



NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



MEDIA ADVISORY

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2016 Hurricane Season Summary for the Central Pacific Basin

The 2016 hurricane season, which officially began on June 1st and ended on December 1st, featured 6 tropical cyclones, which is slightly above the seasonal average. In addition to the 6 tropical cyclones during the season, Hurricane Pali which occurred in January 2016, is included in the 2016 calendar year cyclone total of 7. Pali represented an unusual out of season tropical cyclone, and appeared to be more of an extension of the El Nino fueled record active 2015 hurricane season. The 2016 hurricane season was marked by a rapid springtime transition from the 2015 El Nino to a weak La Nina condition by the end of the season. There was one direct landfall to the state of Hawaii, and several close calls which featured indirect impacts to the state during the first half of the season, but generally quiet conditions prevailed during the last half of the season.

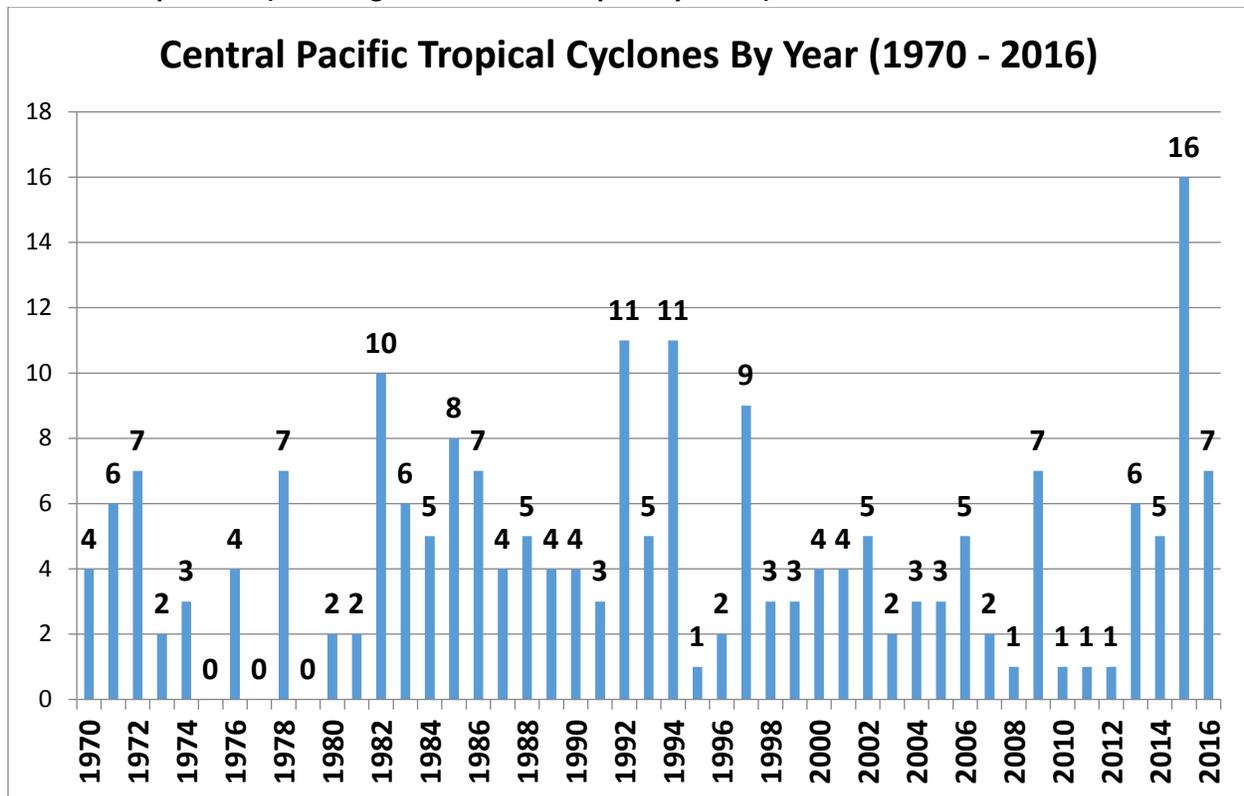
Impacts to the State of Hawaii: On July 23rd, 2016, Tropical Storm Darby made landfall on the southeast coastline of the Big Island, close to Pahala in the Kau District. Darby was a weakening tropical storm at landfall with maximum winds near 40 mph. Tropical Storm Darby continued west of the Big Island, moving toward the northwest as it navigated the Kauai Channel. Even though the center of Darby missed both Oahu and Kauai during transit, some of the worst impacts from Darby were felt on Oahu as a band of torrential rainfall set up over metro Honolulu for several hours on July 24th. This heavy rainfall resulted in major flooding impacting main transportation routes as well as low lying business and industrial areas in the Kalihi and Mapunapuna areas. Darby also impacted the coastal area of the Big Island near Kapoho where several low lying areas became inundated.

Two nearby passing tropical cyclones, Hurricanes Madeline and Lester in late August through early September, brought pounding high surf and some coastal erosion to some east facing shores. Most notable erosion impacts were to the windward Oahu sections of Kamehameha Highway, resulting in temporary or partial lane closures.

The following table outlines tropical cyclone names and highest classification, lifecycle dates and maximum wind speeds while in the central Pacific basin.

| Name | Dates (UTC) | Max Wind /mph/ |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Hurricane Pali | January 7-15 | 100 |
| Tropical Storm Celia | July 15-16 | 45 |
| Tropical Storm Darby | July 20-26 | 65 |
| Tropical Depression Ivette | August 8 | 35 |
| Hurricane Madeline | August 28-September 3 | 135 |
| Hurricane Lester | September 1-7 | 135 |
| Tropical Storm Ulika | September 27-30 | 50 |

Annual Comparisons (including out of season tropical cyclones):



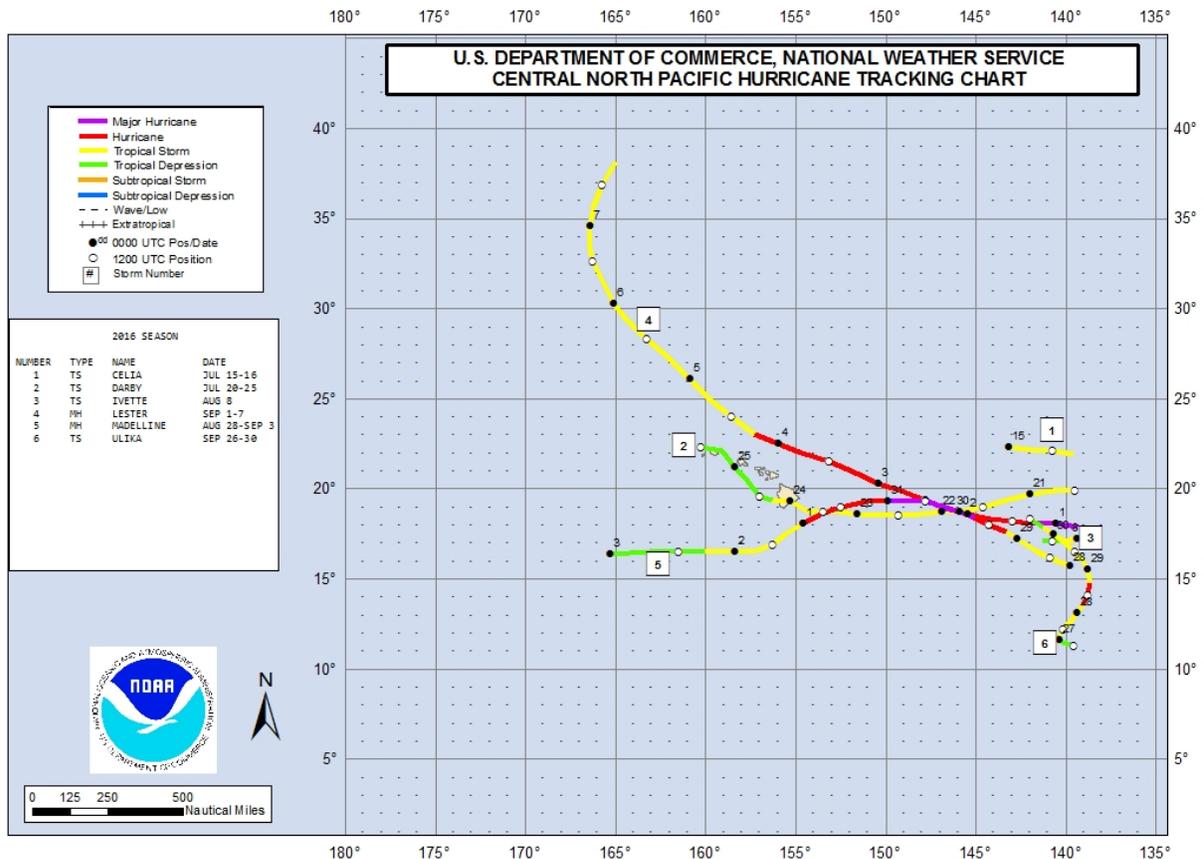
The 7 tropical cyclones in the Central Pacific in calendar year 2016 (6 during hurricane season, 1 out of season) was above the normal 4 to 5 tropical cyclones that develop or move across the central Pacific basin each year.

Hurricane Hunter missions:

The United States Air Force Reserve's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, flew 14 total missions constituting 110 hours of operational flying time in the central Pacific in 2016. These missions were flown in support of forecasting operations for Tropical Storm Darby, Hurricane Madeline and Hurricane Lester, gathering extremely valuable weather data on the tropical cyclones which threatened the State

of Hawaii. In addition, the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center Hurricane Hunters flew 3 high level weather surveillance missions on Hurricane Lester to help ascertain the large scale atmospheric conditions which would influence the cyclones track.

2016 Hurricane Season Tropical Cyclone Track Map (Preliminary):



Additional graphics from our social media links:

NWS Honolulu Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Honolulu.gov/>

NWS Honolulu Twitter - <https://twitter.com/NWSHonolulu>

Other useful web links:

NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office Honolulu – weather.gov/hawaii

CPHC Tropical Cyclone Product Archive - <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc/tcpages/archive.php>

CPHC Annual Summaries - <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc/summaries/>

NOAA Hurricane Season Summary for 2016 - <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/first-above-normal-atlantic-hurricane-season-since-2012-produced-five-landfalling-us>