

Experts Predict Below-average Hurricane Season in the Atlantic for 2026

For 2026, Colorado State University (CSU) hurricane researchers are forecasting a “somewhat below-average” Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. The CSU researchers predict 13 named storms throughout the year. This total falls slightly under the average of 14.4 named storms per year recorded between 1981 and 2020. Despite this forecast, businesses can’t afford to ignore their hurricane exposures, as even a single storm can cause significant damage, prolonged disruptions and lasting recovery costs. As such, it’s crucial for businesses in hurricane-prone areas to prepare for potential storm activity. This article provides more information on the CSU researchers’ predictions and offers tips to help business owners safeguard their properties and operations during hurricane season.

Storm Predictions for 2026

Of the predicted 13 named storms, six are expected to become hurricanes. Furthermore, two of these hurricanes could reach major strength with sustained winds of 111 mph or more. Altogether, these events are projected to result in 55 days of named storm activity, with hurricanes accounting for 20 of those days. According to CSU researchers, key factors contributing to this year’s below-average hurricane predictions include mixed sea surface temperatures across the western and eastern Atlantic, the impending return of the cyclical climate pattern El Niño, and an increase in vertical wind shear to help dissipate storms throughout summer and fall. It’s worth noting that this forecast is subject to change in the coming months as CSU researchers gather more information on evolving sea level pressure, ocean temperatures and wind conditions. Updates to this forecast are scheduled for June 10, July 8 and Aug. 5.

Preparation Guidance

Businesses should prioritize preparing for severe storms, especially if they own commercial property or operate in hurricane-prone areas. Here are some hurricane preparedness measures to consider:

- **Assess specific risks.** Business owners should ensure they understand their unique hurricane exposures. The location of a property can determine the severity of wind and flood hazards.
- **Have a plan.** Establishing a detailed hurricane response plan and practicing it regularly with employees is vital. This plan should address topics such as disaster communication protocols, business continuity measures and emergency evacuation routes.
- **Make property adjustments.** To limit hurricane-related property damage, business owners should install storm shutters on all windows and doors; remove any trees that could fall on nearby structures; and store essential equipment and documents in safe, elevated locations.
- **Maintain coverage.** Business owners should review their commercial insurance portfolios to ensure sufficient financial protection against potential losses in the event of a hurricane. This may require specialized coverage options or policy endorsements. It’s best to work with trusted insurance professionals to determine specific exposures and secure customized coverage.

For additional weather preparedness resources and coverage solutions, contact us today.

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