

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)  
TYPE: Official Product  
DATE: January 28, 2003**

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ATLANTIC HURRICANE OOUTLOOK

**Part 1 - Mission Connection**

**1. Product/Service Description:**

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) issues the Hurricane Outlook for the Atlantic basin. 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 NOAAs Hurricane Research Division.

**2. Purpose/Intended Use:**

Use is for resource and budget planning for hurricane preparedness efforts.

**3. Audience:**

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

**4. Presentation Format:**

CPC presents the outlook in text sent over NWS dissemination systems and on the CPC web site.

**5. Feedback Method:**

E-mail both [Robert.Leffler@noaa.gov](mailto:Robert.Leffler@noaa.gov) and [Barbara.Mayes@noaa.gov](mailto:Barbara.Mayes@noaa.gov).

**Part 2 - Technical**

**1. 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. 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/outlooks/hurricane.html>

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

NOTE: FIGURES MENTIONED IN THE DISCUSSION ARE AVAILABLE ON  
THE INTERNET AT (url).

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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#### 2. **Availability:**

CPC issues this product twice a year on a weekday (during business hours) in May and August on NWS dissemination systems under the following product IDs:

(WMO heading - FXNT20 KWNC    AWIPS ID - PMDAHU)

It is also issued on the CPC web site at the URL listed in section a.

#### 3. **Additional Information:**

- Valid Time: The May outlook is valid from June 1 through November 30 and the August outlook is valid from the date of issuance to November 30.
- Product Expiration Time: The May issuance expires when the August update is issued. The August outlook expires on November 30.
- Creation Software: CPC uses a text editor.