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Public Information Statement

National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
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...TODAY MARKS THE OFFICIAL START OF THE 2021 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON...

Today marks the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1st through November 30th. In an average season, based on data from 1991 to 2020, 14 named tropical cyclones should be expected, with 7 of these reaching hurricane intensity, and 3 of these hurricanes becoming major hurricanes.

The official NOAA 2021 Atlantic hurricane season outlook indicates a 60 percent probability of an above normal season, a 30 percent probability of a near normal season, and a 10 percent probability of a below normal season. This outlook calls for 13-20 named storms, which already includes Tropical Storm Ana, which occurred May 22-24. Of these named storms, 6-10 could reach hurricane intensity, with 3-5 of these to become major hurricanes (category 3 or higher).

For additional details on the NOAA 2021 hurricane outlook please visit:

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.shtml>

The names to be used for the 2021 season will be:

NAME	PRONUNCIATION	NAME	PRONUNCIATION
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Ana	AH-nah	Larry	LAIR-ee
Bill	bill	Mindy	MIN-dee
Claudette	klaw-DET	Nicholas	NIH-kuh-luss
Danny	DAN-ee	Odette	oh-DEHT
Elsa	EL-suh	Peter	PEE-tur
Fred	frehd	Rose	rohZ
Grace	grayss	Sam	sam
Henri	ahn-REE	Teresa	tuh-REE-suh
Ida	EYE-duh	Victor	VIK-tur
Julian	JOO- <u>lee</u> -uhn	Wanda	WAHN-duh
Kate	kayt		

An ongoing tropical reanalysis project continues for the Atlantic basin. The goal is to reexamine all records using modern understanding of tropical cyclones. This project has completed its work through the 1965 season. It is expected to be several more years before this project reaches its end. More information about this project can be found at http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/data_sub/re_anal.htm

This means the statistics about tropical cyclones and southern New England will likely be changing over the next few years.

Tropical cyclones are certainly no strangers to southern New England. Some brought just light amounts of rain and wind, while others have brought torrential rains and flash flooding, devastating storm surges and destructive winds.

In 2014, [Hurricane](#) Arthur passed by to our east around the Independence Day holiday. While the strongest winds remained offshore, much of eastern Massachusetts and portions of Rhode Island received several inches of rain. This led to many areas of freshwater flooding.

The most recent, wholly [Tropical Storm](#) which made a direct hit, was Irene in 2011. Irene brought damaging winds to portions of eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island and devastating [rainfall](#) and flooding to portions of Connecticut, western Massachusetts and southwest New Hampshire into southern Vermont. All told, Irene caused nearly 16 billion dollars in damage as well as 49 direct deaths, 41 of which occurred in the United States. Most of these deaths resulted from [rainfall](#)-induced floods. Tropical cyclones are not just a risk for those living close to the coast.

This was further emphasized by Superstorm Sandy in late October 2012. While southern New England was spared from most of Sandy's [power](#), portions of the south coast still saw significant damage due to [coastal flooding](#). In some communities, entire dune systems were destroyed. Not only did these dunes not protect some properties at the time, these properties will remain more vulnerable to future [coastal flooding](#) until they can be repaired. This proves the point that a powerful tropical [cyclone](#) can still be a threat, even if it is no longer a true tropical [cyclone](#).

For southern New England, this season marks the 67th anniversary of one of the most destructive [hurricane](#) seasons in our history, the Summer of 1954. The 1954 season brought New England major [Hurricane](#) Carol, and [Hurricane](#) Edna. These powerful hurricanes struck just 11 days apart, with Carol arriving on August 31st, followed by Edna on September 11th. These two storms combined to produce millions of dollars worth of damage to homes, businesses and the boating industry, as well as claiming dozens of lives due to [storm surge](#) and river-related flooding.

[Hurricane](#) Carol was the last major [hurricane](#) to have struck our region. As the 2021 season begins, now is an excellent time to begin your own preparations. Your National Weather Service would like to suggest these helpful measures. Taking a few moments now will save much needed time should a [tropical storm](#) or [hurricane](#) take aim at southern New England later this season.

This year also marks the 83rd anniversary of arguably the most destructive [hurricane](#) in our history, the [Hurricane](#) of 1938. This [hurricane](#) made [landfall](#) across central Long Island NY and central Connecticut. This storm downed an estimated 2 billion trees in New York and New England alone. Approximately 600 people lost their lives. Many areas within southern New England went weeks without [power](#). Coastal areas were especially devastated from the tremendous [storm surge](#). This particular [hurricane](#) should serve as a reminder to all that although storms of this magnitude are rare, they can still happen and must be planned for.

To that end, here are some suggested actions you can take to begin your preparations for the next [hurricane](#) today. By starting now, it becomes possible to develop your plans more completely and share them with your family. It also permits you to spread out any purchases of supplies you may need to make while they are more plentiful and time is not as crucial.

Coastal Residents:

- Never plan your actions on the anticipated time of [landfall](#). Typically in southern New England, heavy rains and winds to [tropical storm](#) force will make any travel or outdoor preparation work dangerous as much as 15 hours in advance of the eye of the storm.
- Remember that most tropical systems approaching our region will accelerate dramatically. This will greatly reduce the time you have to prepare. Build extra time into your plan of action.
- Never step outside during the passage of the eye. The often [calm](#) conditions will be rapidly replaced by a dramatic shift in [wind direction](#) and a return to stronger winds.
- Know your evacuation routes and the proper shelters for your area. Check with your local town hall to see if you are in an evacuation zone.
- Most shelters will not allow pets. Make arrangements ahead of time for a place for your pets to stay. Some animal hospitals offer to keep pets until you are able to return home.
- Know where your gas and water shutoffs are. It is essential that you turn off both your gas and water before you leave your home.
- If you choose not to [head](#) to a shelter, make arrangements now with relatives or friends if you wish to stay with them should you need to evacuate.

The Marine Community:

- Inspect your lines at the start of the season. If you are anchored in a mooring field, inspect the chain between your pennant and the mooring. Salt water begins to corrode these chains after just 2 seasons in the water. But this is often unseen by the boat owner.
- Boat owners should have all the necessary gear on board to properly tie down their vessel. You will lose precious time if you have to rush around searching for gear when a storm is approaching.
- Realize that you may not be able to pull your boat out of the water before a storm threatens. Your only alternative will be to tie the vessel down.
- Have a plan worked out with the marina operator so there are no questions or any confusion when the time comes to tie up or pull the boat out of the water.
- Be sure to take pictures and make a written description of the vessel, so that this may be used after the storm passes for insurance purposes.
- Ensure that your vessel is as watertight as possible.
- When you are through, help your neighbor. It only takes one poorly tied boat in a marina to destroy the entire dock.

Inland Residents:

- Be sure to have plenty of batteries on hand for flashlights, AM/[FM](#) radios, and your [NOAA](#) All-Hazards weather radio. More often than not, [power](#) will be disrupted during the storm and may be disrupted for several days.
- Be sure to have canned food and other items on hand that do not need refrigeration. As stated above, it is almost a certainty that electrical and telephone systems will be disrupted if a [hurricane](#) strikes our region.
- If you own a portable generator, be sure it is properly hooked into the [power](#) supply. If it is not properly installed, it may do damage to the main [power](#) supply or workers trying to restore [power](#) to your neighborhood.
- Store plywood and plenty of nails so that you can quickly board up windows on open-facing sides of your home. Do not tape windows, it will not help.
- Those living along [flood](#)-prone rivers and streams should be ready to [head](#) to higher ground should flooding occur.
- In case of the unlikely event that you must evacuate, know where your nearest storm shelter is located, and the quickest route to it.

Following these simple steps will help make what can be a very stressful and difficult time go a bit more smoothly.

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