

**FEDERAL COORDINATOR
FOR
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH**

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NATIONAL HURRICANE OPERATIONS PLAN

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CHANGE AND REVIEW LOG

Use this page to record changes and notices of reviews.

| Change Number | Page Numbers | Date Posted | Initial |
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FOREWORD

The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) annually hosts the IHC to educate attendees on the status and future plans of the Nation's hurricane forecasting and warning program. Additionally, the IHC provides a forum for the responsible Federal agencies, together with representatives of the user communities such as emergency management, to review the Nation's hurricane forecasting and warning program and to make recommendations on how to improve the program in the future.

During the IHC, the OFCM-sponsored Working Group for Hurricane and Winter Storms Operations and Research (WG/HWSOR) reviews submitted action items regarding the hurricane program, including recommended changes to this plan, the *National Hurricane Operations Plan* (NHOP). The 64th IHC was held in Savannah, Georgia, March 1-4, 2010, and the new procedures, procedural changes, and agreements reached at the conference were incorporated into this publication—the 48th edition of the NHOP.

At the 64th IHC, the WG/HWSOR addressed 23 action items. Of those, 11 will be closed through incorporation into the 2010 NHOP, four items were informational, five items were worked during the IHC (three of these remain open), one item was not accepted, and one item was accepted by the WG/HWSOR but was subsequently not approved by the meeting of the WMO RA-IV Hurricane Committee. The remaining item (plus four actions from previous IHCs) will be worked through follow-on actions by the group. Detailed descriptions of the action items are available on the OFCM's web site at <http://www.ofcm.gov/ihc10/actionitems.pdf>.

Several items brought before the WG/HWSOR, which were worked extensively within NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) and coordinated with WG/HWSOR participants, have the end result of *improving forecasting and warning services*. These include:

- Changes to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale for the Atlantic, Eastern Pacific, and Central Pacific Hurricane Basins effective May 15, 2010
 - Decoupled scale with storm surge and atmospheric pressure
 - Renamed to Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale
- Extend Issuance Times for NOAA/NWS's National Hurricane Center (NHC) Watches and Warnings
 - Implemented at NOAA NWS's Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) in 2009
- Changes to the Tropical Cyclone Public Advisories
 - Key headings to include Summary, Watches and Warnings, Discussion and Outlook, Hazards, Next Advisory
- CPHC makes wind field graphic and graphical Tropical Weather Outlook operational
 - Previously implemented at NHC
- Experimental Probabilistic Storm Surge Exceedance Products to be available for 2010

The following summarizes the 2009 tropical cyclone season:

- For the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season, there were nine named storms, of which three became hurricanes, including two major hurricanes (Bill and Fred). This was above the long-term averages of 11, 6 and 2, respectively. Some of the 2009 highlights follows: Tropical Storm Ana (12 Aug) and Major Hurricane Bill (15 Aug) were the latest forming tropical storms since the 1983 season; one tropical storm made landfall in the U.S. (Claudette); Fred became strongest hurricane on record so far south and east in the Atlantic; Grace formed farther northeast in the Atlantic than any other tropical storm on record; and Ida was the first November hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico since Hurricane Kate (1985).
- For the Eastern North Pacific, there were 17 named storms, which was above average. Of these, seven became hurricanes (slightly below average), including four major hurricanes (average). Some of the 2009 highlights follows: eight storms had peak intensity ≤ 50 knots (kt); Rick (155 kt) became the second-strongest east Pacific hurricane since reliable records began in 1971 (only Linda was stronger [160 kt]); and there were two landfalls (one tropical storm and one hurricane).
- The other tropical cyclone basins had the following tropical cyclone activity in 2009 (25-year averages are noted in parenthesis): Central Pacific – 7 (4-5); Northwest Pacific – 28 (31); South Pacific and Eastern Australian Region – 9 (10); Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal – 5 (5); South Indian Ocean and Western Australian Region – 18 (18).

Civilian and military organizations that are part of the multiagency tropical cyclone forecasting and warning system provided superb support to their customers. This vital support aided in the prevention of loss of life and injuries and helped reduce vulnerability to these devastating storms.

Samuel P. Williamson
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Services and Supporting Research

NATIONAL HURRICANE OPERATIONS PLAN

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