

# SUNCOAST OBSERVER

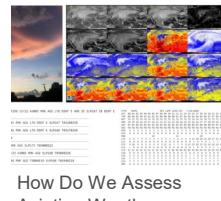
A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the National Weather Service Tampa Bay Area, FL

[www.weather.gov/tampa](http://www.weather.gov/tampa)

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## Top stories in this newsletter

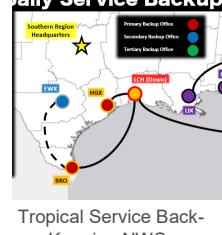
### How We Assess Aviation Weather Hazards



How Do We Assess Aviation Weather Hazards?



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## How Do We Assess Aviation Weather Hazards?



By: Austen Flannery



One of the most difficult components as a Meteorologist working for the National Weather Service is to assess and determine the impacts weather phenomena may have on airplanes landing at airports. Thankfully, there are a lot of tools to help with this task! From satellite to radar, balloon launches to weather models, we are able to get a detailed picture of what is happening and what will happen. This information is crucial for pilots to make informed decisions on whether to fly or not.

This fall, our aviation weather team is taking this information to pilots directly. Speaking virtually to those who fly in the skies above West Central and Southwest Florida, Meteorologists from the NWS Tampa Bay office are working to educate pilots on what the biggest hazards are, the thought process used to develop the forecast, and the weather information available to review before a flight. Pilots rely heavily on weather information when planning flights. Ensuring pilots understand the potential impacts and how to check the latest forecast helps us build a Weather-Ready Nation.

Are you a member of an aviation organization? Would you like to hear from our aviation weather team? Send us an email at [sr-tbw.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-tbw.webmaster@noaa.gov).

## The 2020 Record Breaking Hurricane Season



By: Dan Noah

With 20 named storms as of September 16, this is the second most active Atlantic hurricane season on record, tied with the 1933 Atlantic hurricane season, and behind only the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season.

The 2020 season is almost out of hurricane names. Of the 21 names, only Wilfred remains. We'll have to use the Greek Alphabet if we have more than one storm, just like we did in the 2005 hurricane season when we had 28 named storms. The storms after Wilfred would be Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon, Zeta, etc.

Did you enjoy Labor Day weekend? The last four hurricane seasons had a tropical threat over this holiday, including 2019 Hurricane Dorian, 2018 Tropical Storm Gordon, 2017 Major Hurricane Irma, and 2016 Hurricane Hermine.

Numerous records have been broken this year, 17 of the 20 storms this season have formed the earliest on record. For example, Tropical Cyclone Sally formed Sep 12, the previous earliest was Stan on Oct 2, 2005. Tropical Storm Arthur formed on May 16 and this hurricane season became the record 6th consecutive season with a named storm before June 1st.

Hurricane Sally was the 8th named storm to make landfall in the continental United States and was the most landfalls on record through September 16. The prior record was 7 named storm landfalls set in 1916.

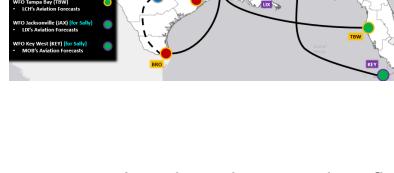
Almost every county or parish from Brownsville, TX through Maine has been in a tropical watch or warning this year. The exception, most of west central and southwest Florida!

September 10 is the peak of Hurricane Season, but the secondary peak is mid-October. Look for the storm development area to shift back to the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, and western Atlantic.

Don't let your guard down for the second half of hurricane season. Tropical Storm and Hurricane Landfalling storms in Florida since 1851 showed 79 in September and 84 in October. The seasons have wound down quickly in November with only 11 landfalling storms in Florida.

What can you do? Become an Ambassador for a Weather Ready Nation and encourage your employees, HOA, church group, or civic organization to prepare for hazardous weather. Sign up at <https://weather.gov/wrn>.

## Tropical Service Backup: Keeping NWS Services Flowing



By: Jen Hubbard

Hurricane Laura made landfall near Cameron, Louisiana in the early morning hours of August 27th. This Category 4 hurricane also brought with it devastating storm surge. The National Weather Service Office in Lake Charles, LA is just to the northwest of Cameron, and due to the potential for that storm surge, the office needed to be evacuated. But how can a NWS office be evacuated? They need to send out the life-saving warnings during the storm! Well, not to worry! The NWS has an elaborate system of backup operations in place that are frequently tested for occasions such as this.

In order to keep services flowing for the Lake Charles office, and so as to not put too heavy a burden on just one office, different services were spread out across the region between primary, secondary, and tertiary backup offices so that the Lake Charles office employees could seek shelter and subsequently deal with the heavy repairs needed after the storm. Your NWS Tampa Bay office is one of the offices involved in that backup, and we have been doing the aviation services for Lake Charles.

Since then, Hurricane Sally made landfall near Gulf Shores, Alabama on September 16th. Though no NWS offices required evacuating for this hurricane, there were still backup services that needed to be performed. And Tropical Storm Beta has further shifted services as offices transition into and out of tropical operations. This 2020 season has been one for the books in more ways than we could have imagined at the start of the season.

## Spanish Media Services



By: Keily Delerme

The 2020 Hurricane Season has been quite active and NWS offices have been providing IDSS through it all. An example of these services are the numerous media interviews we perform. At NWS Tampa Bay, we've started providing interviews to local Spanish media. Meteorologist Keily Delerme has done multiple interviews throughout the season, not only covering tropical threats in the Tampa area, but also in other places across the nation.

Since July 2020, meteorologist Keily Delerme has been participating at least once a month in a weekly segment called "Vigilando Los Trópicos" (or Watching the Tropics) that is part of the Spanish streaming programming of WFLA Channel 8. Just over a month into this Hurricane season, WFO Tampa Bay shared a general overview of the services that the local office provides, as well as a brief discussion about the differences between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans tropical cyclones. As the season ramped up, Keily once again did an interview to cover the potential for the rapid development of Hurricane Nana and Tropical Storm Omar. Additionally, expected impacts and preparedness actions necessary ahead of Hurricane Laura in Louisiana were discussed to great detail during another interview. They continue to collaborate and through this partnership, the office has been able to expand and deliver timely information to a larger part of our community.