

THE ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON CONSENSUS FORECAST - 2013

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Forecast

The general consensus among tropical cyclone experts continues to be for an above normal Atlantic Hurricane Season for 2013. The consensus forecast calls for 17 named storms, 8 hurricanes and 4 major hurricanes. A normal season averages of 12.1 named storms, 6.4 hurricanes and 2.7 major hurricanes (See table 1). Much of the science behind the outlook is rooted in the analysis and prediction of current and future global climate patterns as compared to previous seasons with similar conditions. For this season, the experts are citing a warmer than normal Tropical North Atlantic as the main reason for an above normal season prediction.

Forecast (Groups) Source	Forecast Date	Named Storm	Hurricane	Major Hurricane
ABMS CliSec	Aug 12, 2013	14 – 21	6 – 12	2 – 6
NOAA	Aug 8, 2013	13 – 19	6 – 9	3 – 5
	May 23, 2013	13 – 20	7 – 11	3 – 6
Colorado State University	Aug 2, 2013	18	8	3
	Jun 3, 2013	18	9	4
Tropical Storm Risk	Aug 6, 2013	15	7	3
	May 24, 2013	15	8	3
United Kingdom Met Office	May 15, 2013	10 - 18	4 - 14	NA
Institute of Meteorology, Cuba	Aug 1, 2013	18	9	NA
	May 4, 2013	17	9	NA
AccuWeather	May 19, 2013	16	9	5
Florida State University	May 31, 2013	12 - 17	5 - 10	NA
Consensus*	Aug 12, 2013	17	8	4
61-yr Antigua Climatology/Average ¹	1950 - 2010	0.7	0.4	0.2
61-yr Atlantic Climatology/Average	1950 - 2010	10.9	6.2	2.7
30-yr Atlantic Climatology/Average	1981 - 2010	12.1	6.4	2.7

Table 1: The Atlantic Hurricane Season Forecast - 2013. *The Consensus forecast is the mean of the Aug forecasts issued by the various groups. Annual averages (1981 – 2010): 12.1 named storms, including 6.4 hurricanes of which 2.7 intense hurricanes. ¹Storms passing within 105 nautical miles of Antigua. NOAA – National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration. ABMS CliSec – Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service Climate Section.

What does this mean for Antigua and Barbuda?

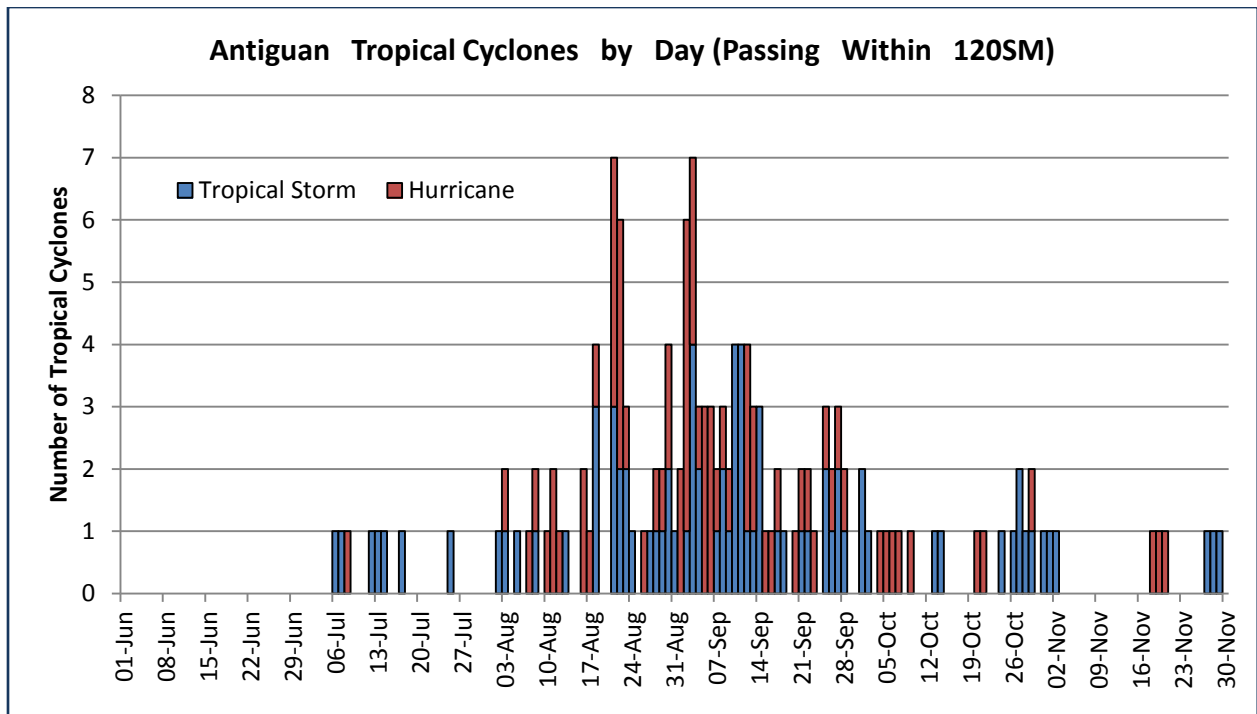
Although there have been great advancements in the science of tropical cyclone (depression, tropical storm and hurricane), the science has not yet reached the stage where accurate predictions can be made of how many cyclones will form in a given year. Also, the science cannot accurately predict when and where these systems will move or make landfall months in advance. The details of the large-scale weather patterns that direct the path of these cyclones cannot be predicted more than a few days into the future. However, for the current active era (1995 – present), there is around a 32% chance or 3 in 10 chances of one or more hurricanes affecting Antigua (directly or indirectly) over the period August - October; this is 4% above the long term chance (1981 – 2010).

The 2013 Hurricane Season

The 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season, thus far, have produced four (4) named storms. The strongest tropical cyclone for the season has been Tropical Storm Andrea with peak winds of 65 mph and minimum pressure of 992 mb. There has been no hurricane, thus far. Relative to Antigua and Barbuda, Chantal, during it passage through the Eastern Caribbean, spawned a destructive water spout, which impacted Camp Blizzard, Antigua. The hurricane season officially runs from June 1 through November 30 each year; however, tropical cyclones can and have occurred outside the season. The peak of the hurricane season is mid August to late October while the peak of the hurricane season for Antigua is mid August to late September (graph 1).

It Only Takes One

Regardless of the numbers, we should always approach the hurricane season in the same manner each year: be aware and be prepared. The prevention of the loss of life and property from tropical cyclones is a responsibility that should be shared by all. As a reminder, recall our lesson from Hurricane George of 1998: it only takes one hurricane to make it a bad season. Accordingly, the Meteorological Service will play its usual role in alerting the public of any tropical cyclone that may form and threaten Antigua and Barbuda, the Leeward Islands and the British Virgin Islands. We endeavour to provide weather and climate information for the protect life, property, livelihood and the enhancement of the economy – be prepared!



Graph 1: Antiguan Tropical Cyclones – distribution of tropical cyclones within 120 statute miles of Antigua (1851 – 2012)

For more information see the links below or email me at dale_destin@yahoo.com. You are also welcome to follow us via [twitter](#) [facebook](#) [youtube](#) and [blog](#) .

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