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OFCM



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR  
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

# National Hurricane Operations Plan

FCM-P12-2011 **Incorporates Change 1, 7 September 2011**



Washington, DC  
May 2011

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**Cover Image**

Hurricane Earl, 2 September 2010. Credit: NOAA.

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**NATIONAL HURRICANE OPERATIONS PLAN**

FCM-P12-2011 (Incorporates Change 1, September 7, 2011)

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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
1	3-7, 3-8, & I-2	09/07/2011	SJT
2			
3			
4			
5			

Changes are indicated by a vertical line in the margin next to the change or by shading and strikeouts.

Review Date	Comments	Initial
09/07/2011	Corrected Table 3-1, Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Names Corrected Table 3-2, Eastern Pacific Tropical Cyclone Names Corrected Appendix I, Telephone Listing	SJT

## 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 65<sup>th</sup> IHC was held in Miami, Florida, February 28 - March 3, 2011, and the new procedures, procedural changes, and agreements reached at the conference were incorporated into this publication—the 49<sup>th</sup> edition of the NHOP.

At the 65<sup>th</sup> IHC, the WG/HWSOR addressed 29 action items. Of those, 17 were closed through incorporating changes into the 2011 NHOP and 9 items were informational. The remaining three items (plus two 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/ihc11/action-items.pdf>.

One noteworthy item worked during this past year was the complete review and update of Chapter 5, *Aircraft Reconnaissance*. The review and update began with a meeting that included representatives from the FAA, NOAA, and DoD. The meeting took place on January 12-13, 2011, in Washington DC. Work continued for 2+ days during the IHC, along with additional follow-up work accomplished after the IHC. The results of the grueling efforts are contained in the updated Chapter 5 to this plan.

The following summarizes the 2010 tropical cyclone season:<sup>1</sup>

- For the Atlantic hurricane season, there were 19 named storms, of which 12 became hurricanes, including 5 major hurricanes (Danielle, Earl, Igor, Julia, and Karl). This was well above the long-term averages of 11, 6 and 2, respectively. Some of the 2010 highlights are indicated below:
  - Third-most number of named storms and second-most number of hurricanes (2005 had 28 and 15, respectively)
  - The Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) index for the season was 190% of the long-term median (a “hyperactive” season)
  - Three tropical storm impacts in the U.S. (Bonnie and Hermine, with Earl bringing sustained tropical storm conditions to the Outer Banks)
  - Alex was the strongest June hurricane since Alma of 1966
  - Julia became the strongest hurricane so far east (previous was Fred 2009)

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<sup>1</sup> Extracted from presentations given at the 65<sup>th</sup> IHC by representatives of the NHC, CPHC, and JTWC

- For the Eastern North Pacific, there were seven named storms. Of these, three became hurricanes (below the average of 8.5), including two major hurricanes (below the average of three). The two major hurricanes were Celia and Darby.
- The other tropical cyclone basins had the following tropical cyclone activity in 2010 (25-year averages are noted in parenthesis): Central Pacific – 1 (2); Northwest Pacific – 19 (31); South Pacific and Eastern Australian Region – 10 (10); Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal – 5 (5); South Indian Ocean and Western Australian Region – 14 (18).

Both civilian and military organizations that are part of the multiagency tropical cyclone forecasting and warning system provided exceptional support to their customers. We applaud their efforts and all of the efforts of the larger tropical cyclone community—including researchers, forecasters, aircraft crews, emergency managers, agency leaders, and others—to further improve services to the citizens of this Nation.

Samuel P. Williamson  
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological  
Services and Supporting Research

**NATIONAL HURRICANE OPERATIONS PLAN**

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