

## Hurricane Season 2021

Checking on the hurricane season for 2021, the NOAA website has an article posted August 4, 2021 that is titled Atlantic Hurricane Season Shows No Signs of Slowing.

It states that the atmospheric and oceanic conditions will remain constant for a 65% chance of an above average hurricane season. This includes a 25% chance of a near normal season and a 10% chance of a below normal season. This covers the entire 6 months of hurricane season which ends November 30th.

The number of named storms is predicted in the 15-21 range. These are storms with winds of 39 mph or higher. It is expected that possibly 7-10 of these will be hurricanes with winds in excess of 74 mph. Of these 3-5 could be major hurricanes with means Category 3,4, and 5 with winds at 111mph and higher.

One thing to remember with these predictions is that these forecasts do not include landfall predictions. Landfall predictions can only be made within a week of a storm potentially coming on shore.

At this point this prediction does include the five named storms that have so far taken place of which Hurricane Elsa is the earliest 5th named storm on record.

Current to today is that there is a Tropical Storm Kevin in the eastern Pacific Ocean off of Mexico. It is moving west northwest at 7 knots at this time so will probably not make a Mexico landfall.

There is also a Disturbance several hundred miles south of Acapulco that looks to come together. It seems though that it also will follow a west northwest passage and will move parallel offshore of the Mexico.

In the Atlantic there is a tropical disturbance east of Barbados that is expected to pass over the Lesser Antilles tonight, and then on to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico on Tuesday and on to Hispaniola on Wednesday. It could become a tropical storm before it is finished.

This is the time to keep an eye on the oceans. Though we don't see many hurricanes come this far inland, we are not strangers to the fact that they can affect our area to a great degree. So now is the time to be sure you are ready for a storm to happen. Whether it comes to us or not. We may be needed to help in other areas.

Be sure that you can track the storms. Having NOAA Weather Radio in some form that you can listen to is a great way, you can receive weather alerts to your phone, watch the weather on TV or listen on radio. Also the Austin/San Antonio office of the National Weather Service webpage has several maps. This is at <https://www.weather.gov/ewx/> . Also makes sure vehicles are in good working order and fuel gage is on full, have extra cash on hand and quarters can be very handy. Also make sure your food storage is good for several weeks in case one can't get out or does not have the time to get out for more.

There is more that one can find on being prepared but if we are needed in an emergency it is good practice to have all our ducks in order so that we do not have to hurry and worry about our own when we could be helping others. It is good to practice yourself with what you have and see that you are ready to go at a minutes notice.