Hurricane Season Outlook Updated

By: Jen Hubbard

As of this publication, there have been 17 named storms. Ana, Bill, Claudette, Denny, Fred, Julian, Kate, Maud, Orlene, Peter, and Roan were tropical storms. Elsa, Henri, and Ian reached hurricane strength. And Grace, Ida, and Larry reached Major Hurricane status.

Major Hurricane Ian has definitely been the most destructive and impactful storm to hit the contiguous US this season. It started with it’s landfall near Port Fourchon, Louisiana on Sunday, August 29th as a strong category 4 hurricane, and coincidentally on the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. This storm tied for the strongest Louisiana hurricane landfall.

Much of the coastline also saw 1 to 3 feet of storm surge, with tropical storm force winds impacting the coastal regions from just to the north of our area in Steinhatchee. After making landfall, Elsa then raced to the northeast and became extratropical on July 16th. Locally, the main impact from Elsa was the rainfall. Just over 11 inches of rain fell in Punta Gorda in Charlotte County, with a large area of southeast Florida getting 5 to 10 inches of rain and causing significant flooding across the area. Many of the coastline also saw 1 to 3 feet of storm surge, with tropical storm force winds impacting the coastal regions from Tampa Bay north.

The Hurricane Season Outlook was updated at the beginning of August. Conditions remain conducive for an above-average hurricane season, with the probabilities increasing slightly to 65%. As a result, the primary concern of the aviation community is safety, and weather conditions often threaten that safety.

It is important to remember though, that it only takes one storm to change your life. So it is very important to be prepared. Know your zone, have a plan, and make sure your preparedness kit is in order. Visit if you need assistance with any of this.