



A Weather-Ready Nation

HAPA Project Report

Volume 3, Issue 10, March 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.**

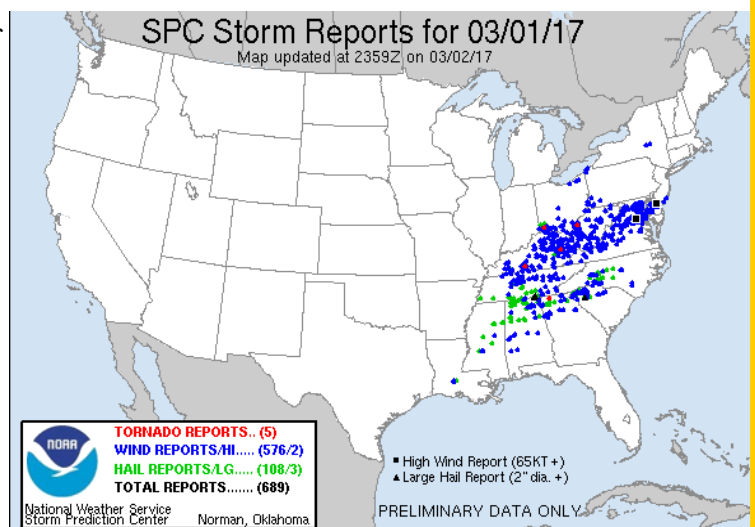
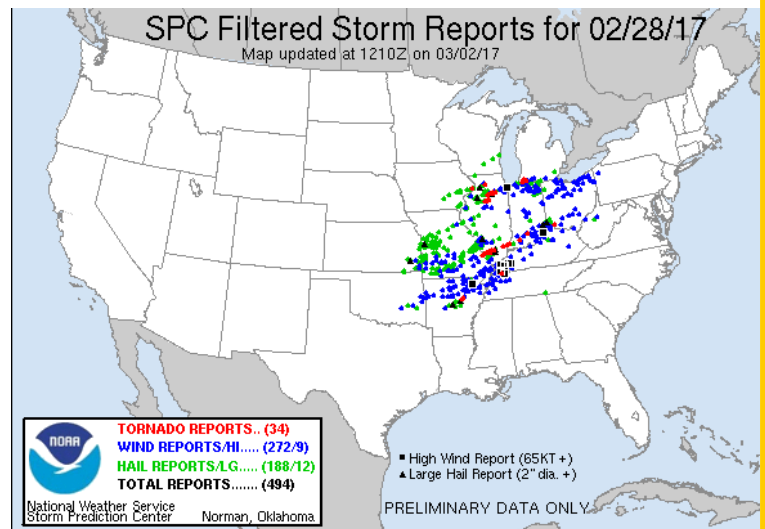


WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA

A Mardi Gras Day tornado outbreak in the Midwest and Ohio Valley

Mardi Gras Day on the Gulf Coast was an unusually warm day with no weather impacts in the immediate Greater New Orleans area. The morning low of 71F was actually the warmest ever minimum temperature for all Mardi Gras Days, a moveable feast day that can range from February 3rd through March 9th. The maximum of 79F fell just short of adding the 8th such Fat Tuesday over the 80 degree mark, but many areas of southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi were in the lower 80s. Meanwhile, farther north, a rash of severe thunderstorms developed that spawned deadly tornadoes in Illinois, Arkansas, Missouri, Indiana, lower Michigan and Ohio. This severe weather outbreak crossed into Ash Wednesday farther east with numerous damaging wind and hail reports. Preliminarily, only three deaths were reported, which is quite amazing considering the extent of impacts and several tornadoes through population centers, inclusive of some EF-3 rated tornadoes.

The HAPA Project Report had been indicating severe weather potential with a disturbance to pass through the middle of the country on February 28th. The last HAPA report had a 12 day lead time focused on the middle tier of states in the middle of the nation eastward. This played out quite well. The call for general storminess along the Gulf States did work well for Lundi Gras, Feb 27th, as several severe weather warnings and special weather statements were issued in the WFO LIX CWA in the afternoon hours. Much of the weather settled down by sunset for minimal to no impacts to parades in the area.



Outlooks and dates for consideration

Mar 5 [2 days out]: A disturbance moving across the country will bring storminess to various regions.

Mar 7 [4 days out]: Some storminess likely in the middle of the nation.

Mar 11 [8 days out]: Severe weather potential in the Upper Plains through the Midwest and Great Lake States.

Mar 14 [11 days out]: Some severe weather potential in the upper tier of states that may translate into the middle tier of states on Mar 15 [12 days out].

Mar 21 [18 days out]: A Gulf States disturbance that may bring storminess and severe weather potential, along with a heavy rain threat.

Mar 27 [24 days out]: This appears to be the early onset of a wet pattern for a large portion of the middle of the nation down to the gulf coast. This pattern will likely persist through the first full week of April.

Mar 30 [27 days out]: A feature passes through the northern states and is anticipated to tap into a wet flow pattern for a heavy rain threat in portions of the interior U.S.

Apr 2-7 [30-35 days out]: Several disturbances in the lower latitude jet stream will bring a prolonged threat of severe weather and heavy rainfall. Not all days may be equally impactful, but the week is likely to be active until a stronger system sweeps through the nation later on the 7th.

Apr 14 [42 days out]: A severe weather potential may be in play for the middle and upper portions of the nation.

Apr 21 [49 days out]: Another potentially active weather day in the north.

May 2 [60 days out]: A long way out, but this may be an unseasonably cooler than normal day for portions of the nation due to a strong cold frontal passage. Any affects should be short-lived.

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	

April 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						

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

Contact Information

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Next report is scheduled for March 17, 2017

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