



Hurricane Season is Approaching

Hurricane season starts in a few weeks. The Colorado State University prediction has just been issued and their prediction is for another above average season.

The Colorado State University (CSU) and AccuWeather forecasts follow:

Colorado State University and AccuWeather 2020 Tropical Storm Forecast		
	<u>CSU</u>	<u>AccuWeather</u>
Named Storms	16	14 - 18
Hurricanes	8	7 - 9
Major Hurricanes (Saffir-Simpson 3, 4 & 5)	4	2 - 4
% Likelihood of Coastal strike		
East Coast	45%	
Gulf Coast	44%	
Caribbean	58%	
U.S. Coast	69%	2 - 4

Source: Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project and AccuWeather 2020 Hurricane Season Forecast

Other organizations are also predicting a busy season. AccuWeather notes that water temperatures in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico are significantly above the normal high, at this time. CSU cites this factor, along with the expected lack of a significant El Nino this summer, as major contributors to their above average forecast. An El Nino usually causes strong wind shear across the western Atlantic that makes it harder for hurricanes to develop. The warmer than normal Atlantic also produces more humid and unstable air that contributes to tropical storm formation.

The Fund strongly recommends that districts keep an eye on the Gulf of Mexico for tropical storm development and revisit your hurricane or windstorm emergency response plan, especially considering the current pandemic and its effect on your current operations and preparedness. Although districts are still responding to the pandemic, the Fund encourages thinking ahead to replenishing supplies necessary for hurricane impact and revising your response plan, as necessary. The pandemic may have revealed areas within your response plan that may need adjustment and would benefit your response to any emergency.

The Funds Risk Control Consultants and Risk Management Consultant are ready to help you review and adjust your emergency response plans. Please contact the Fund if you have questions or need assistance.

Sources: AccuWeather, "AccuWeather 2020 Hurricane Season Forecast is out," March 25, 2020, Jillian MacMath & Don Kottowski. Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project, April 2, 2020, Phil Klotzbach