Potential Tropical Cyclone Advisories



Pre-Tropical Storm Bill disturbance 14 June 2015 Bill's landfall in Texas less than 24 h later



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Pre-Tropical Cyclone Information







Need For Watches and Warnings Before Formation

- Tropical cyclone development close to the coast highlighted a limitation in the NWS tropical cyclone watch/warning program.
- Not a new issue, but one that has been discussed within the NWS tropical cyclone program several times during the past couple of decades.
- What has changed is NHC's ability to anticipate and forecast tropical cyclone formation.







 Tropical Weather Outlook originally a text-only product that discussed areas of disturbed weather and their potential for tropical cyclone formation.

TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK NWS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL 1130 AM EDT TUE AUG 23 2005

FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC...CARIBBEAN SEA AND THE GULF OF MEXICO...

A BROAD SURFACE LOW PRESSURE AREA IS PRODUCING WIDESPREAD CLOUDINESS AND THUNDERSTORMS FROM EASTERN CUBA AND HISPANIOLA NORTHWARD ACROSS THE SOUTHEASTERN BAHAMAS...THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS... AND INTO THE ATLANTIC FOR A FEW HUNDRED MILES. THIS ACTIVITY HAS BECOME A LITTLE BETTER ORGANIZED OVER THE SOUTHEASTERN BAHAMAS... AND A TROPICAL DEPRESSION COULD FORM LATER TODAY OR ON WEDNESDAY AS THE SYSTEM MOVES TO THE WEST-NORTHWEST OR NORTHWEST AT 5 TO 10 MPH. AN AIR FORCE RESERVE UNIT RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT IS SCHEDULED TO INVESTIGATE THE SYSTEM THIS AFTERNOON. INTERESTS IN THE BAHAMAS... THE NORTH COAST OF CUBA...AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA SHOULD MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF THIS SYSTEM.

Pre-Hurricane Katrina Tropical Weather Outlook 23 August 2005



- Tropical Weather Outlook originally a text-only product that discussed areas of disturbed weather and their potential for tropical cyclone formation.
- Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook introduced in 2007.



Discussion: 20070621 1030 PM EDT Sat Image: 20070622/0145 UTC The highlighted and numbered areas, if any, indicate current locations of weather systems discussed in the Tropical Weather Outlook below.

2007 Graphical Outlook highlighted the current location of disturbances discussed in the Outlook





- Tropical Weather Outlook originally a text-only product that discussed areas of disturbed weather and their potential for tropical cyclone formation.
- Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook introduced in 2007.
- Color-coded probabilities of development added in 2008.



Color-coded probabilities of formation added



- Tropical Weather Outlook originally a text-only product that discussed areas of disturbed weather and their potential for tropical cyclone formation.
- Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook introduced in 2007.
- Color-coded probabilities of development added in 2008.
- Time period covered by the Outlook extended from 48 h to 5 days in 2013.
- New 5-day graphic introduced in 2014.



- 5-day graphic includes:
- Categorical formation potential
- Shading represents potential formation area
- Initial location of disturbance (X) indicated, if existing at issuance time
- Current storm information, not shown





Tropical Weather Outlook Two-Day Graphic





Current Disturbances and Two-Day Cyclone Formation Chance: 😫 < 40% 😫 40-60% 🗰 > 60% Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: O Depression 🦸 Storm 🝯 Hurricane © Post-Tropical Cyclone × Remnants Current location of disturbances (discussed in the Tropical Weather Outlook)

Formation chance during the next 48 hrs

- **Categorical** (Low, Medium, and High)
- Probabilities



Tropical Weather Outlook Five-Day Graphic





- Formation potential during the next 5 days
- Initial location of disturbance (X) indicated
- Shading represents potential formation area
- Single disturbance-based graphics available to help when areas overlap



Potential Formation Area Not a 5-day Track Forecast





Verification of TWO Probabilities 48 hour





Forecasts very reliable. For example, when NHC has issued a 40% chance of formation of a disturbance within 48 hours, about 43% of the time they have become a TC within that time period.









Watches and Warnings Before Tropical Cyclone Formation

 NHC will have the <u>option</u> to issue advisories, watches, and warnings for disturbances that are not yet a tropical cyclone but which pose a threat of bringing tropical storm or hurricane conditions to land within 48 hours.

- Regular Tropical Storm and Hurricane Watch and Warning criteria apply
 - Watch conditions possible within 48 h
 - Warning conditions expected within 36 h











- Similar naming/numbering rules that are currently in place to designate tropical depressions.
 - Both depressions and potential tropical cyclones draw designations sequentially from the list "One", "Two", "Three", etc.
 - The designation (number) matches the number of systems within a basin that advisories have been written on in a given year.
 - When a potential tropical cyclone becomes a depression the number does not change.







Watches and Warnings Before Tropical Cyclone Formation



Accompanied by the standard suite of NHC advisory products

- Public Advisory (including Intermediates)
- Forecast Advisory
- Discussion
- Wind Speed Probabilities
- Cone graphic
- Storm surge products, as needed
- Genesis probabilities will appear in both the Tropical Weather Outlook and the Public Advisory.
- The Graphical TWO will no longer display a formation area for these systems, to avoid confusion with the (now available) 5-day track forecast and cone graphic.





urrent Disturbances and Two-Day Cyclone Formation Chance: Star 40% Star 40-60% Star Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: O Depression ∮ Storm ∮ Hurricane ⊙ Post-Tropical Cyclone × Remnants



Watches and Warnings Before Tropical Cyclone Formation



- Initial advisory issuance is not directly tied to tropical cyclone formation chance.
- Initial issuance criteria include:
 - Likely impacts
 - Need for tropical cyclone watches or warnings
 - Desire to avoid switching warning types (tropical vs. non-tropical)







Potential Tropical Cyclone Messaging Considerations



- Issued only for systems threatening land within the watch/warning time frame.
- Advisory packages will be discontinued when watches and warnings are no longer necessary.
 - When the threat is not imminent this could result in occasional gaps in product issuance.



POTENTIAL TROPICAL CYCLONE ONE PUBLIC ADVISORY NUMBER 1 NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL AL012016 400 PM CDT WED JUN 5 2016

...TROPICAL DISTURBANCE OVER THE EAST-CENTRAL GULF OF MEXICO EXPECTED TO BECOME A TROPICAL STORM... ...TROPICAL STORM WARNING ISSUED FOR PORTIONS OF THE WEST COAST OF FLORIDA...

SUMMARY OF 400 PM CDT...2100 UTC...INFORMATION

LOCATION...25.3N 86.5W ABOUT 310 MI...500 KM SW OF TAMPA ABOUT 320 MI...510 KM SSW OF APALACHICOLA FLORIDA MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS...35 MPH...55 KM/H PRESENT MOVEMENT...N OR 360 DEGREES AT 3 MPH...6 KM/H MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE...1010 MB...29.92 INCHES

WATCHES AND WARNINGS ------CHANGES WITH THIS ADVISORY...

A Tropical Storm Warning has been issued for the west coast of Florida from Boca Grande to Ochlockonee River.

SUMMARY OF WATCHES AND WARNINGS IN EFFECT...

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for... * The west coast of Florida from Boca Grande to Ochlocknee River

A Tropical Storm Warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected somewhere within the warning



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Potential Tropical Cyclone Messaging Considerations

WEATHER SERVICE

- Earlier NHC advisories for systems that pose a long-range threat to the United States or other land areas.
- Forecasts likely to have greater uncertainty.
 - Intensity forecasts are likely to be conservative.
- False alarms could:
 - Reduce long-term effectiveness of watches and warnings
 - Affect reputation & trust of NHC tropical cyclone forecasts







Key Takeaways



- Invests say nothing about a systems development potential. Users should refer to the Tropical Weather Outlook or Potential Tropical Cyclone advisories!
- Hatched areas on the 5-day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook represent the potential formation area – not a true track forecast.
- NWS/NHC now able to provide appropriate lead time for watches and warnings for potential tropical cyclones!!



2016 Pre-Matthew

2017 & Beyond



Outlook, invest numbers, model plots, <u>no Watches/Warnings</u> Watches/Warnings, track, public advisory, discussion, cone, wind speed probabilities, storm surge products (if needed)