



A Weather-Ready Nation

HAPA Project Report

Volume 3, Issue 8, February 3, 2017

Disclaimer

This is an EXPERIMENTAL project report based on the Hovmoller Analysis and Prognostics Approach (HAPA) conducted at the WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge Forecast Office (WFO LIX). This report is a means of bringing situational awareness to large scale events and potential impacts that may require decision support or emergency response activities in the foreseeable future. This project is NOT a long range forecast product for day-to-day conditions. HAPA is an interpretative method of integrating established numerical model guidance, climatological and earth systems monitoring and subject matter expertise from various sources to provide an outlook to potential weather hazards in the 8 to 60 day range. The intended audience of this report is media, NWS partners, stakeholders, and the general public. **Users must refer to the latest official NWS forecasts and outlooks for any decision-making activities.**

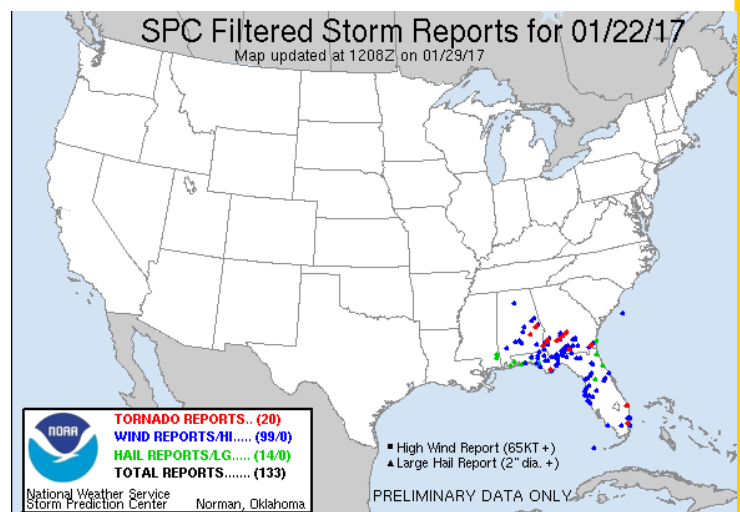
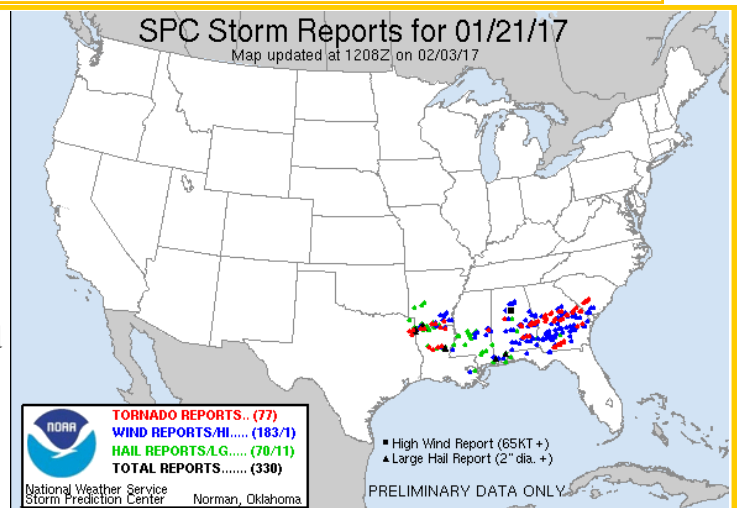


WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA

Rare January Tornado Outbreak in the South

In the last couple of reports, some attention was shed on the period between January 18th and 22nd for severe weather potential. Unfortunately, the results were deadly, with about 17 deaths and several more injured across the Gulf South. The driver behind this outbreak was a vigorous low pressure system that was associated with a strong jet stream situated across the southern states. Meanwhile, cold air moved out of Canada and provided a clash of air masses along a warm front where most of the tornadoes and severe wind events occurred as it advanced northward. The areas most impacted were areas along the Louisiana—Arkansas state line, Petal and Hattiesburg area of Mississippi, southern Alabama and a large portion of southern Georgia around the Albany area.

Looking ahead, the Gulf Coast region is moving into the Carnival season, with parade calendar picking up after the 11th. Much of the parade season should go off without a hitch though there are a few days of note worth monitoring. One in particular is around the 21st or 22nd, which has been indicated as a potential trouble date in previous reports. February 25th looks to be potentially a strong cold frontal passage with some inclement weather. If this holds true, then it places Mardi Gras Day in a warming trend with perhaps an isolated shower or two around the region, before more storminess moves in for Ash Wednesday.



Outlooks and dates for consideration

Feb 09 [6 days out]: There is a potential for storminess associated with a frontal passage.

Feb 18 [15 days out]: Indications of a strong cold front with greater impacts in the northern half of the nation.

Feb 21 [18 days out]: This date is concerning in that some severe thunderstorm potential may impact the Deep South ahead of what appears to be strong cooling later in the week.

Feb 25 [22 days out]: The appearances of a very cold air mass may spread southward during this busy Carnival weekend.

Mardi Gras Day [25 days out]: Still no firm indications of any inclement weather on this day. It seems a warming trend will be underway with perhaps isolated showers ahead of a storm system that moves through later on **Ash Wednesday Mar 01 [26 days out]**.

Mar 08 [33 days out]: It appears there is more potential for colder than normal air and some storminess affecting mainly the middle of the nation in this time frame.

Mar 12 [37 days out]: A severe weather potential mainly in the Midwest portion of the nation.

Mar 27 [52 days out]: This is a long way out, but there is some indications within the analysis that would suggest inclement weather in a large portion of the interior states and the Gulf States towards the latter part of March.

A more detailed, technical explanation of these outlooks are available upon request to the e-mail address below.

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Next report is scheduled for Feb 16, 2017.

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