2024 HURRICANE SEASON

Colorado State University has issued its first outlook for the season.

The 2024 hurricane season could be one of the most active on record.

That's because of two main factors.

First, El Niño is expected to become La Niña, which usually enhances storms.

Secondly, Atlantic Ocean water is record-warm in most areas, which also could enhance storms.

The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season could be one of the most active on record, according to a just-released outlook.

A sobering outlook: Colorado State University's tropical meteorology project team is forecasting 23 storms, 11 of which will become hurricanes and five of which will reach Category 3 status or stronger, in their first outlook for 2024 released Thursday.

That is well above the 30-year average tally for both hurricanes and storms, and also markedly above the tally of 20 storms, seven hurricanes and three Cat 3-plus hurricanes in 2023.



We could "run out of names": This outlook of 23 storms implies we could exhaust the 2024 list of hurricane names.

A committee of the World Meteorological Organization maintains lists of names for tropical cyclones around the world. Each year, there's a list of 21 Atlantic Basin names that repeat every six years, unless one or more of them is so deadly and/or destructive that its name is retired.

So if we use up all names through "William" this year, a supplemental names list will be tapped, beginning with "Adria."

Only two other Atlantic hurricane seasons in which names have been used have pushed beyond 21 storms.

In 2005 (28 storms) and 2020 (30), an alternate list of Greek alphabet letters was used for additional storms beyond the 21st storm. But use of the Greek alphabet was retired in 2021 due to confusion among Greek letters that sound similar (such as Zeta, Eta, Theta), especially if they were active at the same time.



Hurricanes are classified into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure, and damage potential (see chart). Category Three and higher hurricanes

are considered major hurricanes, though Categories One and Two are still extremely dangerous and warrant your full attention.

How are the Hurricane Categories Determined?

Category # 1 74-95 MPH winds Minimal: Unanchored mobile homes, vegetation and signs. 4-5 feet storm surge

Category # 2 96-110 MPH winds Moderate: All mobile homes, roofs, small crafts, flooding. 6-8 feet storm surge

Category # 3 111-130 MPH winds Extensive: Small buildings, low-lying roads cut off. 9-12 feet storm surge

Category # 4 131-155 MPH winds Extreme: Roofs destroyed, trees down, roads cut off, mobile homes destroyed. Beach homes flooded. 13-18 feet storm surge

Category # 5 More than 155 MPH winds Catastrophic: Most buildings destroyed. Vegetation destroyed. Major roads cut off. Homes flooded. Greater than 18 feet storm surge.

For information on Preparedness tips, visit:

BeReady.gov redcross.org aarp.org fema.gov

For information on Weather:

nhc.noaa.gov weather.gov/okx New York Area weather.gov accuweather.com

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