

DAILY DART

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES DISASTER AWARENESS REPORT

March 31, 2023

2023 Hurricane Season Forecast

- AccuWeather meteorologists recently put the final touches on their initial forecast for the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season, and they are emphasizing that preparations should begin in earnest even though the official start date is two months away.
- According to AccuWeather's team of tropical weather forecasters, it will be less active than the majority of seasons since 1995 and may feature a similar number of storms when compared to 2022.
- Current projections indicate that the 2023 season will be near the historical average with 11-15 named storms. Four to eight of those named storms are expected to reach hurricane strength, with one to three of those hurricanes achieving major hurricane status.
- "We are also projecting two to four direct impacts on the United States, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands," said Senior Meteorologist and Hurricane Expert Dan Kottlowksi, who has been issuing forecasts for AccuWeather for over four decades.
- In early March, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) declared an end to the "triple-dip" La Niña that was in place through the past three hurricane seasons.
- During a La Niña phase, vertical wind shear becomes less prevalent over the traditional breeding grounds for tropical storms and hurricanes. Wind shear can inhibit a tropical cyclone's formation, so when there is less wind shear in the atmosphere forecasters tend to predict a higher number of tropical systems to develop when issuing seasonal prognostications.
- With El Niño, it's the opposite. An El Niño pattern causes the winds at higher levels of the atmosphere to dip southward and deep into the tropics more frequently, resulting in more episodes of vertical wind shear. Vertical wind shear causes thunderstorms and convective clouds within emerging tropical disturbances to be tilted, disrupting tropical development, Kottlowksi explained.
- Hurricane seasons with emerging El Niño patterns tend to be less active than normal, Kottlowksi stated.
- But there can still be some windows where favorable conditions develop across parts of the basin for tropical development to take place.

ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON OUTLOOK				
2023				
	Named Storms	Hurricanes	Major Hurricanes	Direct US Impacts
2022	14	8	2	4
2023 Forecast	11-15	4-8	1-3	2-4
30-Year Average	14	7	3	4



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- “Based on climatology and an evolving El Niño pattern during August through October, the highest chance for direct and significant impacts will be from the Florida Panhandle around the entire state of Florida to the Carolina coast,” Kottlowski said. “There appears to be a lower chance for direct impacts over the western Gulf of Mexico and for the Northeast U.S.”
- Preseason tropical activity has been a common occurrence over the past decade, but in 2022, there were no named storms before the official June 1 start date for the first time since 2014.
- Kottlowski believes that there is a good chance for preseason development once again this year, due in large part to warm waters in the Gulf of Mexico and off the Southeast coast of the U.S., the locations where storms typically form in the late spring and early summer in the basin.
- Waters were already warmer than average in the Gulf of Mexico as of late March and have played a big role in the active start to the severe weather year in the United States.



Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments

State	Event	Number of Counties for IA		Start-End
		Requested	Completed	
CA	Severe Weather & Flooding March 9 & continuing	9	0	3/18-TBD
GA	Severe Storms Mar 24-25	2	0	4/4-TBD

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Pending Individual Assistance Declaration Request

State	Event	Date Submitted	Approved/Denied/ Pending	Number of Counties/Tribes
WV	Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides (Appeal)	1/27/2023	Pending	2 Counties
CA	Severe Winter Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, Flooding, Landslides/Mudslides	3/28/2023	Pending	7 Counties
KY	Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, Flooding, Landslides/Mudslides	3/29/2023	Pending	6 Counties

WSP USA Inspection Services Active Disasters

Disaster Number and State	Disaster Type	Number of Counties Declared	Days Since Launch	Registration Deadline
4671 PR	Hurricane Fiona	78 Municipalities	188	11/21/2022
4673 FL	Hurricane Ian	26 Counties	179	1/12/2023
4697 MS	Severe Storms & Tornadoes	6 Counties	0	5/25/2023

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES ACTIVITY

