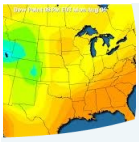


ISSUE 49 | Summer | 2025

Tallahassee topics

NEWS AND NOTES FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE.

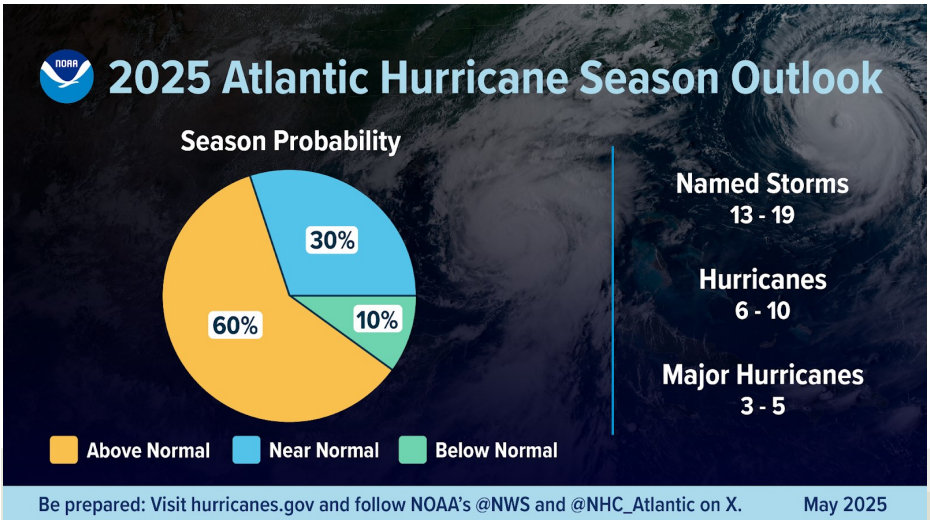
The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Tallahassee, FL provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for Southeast Alabama, Southwest & South Central Georgia, the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico coastal waters. Our primary mission is the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the local economy.

2025 Hurricane Season Early Look

By Israel Gonzalez

The 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season officially kicked off on June 1st. Ten days prior to commencing, NOAA officially released its prediction, which points towards likely above-normal activity at 60% (*bottom-left figure*). This Outlook, which does not account for landfalls, calls for 13-19 named storms, 6-10 hurricanes, and 3-5 major hurricanes. However, the more important number is the probability (*orange pie slice*). Based on the current 30-year climatology (1991-2020), normal seasonal numbers are 14 named storms, 7 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes. Reasons for confidence in these projections are anomalously warm Atlantic waters, expectation of generally low vertical wind shear across the basin, and the anticipation of an active West African Monsoon Trough, an often favorable development area for tropical cyclones. Regardless, a singular tropical system is capable of defining a season, so treat every year with a healthy respect, and prepare accordingly before any potential imminent threats—all it takes is one. As of late July, there have been 3 named storms: Andrea, Barry, Chantal. The latter made landfall in South Carolina in early July as a low-end tropical storm, and produced heavy rain & flash flooding for inland portions of that region.

The National Hurricane Center also implemented a few important changes this season: 1) Experimental Cone Graphic with depiction of inland watches and warnings for the US returns; 2) US Rip Current Risk Map for active tropical systems; 3) Updated issuance criteria for Potential Tropical Cyclone advisory products - now extended from 48 to 72 hours prior to onset of impacts; 4) Updates to the forecast/advisory product including the extension of hurricane-force (74 mph or greater) wind radii forecasts to day 3. An additional related change is the extension of the Global Tropical Hazards Outlook by the Climate Prediction Center expanding to week 3 to join week 2. This product highlights tropical cyclone formation probabilities of at least 20% in an effort to foster long-range situational awareness. Hurricane Helene (2024) was a notable example of first being introduced as a development possibility beyond the 7-day forecast period given the unusually high confidence in occurring at the time.



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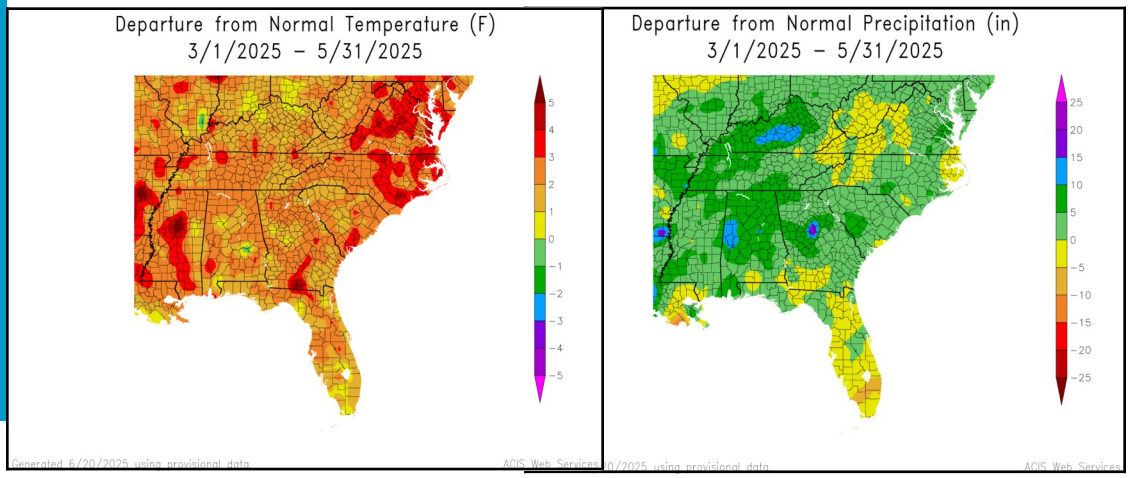
Spring Highlights *By Israel Gonzalez*

March 2025 was an active month defined by 4 local weather events. On the 9th, heavy rainfall primarily affected the FL Big Bend, which led to instances of nuisance or flash flooding. Many locations impacted reported 4-5 inches (localized higher). Multiple hail storms then became the focus on the 13th with the most afflicted locations being in SE AL and parts of SW GA near the Flint River Valley towards the middle I-75 corridor. By the 16th, a squall line moved through the Tri-State area and produced multiple wind/damage reports in addition to a confirmed EF-1 (105mph max winds) tornado in Mitchell County, GA. March ended on a severe note when another squall line tracked through the region. This system produced at least 2 confirmed tornadoes -EF-1 (105 mph max winds) in Dothan, AL and an EF-0 (85 mph max winds) in Eastern Leon County, FL. The former notably damaged a Preparatory School, which led to 5 minor injuries sustained by students in attendance.

April 2025 was defined by bouts of strong to severe thunderstorms, and extended period of dryness amidst warmer-than-normal conditions. Five tornadoes were confirmed on the 7th, of which 4 were rated an EF-1 based on surveyed damage - 2 in Leon County, FL, 1 in SW Colquitt County, GA, and 1 in NE Grady County, GA. An EF-0 was confirmed in Early County, GA. Late in the month, a decent amount of storms produced small to medium sized hail across various parts of the Tri-State area. An isolated damaging wind event occurred in Tift County, GA from a likely severe downburst.

May 2025 was characterized by bouts of active weather, then quiet weather, and then active weather starting around Memorial Day. Most places played catch-up with rainfall deficits from April, and temperatures consistently ran a few degrees above normal. The most significant event of the month occurred during the day on Saturday, May 10. A single parent supercell storm produced two long-track tornadoes in the Florida Panhandle into Lower Alabama. One EF-1 tornado occurred in Walton County, crossing I-10 but thankfully lifting before reaching Ponce De Leon. Once the supercell entered Holmes County, it produced an even longer-track and stronger EF-2 tornado. Radar detected a Tornadic Debris Signature for most of the storm's track across Holmes County. The second tornado dissipated soon after crossing the state line into Geneva County, Alabama, after causing damage there. There was one minor injury near the community of Esto in Holmes County.



Spring Climate Summary: Tallahassee was warmer than normal during the Spring months (March-April-May) with an average mean temperature of 70.5°. The normal (1991-2020) mean temperature is 68.1°. The highest/lowest temperatures of the season were 98°/29°. There were a total of twenty-one 90° days, 1 less than last year and tied for 6th most on record. The first 90° day of the year was 91° on 4/23, early by 4 days on average. Tallahassee Spring rainfall was near normal with a seasonal accumulation of 12.17". The normal amount is 12.12". There were 22 days of measurable rainfall (at least 0.01") and 70 days of a trace or less. The greatest single-day rainfall measurement at TLH was 4.25" on 3/9, easily setting a new daily record and good for the 10th wettest March day observed.

Summer Climate Normals: Summer is the warmest and wettest season of the year on average for Tallahassee. The average mean temperature from June-July-August is 82.1° with a normal high/low of 92.1°/72.1°. Ninety degree days average out to 69 while only three 100° days are considered normal. Seasonal rainfall amounts are 22.47" with 46 days of measurable precipitation. Positions of high pressure, afternoon/early-evening thunderstorms, and tropical systems are the typical summertime weathermakers.

Warm Season Talking Points & Safety

By Israel Gonzalez

Is there a topic you'd like us to cover? Send us an E-mail:

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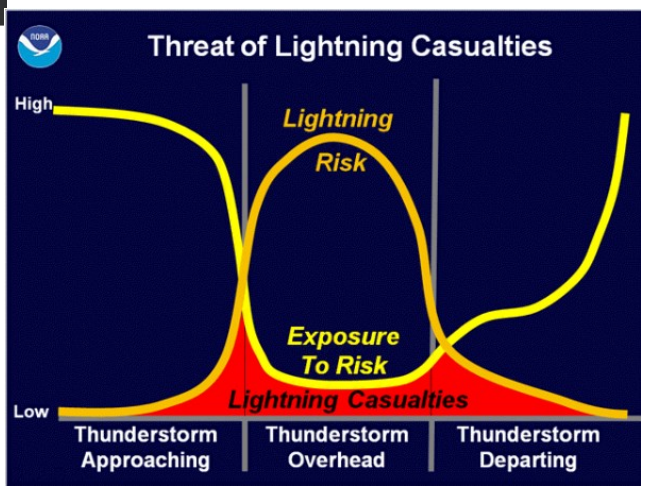
With summer now in full swing, we want to reinforce some important talking points with respect to heat, lighting, and boating safety:

Heat - As part of NOAA NWS' Hazard Simplification Project, there are important changes to heat hazard products analogous to cold weather hazards implemented last year. Excessive Heat Watches/Warnings have been replaced by Extreme Heat Watches/Warnings (*left-central figure*). In general, an Excessive Heat Watch is issued when *dangerous heat is possible* while a Warning is issued when *dangerous heat is happening or about to happen*. Quantitatively, our local criteria for Extreme Heat are heat indices of 113° or greater and/or ambient temperatures of 105° or more with Watches issued 12-48 hours out and Warnings inside of 24 hours. The Heat Advisory product remains unchanged - heat indices 108°-112° and/or ambient temperatures of 103° or more. Please also take time to review the National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) Heat Safety Week content, and NWS' experimental Heat Risk page.

Lightning - The National Lightning Safety Council hosted National Lightning Safety Awareness Week from June 22-28, 2025, an endeavor dating back to 2001. The following daily topics were covered: An Introduction to Lightning Safety, The Science of Lightning and Thunder, Lightning Safety Outdoors, Lightning Safety and Sports Activities, Medical Effects on Lightning Victims, and Protecting Your Home from Lightning. Additional lightning resources from the NWS can be found here. Lightning risk is typically highest when a thunderstorm is overhead with the greatest lightning casualties being when the thunderstorm approaches just prior or when departing (*bottom-right figure*).



Boating - Wear It is a program of the National Safe Boating Council who hosted National Safe Boating Week from May 17-23, 2025 (*bottom-left figure*). The council is a leading catalyst for recreational boating safety through education, outreach, and training, with support from boating safety advocates around the world. According to the 2024 US Coast Guard statistics, drowning was the reported cause of death in 76% of all boating fatalities, of those 87% were reported as not wearing their life jackets. Two-thirds of drowning victims considered themselves "good swimmers".

Management-Admin Team

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Mark Wool, WCM
Parks Camp, SOO
Doug Sherrick, ESA
Jennifer Nichols, ASA
Brian Coats, ITO
Kelly Godsey, Hydrologist
Ricardo Humphreys, OPL

Lead Forecasters

Don Van Dyke
Blair Scholl
Andy Haner
Molly Merrifield
Cameron Young
Vacant

Forecasters

Lance Franck
Israel Gonzalez
Kristian Oliver
Jasmine Montgomery
David Reese
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Vacant

Electronic Technicians

Aaron Basti
Jeff Borosky

Spring and Early Summer Outreach

By Israel Gonzalez

The most noteworthy outreach activities our office participated in were the Partner Tropical Training in Thomasville, GA, StormReady Verification visits, Area School System Training, and Florida Tropical Training Week. On April 28th, Thomas County Emergency Management (EM) graciously hosted the NWS Tallahassee Partner Tropical Training Day. The meeting involved Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM), Mark Wool (*pictured below*), Science and Operations Officer, Parks Camp, Senior Service Hydrologist, Kelly Godsey, Lead Meteorologist, Cameron Young, and Meteorologist/Tropical Team Lead, Lance Franck giving presentations and exercises on National Hurricane Center (NHC) products, changes for the 2025 season, and tropical data trends over the past several years. Prior to these events, Meteorologist-In-Charge, Felecia Bowser did an interview with WTXL local news on hurricane season preparedness on March 19th.

From May until mid June, Mark was involved in the following activities: Hot Wash POD Exercise/Build a Bucket meetings (one virtual, and another at Franklin County EM) on May 6th; Football Operations Consultant Interview—FSU EM on May 20th; Interview with USF's Cassandra O'Connor on June 9th; Georgia StormReady Advisory Board Meeting on June 11th; Marine East WCM Meeting on June 16th. Meteorologist, Jasmine Montgomery visited Liberty County & Gulf County EM for StormReady verification on June 16th and July 9th, respectively. She then hosted an NWS Tallahassee office tour for Gulf County EM on July 17th. On June 30th, Mark and Parks teamed up to provide training to partners at area school systems. The training covered NWS basics, severe weather, and tropical systems to aid the school systems in preparation for the impacts of severe weather.

From July 21st-25th, Florida NWS offices and FDEM Meteorologists teamed up to provide pre-peak of hurricane season virtual public daily training sessions. Each day focused on a different phase in a tropical event. Presenters educated on NHC and NWS forecast interpretation, and they emphasized safety and preparedness actions to take in that timeframe. Kelly Godsey, and Lead Forecaster, Cameron Young gave talks during this event.

State of ENSO and Late Summer-Early Autumn 2025 Climate & Drought Outlook, by Israel Gonzalez

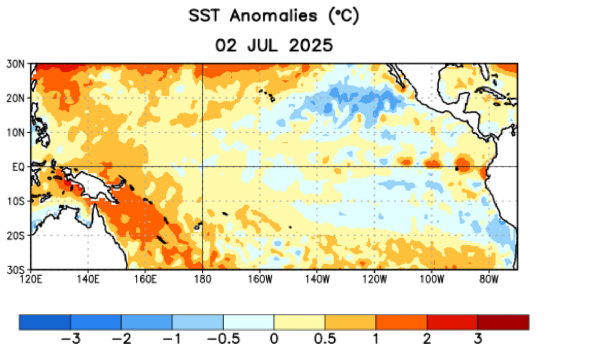
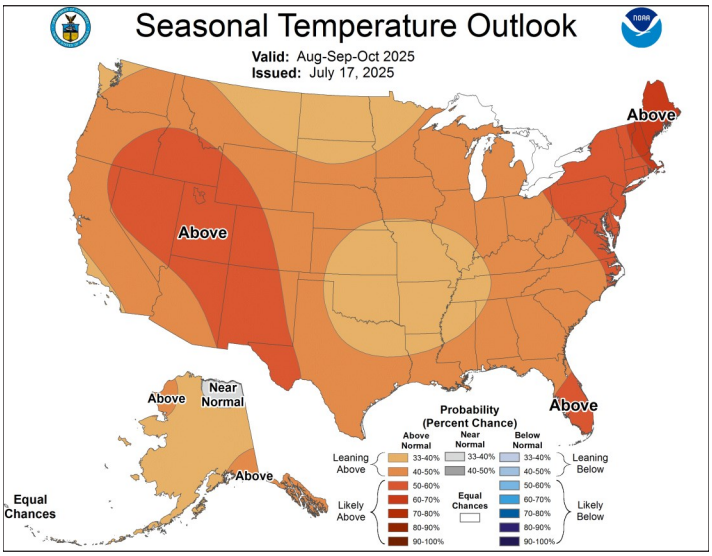
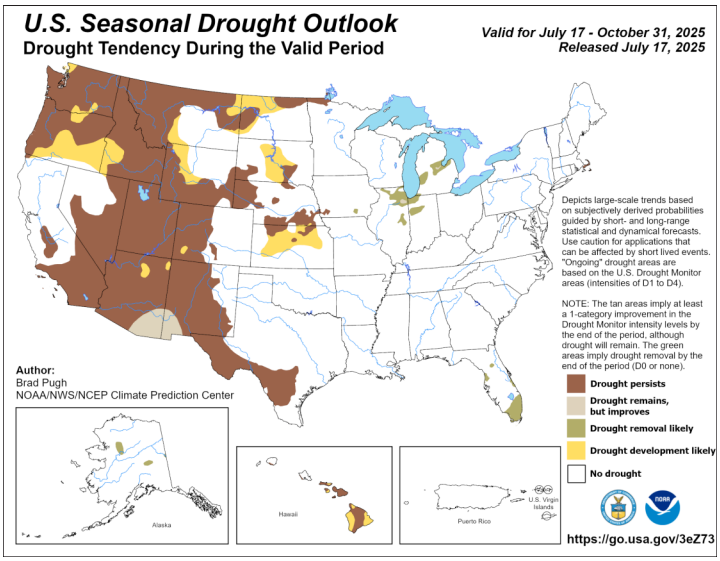
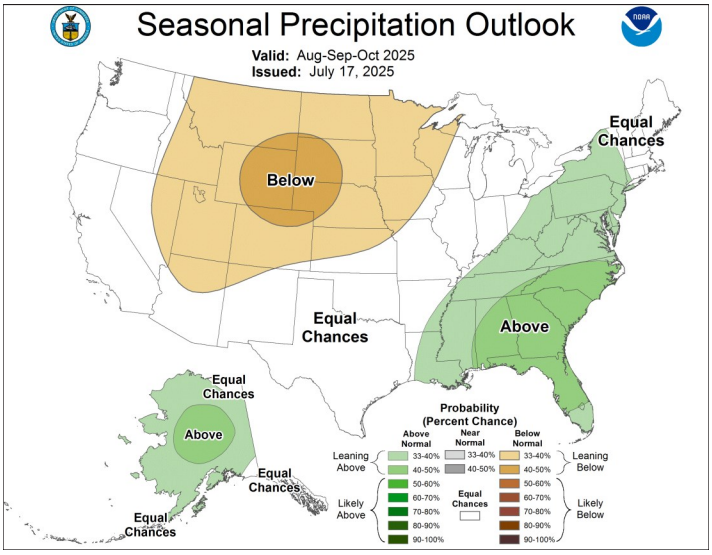


Figure 1. Average sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C) for the week centered on 2 July 2025. Anomalies are computed with respect to the 1991-2020 base period weekly means.

ENSO-Neutral Likely Persists through Summer 2025: As of July 10th, ENSO-neutral conditions were present along the equatorial Pacific with near-average SST temperatures (*Figure 1*). The Climate Prediction Center messages ENSO-neutral most likely persisting through late Northern Hemispheric summer 2025 (56% chance in August through October). A short-duration La Niña onset is possible thereafter, albeit more comparable to ENSO-neutral for the fall and winter months.







Warmer & Wetter Than Normal Summer/Early Autumn? Odds favor a warmer and wetter-than-normal pattern from August through October with probabilities of such conditions being met at 40-50% (*right-hand figures*). If realized, then drought should not be a concern (*left-hand directly above figure*). However, riverine and flash-flood risks naturally increase, especially from the influence of any tropical systems. Potential "failure modes" from this Outlook are strong, frequent, and/or persistent heat waves suppressing convection and limiting rainfall. Another factor is prevalent convective activity acting to cool temperatures off and/or upper-level troughing dominating the Eastern US.

First Half of 2025 Climate: Through the end of June 2025, Tallahassee was warmer, and wetter than normal since the start of the year. The average mean temperature since January is 67° with a rainfall total of 30.05". On average, the mean temperature from January through June is 65.6° with a rainfall accumulation 28.56" during that time period. These values are based on the current 30-year (1991-2020) climatology. Last year, the January-June average mean temperature and precipitation was 67.6° and 34.28", respectively, both higher than this year.