



Weather Research Center



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WRC's Hurricane OCSI Gives West Florida the Highest Chance of Experiencing a Tropical Storm or Hurricane This Summer. The OCSI also Calls for a Below Average Season with Only 8 Named Storms.

2010 WRC OCSI FORECAST FOR THE ATLANTIC

COAST	WRC OCSI	CLIMATOLOGY
Texas	60%	51%
Mexico	70%	40%
Louisiana to Alabama	40%	59%
West Florida	90%	71%
East Florida	70%	41%
Georgia to N. Carolina	20%	56%
East Coast of US	20%	36%

Other 2010 Predictors from WRC's OCSI

	OCSI Forecast
Number of Named Storms	8
Number Intensifying into Hurricanes	5
Number of Hurricane Days	25
Number of Tropical Storm Days	57
US Landfalls	3
Category 3, 4 or 5 Storms in the Atlantic Basin	40%

Houston, TX – Weather Research Center (WRC) in Houston is forecasting a 90% chance of a tropical storm or hurricane landfall along the west coast of Florida during the upcoming 2010 hurricane season, above the climatological average of 71%. The coasts with the second highest risk of a landfall by a tropical cyclone are Mexico and eastern Florida with a 70% chance. According to WRC meteorologist Jill F. Hasling, WRC's 2010 outlook forecasts at least eight named storms in the Atlantic Basin with five of these tropical storms intensifying into hurricanes. Additionally, the outlook anticipates 25 hurricane days and 57 tropical storm days during this season.

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2010 Forecast Details

WRC's Orbital Cyclone Strike Index (OCSI) was developed in 1984 to compute which section of the United States coastline has the highest risk of experiencing a tropical storm or hurricane. The 2010 forecast is based on activity in the following years: 1880, 1891, 1903, 1915, 1925, 1935, 1946, 1956, 1966, 1978, 1988 and 1998.

Significant storms in this phase of the OCSI:

- 1880: Category 4 Hurricane in Southern Texas/Northern Mexico with winds of 130 knots and a central pressure of 931 mbs
- 1915: Category 4 in Galveston and Category 4 in New Orleans
- 1935: Category 5 hurricane made landfall in Florida
- 1966: 2 strong hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico – Alma and Inez
- 1988: Category 5 Hurricane Gilbert became one of the most intense hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin with a central pressure of 888 mbs. Made landfall in Mexico as a Category 3 hurricane.
- 1998: Category 5 Hurricane Mitch in western Caribbean with winds of 155 knots and a central pressure of 905 mbs. 9,000 deaths in Honduras and Nicaragua.

There were two years, 1978 and 1988, in which storms exited into the Pacific.

Looking at the years that correspond to this phase of the OCSI [Phase 3], there has been one year [1925] when there were only two tropical cyclones. There were four years [1891, 1966, 1978 and 1988] when there were eleven or more tropical cyclones. The number of cyclones, however, is not as important as the area of the Gulf they traverse, their wind intensity and wind field size, and where they make landfall.

There is a 50% chance of a tropical cyclone in June, 70% chance in July, 90% in August, 100% chance in September, 90% in October, 80% in November and 10% in December. This will make for a long season.

2010 Outlook for Texas

Each year Texas has a 51% chance of experiencing a landfalling tropical storm or hurricane. Using the OCSI, in Phase 3, Texas has a 60% chance of experiencing a tropical cyclone. Significant tropical cyclones have made landfall in Texas during this Phase in 1880 and 1915. So it is important for all Texans to prepare for the 2010 Hurricane Season.

About Weather Research Center and the Orbital Cyclone Strike Index

Houston-based Weather Research Center is one of a handful of organizations that makes seasonal hurricane predictions. WRC uses a model called Orbital Cyclone Strike Index (OCSI) which uses the solar cycle (an indication of the solar system's orbit) to predict the risk for coastal residents each hurricane season. The OCSI model is based on the premise that there are orbital influences that are reflected in the global circulation pattern on the sun as well as the global circulation pattern of the earth. These orbital influences are reflected in the 11.1-year sun spot cycle.

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During the 26-year period from 1984 to 2009, there have only been three years (1987, 1992 and 1999) when a storm or hurricane did not make landfall in the section of the United States coastline that had the highest risk. In all three of these years, cyclones made landfall in the section of the coast with the second highest risk. This gives the OCSI an 88.5 percent accuracy rate.

In addition to its ongoing research, WRC also provides storm and hurricane information via the Internet through Storm Navigator®. This service offers detailed storm updates and related information. WRC's current and past predictions can be found at www.wxresearch.com/outlook.

Founded in 1987, the non-profit Weather Research Center manages a worldwide forecasting operation and provides groundbreaking research to scientists around the world. Meteorologists provide tropical cyclone advisories worldwide, severe weather advisories, marine forecasts, long-range outlooks, environmental studies and forensic meteorology services. WRC provides research into tropical cyclones as well as real-time weather forecasts. WRC can also provide you with an assessment of your severe weather and tropical weather plans.

Jill F. Hasling, WRC President, is a Fellow and Certified Consulting Meteorologist from the American Meteorological Society as well as a member of the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists.

For more information about Weather Research Center and the John C. Freeman Weather Museum, please call (713) 529-3076 or visit www.wxresearch.com.

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