



# SKYWARN Newsletter

Program Update: 2023 Edition

## Winter 2022/2023 Virtual Classes Announced!

### ONLINE COURSE SCHEDULE

#### **BASIC COURSE:**

**Date:** Monday, Dec 19th 6 - 8PM CT

#### **ADVANCED COURSE:**

**Date:** Thu, Jan 12th 5 - 8PM CT

#### **BASIC COURSE:**

**Date:** Thu, Feb 9th 5 - 7PM CT

#### **BASIC COURSE:**

**Date:** Tue, Mar 7th 6 - 8PM CT

#### **ADVANCED COURSE:**

**Date:** Thu, Mar 23rd 5 - 8PM CT

NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge office is happy to announce another round of Basic & Advanced SKYWARN courses to be offered virtually for the Winter 2023 Season! Be sure to spread the news to family and friends or anyone that would be interested! As a reminder, it is recommended to attend refresher courses every two years.

These courses are always presented live, with interactive polls to maximize engagement. You will also be able to interact and talk with a NWS forecaster during a Q and A session at the very end!

Course registration information can be found on our website: [www.weather.gov/lix/skywarn](http://www.weather.gov/lix/skywarn)

### Be on the Lookout for More In-Person Classes Coming Soon!

Coming soon, we will continue to offer more in-person classes while keeping virtual spotter courses as a continued option!

Be on the lookout for additional class locations and times which we will update on our SKYWARN spotter webpage, as well as post on our Twitter and Facebook!

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### ON-SITE COURSE SCHEDULE

#### **BASIC COURSE - Jackson Co, MS:**

**Date:** Mon, Feb 6th 6 - 8PM CT

**Location:** Jackson County EOC  
600 Convent Ave  
Pascagoula, MS 39567

#### **TO REGISTER, VISIT:**

[WEATHER.GOV/NEWORLEANS/SKYWARN](http://WEATHER.GOV/NEWORLEANS/SKYWARN)

**Course dates may be subject to change, especially if hazardous weather threatens the area during the scheduled class time. Be sure to check out our web page, Twitter and Facebook for the latest class schedule.**


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# New: KLIX WSR-88D Major Radar Upgrade!





## Major Radar Upgrade Planned

**KLIX WSR-88D Radar will undergo a SLEP upgrade and will be down for two extended periods in Dec and Jan.**

- **What is SLEP?**
  - The Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) is a refurbishment project performed across the nation to keep the NEXRADs working into the 2030s.
- **When will the radar be down?**
  - **December 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**
  - **January 3<sup>rd</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**
- **Surrounding Radars:**
  - **KDGX: Jackson, MS**
  - **KMOB: Mobile, AL**
  - **KPOE: Fort Polk, LA**
  - **KLCH: Lake Charles, LA**





 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE    @NWSNewOrleans WEATHER.GOV / NEWORLEANS

Big news! The KLIX WSR-88D Radar located in Slidell, LA is undergoing a two-part refurbishment project known as a SLEP upgrade (Service Life Extension Program). This series of upgrades and replacements will keep our nation's radars viable well into the 2030's in order to continue the NWS Mission of protection of life and property.

This upgrade will come in two parts: Part 1 has just wrapped up, taking place December 8th-15th. While the radar was down for this work, the emergency generator, fuel tanks, and transfer switch were replaced.

Part 2 of the KLIX SLEP project will be the Pedestal SLEP. During this second part of the upgrade, the KLIX radar will be unavailable for approximately 2 weeks between January 3rd and January 16th, 2023. During this down time, the entire radar pedestal assembly will be replaced.

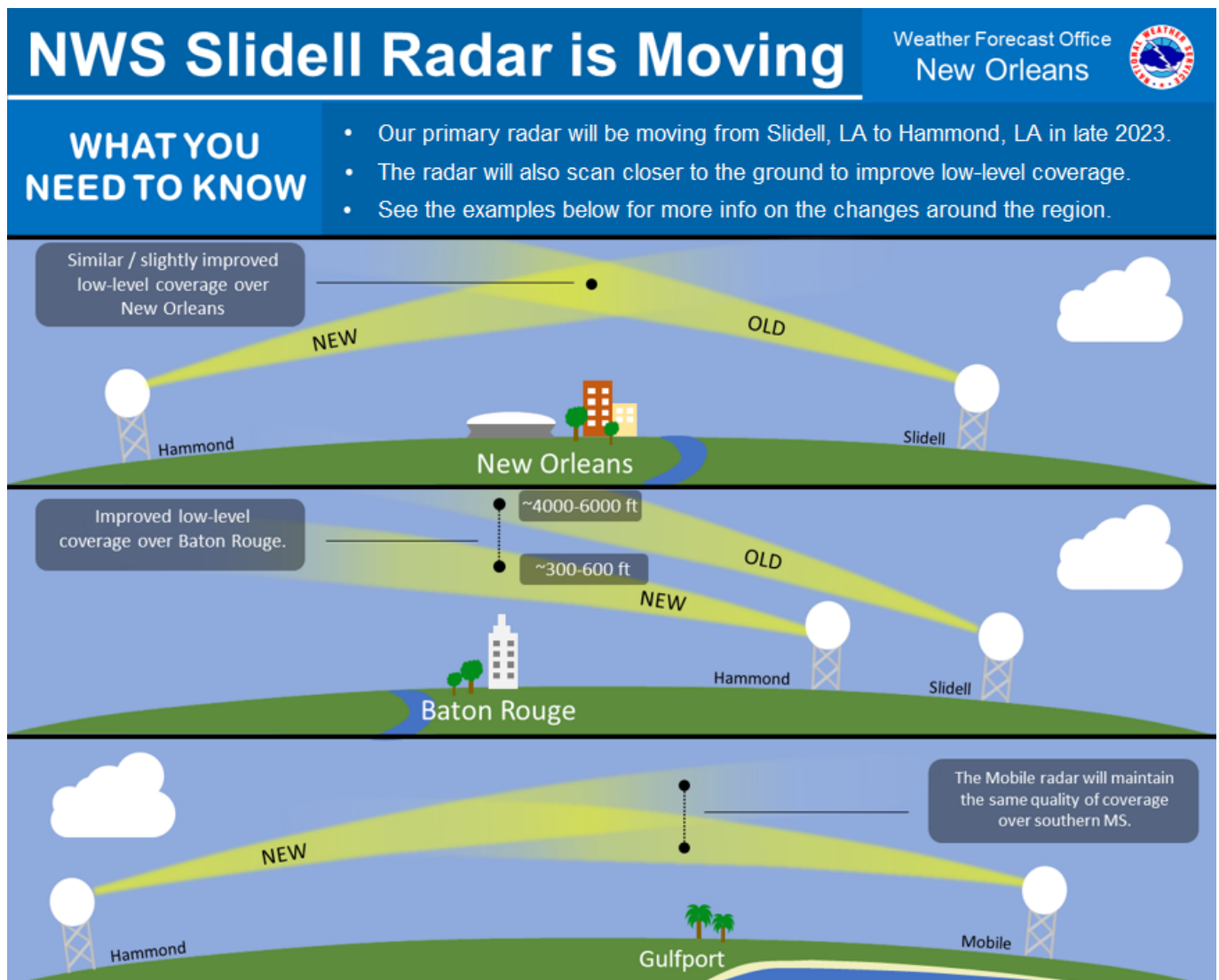
We'll be passing along updates on the planned downtime including restoral times via Twitter and Facebook so be sure to follow us there!

This, and more information can be found on our new web page dedicated to this project at [www.weather.gov/lix/LIXSLEP22-23](http://www.weather.gov/lix/LIXSLEP22-23)

Also, be sure to check out this informative video on the SLEP project via YouTube at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8IYTP342gc>

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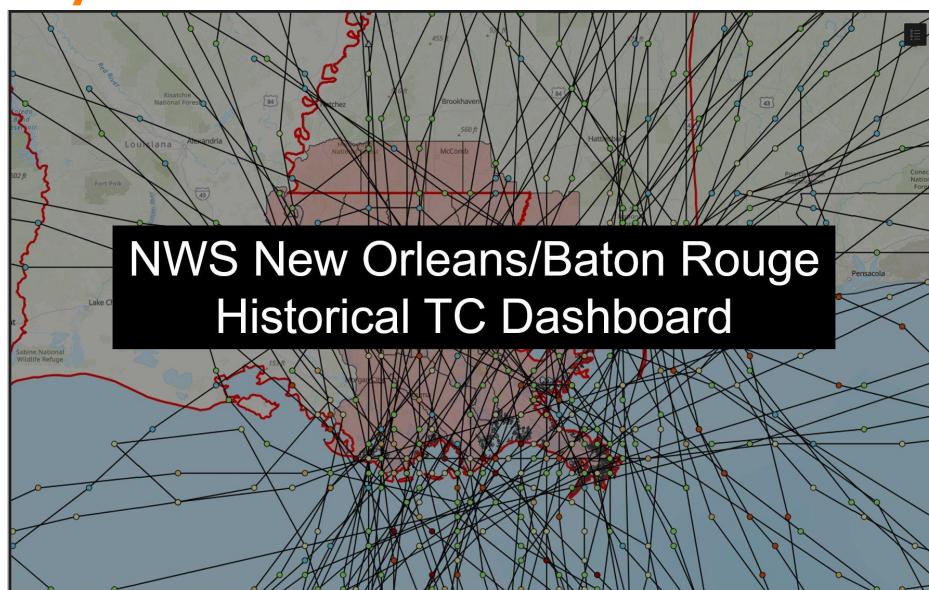
## Added Extra: Hammond Radar Move Update



**Bottom Line:** KLIX radar move to Hammond has been delayed until at least Fall 2023. The KLIX SLEP refurbishment project, originally planned to be performed during this move, is a high priority upgrade and must move forward regardless of the move being postponed.

To learn more about the planned radar move including more specific details, visit: <https://www.weather.gov/lix/klixradarmove>

## New: NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge Historical Tropical Cyclone Dashboard!



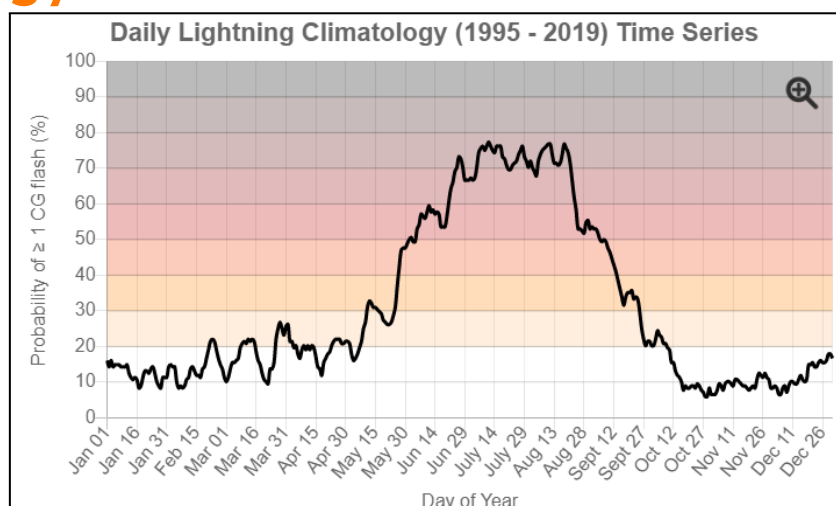
Did you know that since 1851, our local area has been impacted by over 160 tropical systems? Forecasters at the NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge office are using ArcGISOnline to create an interactive viewing experience to search through tropical cyclones that have impacted the area.

Give it a try yourself by viewing the interactive dashboard using the following links below: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/07a5249b720b4158a3e008ee2936b41c> or navigate to our NWS Climate page under Climate Data: <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/Climate?wfo=lix>. For best performance, it's encouraged to try this page out on your desktop.

Credit for development goes to our very own NWS Forecaster Tyler Stanfield. For questions, email [sr-lix.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-lix.webmaster@noaa.gov).

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## Added Extra: Cool New Weather Tool for Lightning Climatology!



Storm Prediction Center Lightning Climatology:

<https://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/dataviewer/?mode=climo&category=ltg&product=ltgday>

# Reporting Reminders

As always mentioned in our Basic and Advanced courses, there are multiple ways to relay weather reports to the forecasters here at NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge.

## What to Report:

- Hail of ANY size
- Winds greater than 58 mph
- Wind Damage
- Tornadoes, Waterspouts, Funnel Clouds
- Widespread flooding covering roadways or inundating property.

Remember, there are multiple ways to report severe weather to us directly!

## Call us!

**504-522-7330**

or: **985-649-0357**

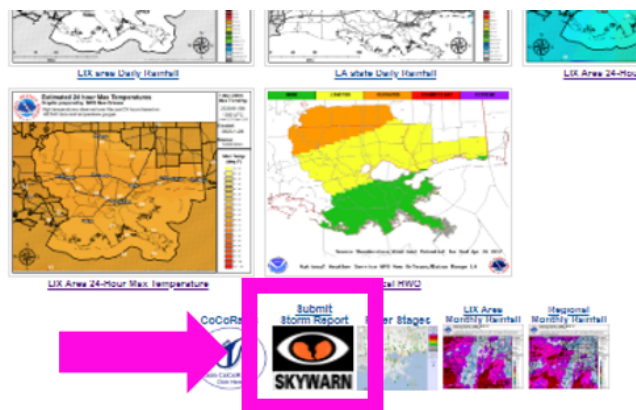
Use Ext 4 to speak with a forecaster on shift.

## What we need to know:

- **Who you are:**
  - Let us know you are a trained spotter.
- **What you witnessed:**
  - Specific weather event
- **When the event occurred:**
  - NOT the time of the report.
- **Where the event occurred:**
  - Direction and distance from your location.

## Through our Website!

Visit [www.weather.gov/lix](http://www.weather.gov/lix) and scroll to the bottom of the page to find the SKYWARN logo with the label "Submit Storm Report"



This will take you to a Google Form to fill out which will transmit your report directly to forecasters on shift!

## Always remember safety!

- Never put yourself in harm's way!
- Keep a safe distance
- Do not expose yourself to life-threatening weather. Stay sheltered until it passes
- NEVER get in the way of local rescue officials following a devastating weather event.

## Through Social Media!



**Tweet us @NWSNewOrleans**



**Facebook: @NWSNewOrleans**

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Any questions or concerns? Feel free to reach out to us anytime! Give us a call or email us at [sr-lix.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-lix.webmaster@noaa.gov)

We plan to continue these newsletter updates annually to bring you the latest updates to the spotter program, as well as new changes in NWS products nationwide or locally here at WFO LIX. Stay tuned!

**-Kevin Gilmore**

**SKYWARN Program Leader**

**WFO LIX New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA**