



**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

**Meteorological Services**

**V.C. Bird International Airport**

**P.O. Box 1051**

**Coolidge**

**St. John's, ANTIGUA W.I.**

Telephone: (268) 462-3229; 462-4606

Fax: (268) 462-4606

Email: [metoffice@antigua.gov.ag](mailto:metoffice@antigua.gov.ag)

27<sup>th</sup> May 2011

**PRESS RELEASE**

**HURRICANE SEASON 2011**

**BE PREPARED!**

The 2011 Hurricane Season for the Atlantic Basin (North Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico) officially starts Wednesday, June 1 and ends on November 30, 2011.

The 2010 Atlantic Hurricane Season was significantly more active than the normal season. Nineteen tropical storms developed, tying with 1995 for the third highest number of storms on record. Twelve (12) of the storms became hurricanes - the second highest total on record behind the fifteen observed in 2005. Five (5) of the hurricanes became major hurricanes, category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. The active 2010 season was credited to very warm sea surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic between the Eastern Caribbean and Africa, combined with the change in Pacific Ocean conditions from El Niño in 2009 to La Niña in 2010.

Hurricane Earl had the greatest impact on Antigua & Barbuda and the Leeward Islands in 2010. Across Antigua and Barbuda, flooding from torrential rains associated with Hurricane Earl, along with strong gusty winds, reportedly caused widespread though not very serious damage. Earl produced about 8 inches of rainfall at V.C Bird Int'l airport during the period August 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> with the most intense rainfall taking place on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Wind gusts of up to 55 knots were also recorded. One utility personnel was killed by electrocution in Antigua while working to restore electricity after the storm.

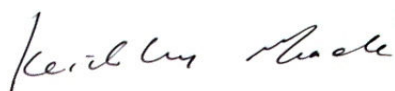
The 2011 season is expected to see comparable activity to a number of active seasons since 1995, due to the expected continuation of above-average sea surface temperatures in the Tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea, along with expected lingering La Niña impacts into the summer, conducive to a more active season.

According to the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s prediction, 12-18 Named Storms of which 6-10 Hurricanes and 3-6 Major Hurricanes are forecast. This, in comparison to a normal seasonal average of 11 named storms, 6 hurricanes, and 2 major hurricanes suggests an active Hurricane Season. As predicted by Dr Philip J. Klotzbach and Professor William M. Gray, of the Colorado State University in their April 2011 release, the 2011 Hurricane Season is expected to yield 16 named storms, 9 Hurricanes and 5 Major Hurricanes. These forecasts by no means indicate exact locations where systems will develop, how they will move or where they will strike. Local authorities and the general public are therefore urged to prepare in advance and to take the necessary precautions in case watches and warnings are issued.

Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Services will monitor the development of all systems and any other severe weather situations which threaten the Leeward and British Virgin Islands and if necessary, issue statements, watches or warnings. We wish to remind that, Hurricanes are multi-hazard systems with possible dangerous effects from not just strong winds but storm surge and coastal flooding, torrential rains leading to flooding and landslides, and tornadoes.

The names prepared for the 2011 hurricane season are: **Arlene, Bret, Cindy, Don, Emily, Franklin, Gert, Harvey, Irene, Jose, Katia, Lee, Maria, Nate, Ophelia, Philippe, Rina, Sean, Tammy, Vince and Whitney.**

Remember, awareness and good preparedness are essential to limiting loss of life and property.



Keithley Meade  
Director  
Meteorological Services

