

Eastern Pacific Hurricane Season Outlook

Part 1 - Mission Connection

a. Product/Service Description. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) issues the Hurricane Outlook for the eastern Pacific east of 140° West. No outlook, however, can give certainty as to whether or not a particular locality will be impacted by a tropical storm or hurricane in any given year. CPC issues this outlook in cooperation with the Tropical Prediction Center and NOAA's Hurricane Research Division.

b. Purpose/Intended Use. Use is for resource and budget planning for hurricane preparedness efforts.

c. Audience. The product is for use by residents and government agencies of coastal or near-coastal regions.

d. Presentation Format. CPC presents the outlook in text sent on the CPC web site.

e. Feedback. Go to <http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/comment-form.html>

Part 2 - Technical

a. Format and Science Basis. CPC provides probabilities of above normal, near normal, and below normal levels of tropical storm/hurricane activity. CPC uses a definition of "overall activity" reflecting a combination of frequency, intensity, and duration of tropical storms and hurricanes. These measures of overall activity are a much better indicator than the number of tropical storms or hurricanes alone. However, CPC also provides an estimate of the number of tropical storms and hurricanes within a range of numbers. CPC provides an accompanying prognostic discussion detailing the atmospheric, oceanic, and climatic conditions affecting the level of activity.

The following is a generic example. The latest outlook is at http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Epac_hurr/Epac_hurricane.html

20- EASTERN PACIFIC HURRICANE SEASON OUTLOOK
NWS CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER CAMP SPRINGS MD
830 AM E-T day mo. # 20-

SUMMARY: (brief text summarizing the level of expected activity and major atmospheric, oceanic, and climatic conditions).

DISCUSSION: (detailed prognostic discussion of items in the summary)

CAUTIONARY NOTES

1) THIS OUTLOOK REPRESENTS OUR BEST ESTIMATE FOR THE EXPECTED OVERALL LEVEL OF ACTIVITY FOR THE ATLANTIC BASIN. NO OUTLOOK CAN GIVE CERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A PARTICULAR LOCALITY WILL BE IMPACTED BY A HURRICANE IN ANY GIVEN YEAR. RESIDENTS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OF COASTAL OR NEAR-COASTAL REGIONS SHOULD ALWAYS MAINTAIN HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS, REGARDLESS OF THE OVERALL OUTLOOK FOR A GIVEN YEAR.

2) FAR MORE DAMAGE CAN BE DONE BY ONE MAJOR HURRICANE HITTING A HEAVILY POPULATED AREA THAN BY SEVERAL HURRICANES HITTING SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS OR, OF COURSE, NOT MAKING LANDFALL AT ALL. BECAUSE OF THIS, HURRICANE-SPAWNED DISASTERS CAN OCCUR EVEN IN YEARS WITH NORMAL (OR BELOW-NORMAL) LEVELS OF ACTIVITY.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (names) - optional

FORECASTERS (names and contact information) - optional

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b. Availability. CPC issues this product once a year on a weekday (during business hours) in late spring (usually in May) on the CPC web site at the URL listed in section a.

c. Other information

Valid Time. The outlook is valid from the issuance date through November 30.

Product Expiration Time. The outlook expires on November 30.

Creation Software. CPC uses a text editor.