



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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NOAA predicts near- or above-normal central Pacific hurricane season

NOAA's [Central Pacific Hurricane Center](#) today announced the 2016 seasonal hurricane predictions for the central Pacific region. This year's outlook calls for an equal 40 percent chance of a near- or above-normal season with 4-7 tropical cyclones likely, and only a 20 percent chance of a below-normal season.

An average season has 4-5 tropical cyclones, which includes tropical depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes.

This outlook is based on the expectation that El Niño conditions will likely be transitioning to La Niña during the hurricane season. La Niña typically suppresses central Pacific hurricane activity by increasing the wind shear and causing an irregular sinking motion in the atmosphere, both of which suppress storms from forming and intensifying.

However, the central Pacific basin might be shifting toward a more active decadal cycle, in response to changing global sea surface temperatures patterns in both the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean. This combination of competing climate factors, along with model predictions for weaker vertical wind shear and warmer sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific hurricane region, suggest that the hurricane season will likely be near- or above-normal.

This outlook is a general guide to the overall seasonal hurricane activity in the central Pacific basin and does not predict whether, or how many, of these systems will affect Hawaii.

NOAA issued its Central Pacific hurricane outlook at a news conference in Honolulu on May 26th, and urged Hawaii residents to be fully prepared before the hurricane season, which begins June 1 and runs until November 30th.

"Preparation is the key. We all need to engage in planning and preparing right now for the upcoming hurricane season," said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., NOAA's lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at the Climate Prediction Center. "Assess the structure in which you live, and take any steps necessary to strengthen it so that it will withstand the tremendous force of a hurricane. Have a plan of where you will go and what you will take with you should an evacuation be necessary. Practice your plan, ensure you have a way to get the latest official forecast and emergency information, and assemble the supplies you might need. Doing these things now will ensure we will all be weather-ready and disaster resilient well before the storms threaten."

The Central Pacific Hurricane Center continuously monitors weather conditions, employing a network of satellites, land- and ocean-based sensors and aircraft reconnaissance missions operated by NOAA and its partners. This data array of supplies the information for complex computer modeling and human expertise that serves as the basis for the hurricane center's track and intensity forecasts that extend out five days. The seasonal hurricane outlook is produced in collaboration with NOAA's [Climate Prediction Center](#) – a division of the National Weather Service.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

On the Web:

Central Pacific Hurricane Center: <http://www.weather.gov/cphc>

On Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Honolulu.gov>

Weather Ready Nation Ambassador Information:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/ambassadors.html>