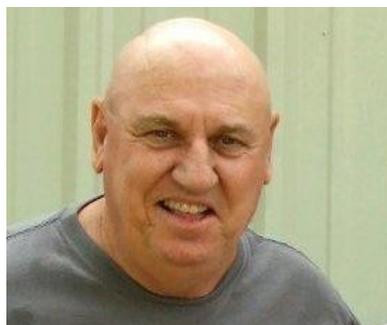
The beginning of the National Weather Service we know today started on February 9th, 1870, when President Ulysses S. Grant signed a joint resolution of Congress authorizing the Secretary of War to establish a national weather service.

ON THE WEB!

<http://www.weather.gov/corpuschristi>

Meet a Refugio County Observer

by Tony Merriman



Dwight Mutschler has been the TX-RF-2 CoCoRaHS observer since September 2007. He also coordinated the first CoCoRaHS training session for Refugio County in 2009.

Dwight was born and raised in Smiley, TX; which is about 60 miles east of San Antonio. After high school, he furthered his education by attending

Texas A & I University in Kingsville. He earned Bachelor of Science degrees in both government and history.

After college, Dwight became a life-long teacher in Texas. He is now enjoying retirement from Austwell-Tivoli ISD.

Even though he is retired, Dwight remains active in the community. He currently serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Austwell-Tivoli Lion's Club. He has also been the coordinator of the Texas State Adopt-A-Beach program for the Austwell Beach since the state initiated the program.

When he's not giving back to the community, Dwight enjoys spending time with his family and fishing. He once was almost caught in a waterspout while wade fishing in San Antonio Bay!

If you would like to be featured in the Spring 2011 edition of the South Texas CoCoRaHS newsletter, please email me at Tony.Merriman@noaa.gov. We would love to hear from observers in other parts of South Texas!

