



Texas Gulf Coast Regional Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

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May 6, 2026

General Membership Meeting

Agenda

Beginning	Subject	Facilitator
09:30	Welcome	Gary
09:40	Weather Brief - Hurricane Season!	Dan
09:50	Executive	Gary
10:00	Caring for Yourself While Caring for Others	Amanda
10:15	Education and Training	Amanda
10:20	Individual, Family and Community Resources	Phelon
10:25	Operational Coordination	Debbie
10:30	Membership	Joe
10:35	Volunteers	Andi/Gary
10:40	Communications	Lesla/Melissa
10:45	Activation Processes	Gary
10:55	Announcements	All

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Welcome

**If this is your first TGCRVOAD Meeting,
please share your**

Name * Organization * Role

Executive Committee Business Session

Executive Committee Updates

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TGCRVOAD Blue Sky Collaboration

Preparedness 365

**City of Houston Mayor's
Roundtable**

Steering Committee

Volunteer Committee

Data Committee

**City of Houston Resiliency
Committee**

Regional Fire Team

HUGGS, Inc, American Red Cross, City of Houston



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TGCRVOAD Collaboration

TSA Food Drive

**Transforming Disaster Data
and Communications
Regionwide (TDCC)**

Data & Communications

**Mass Care Team - Feeding
and Clothing**

**Texas Community Resource -
TDEM**

Connective Recovery Tool



Connective Recovery Tool

Training May 13th, @ 2:00-3:00

Online



connective

Must take a TGCRVOAD course on protecting *Personally Identifiable Information (PII)* and pass a comprehension test before training.



<https://tgcrvoad.org/connective-recovery-tool/>

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Challenge Coin



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Challenge Coin



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Weather Brief

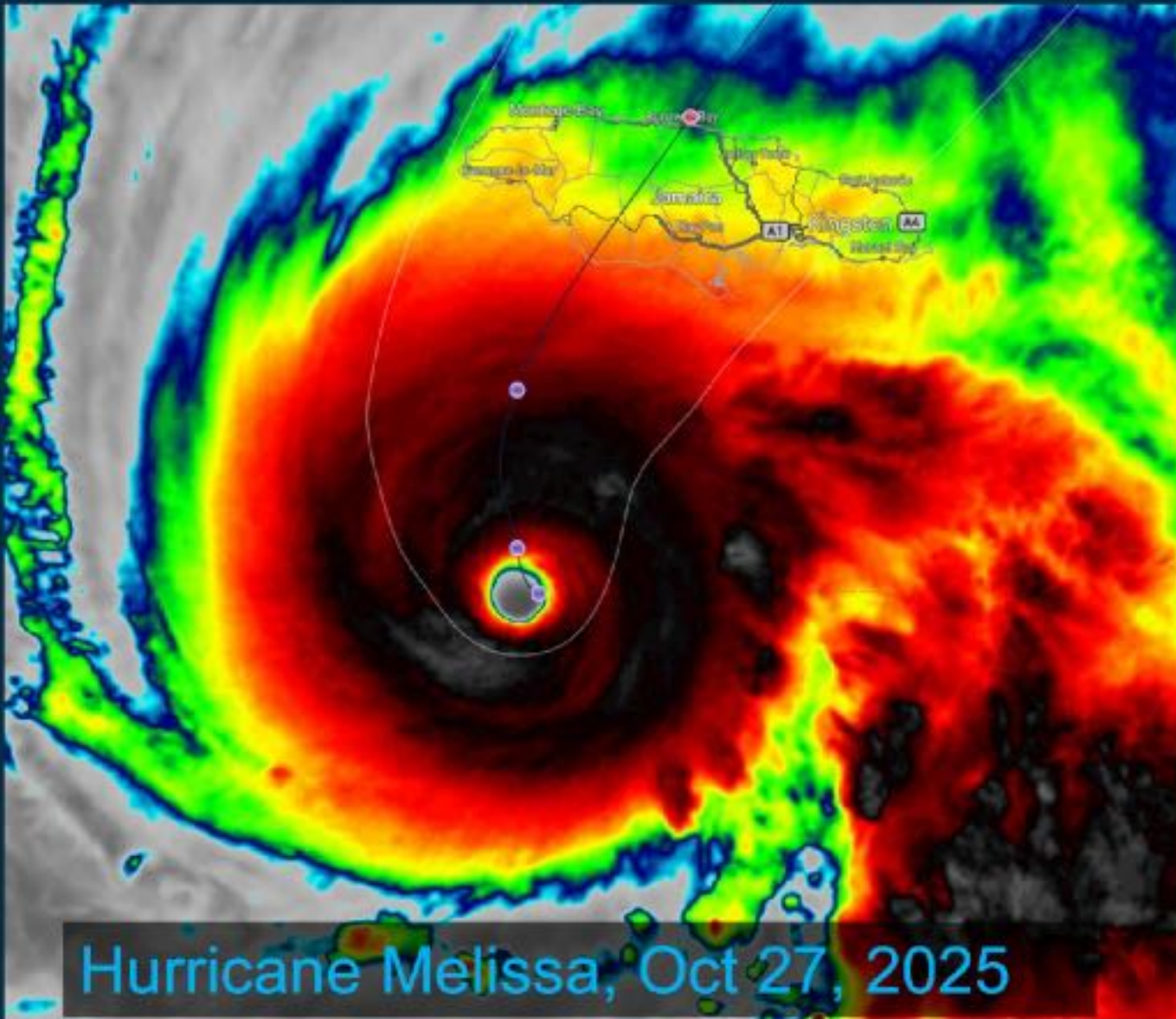
Dan Reilly

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Hurricane 2026 Season Outlook

Dan Reilly, NWS Retired, Reilly Weather, LLC



When is the Atlantic Hurricane Season?

Nominally June 1st
through November 30th

In recent years it is
common to have
storms develop before
June 1st

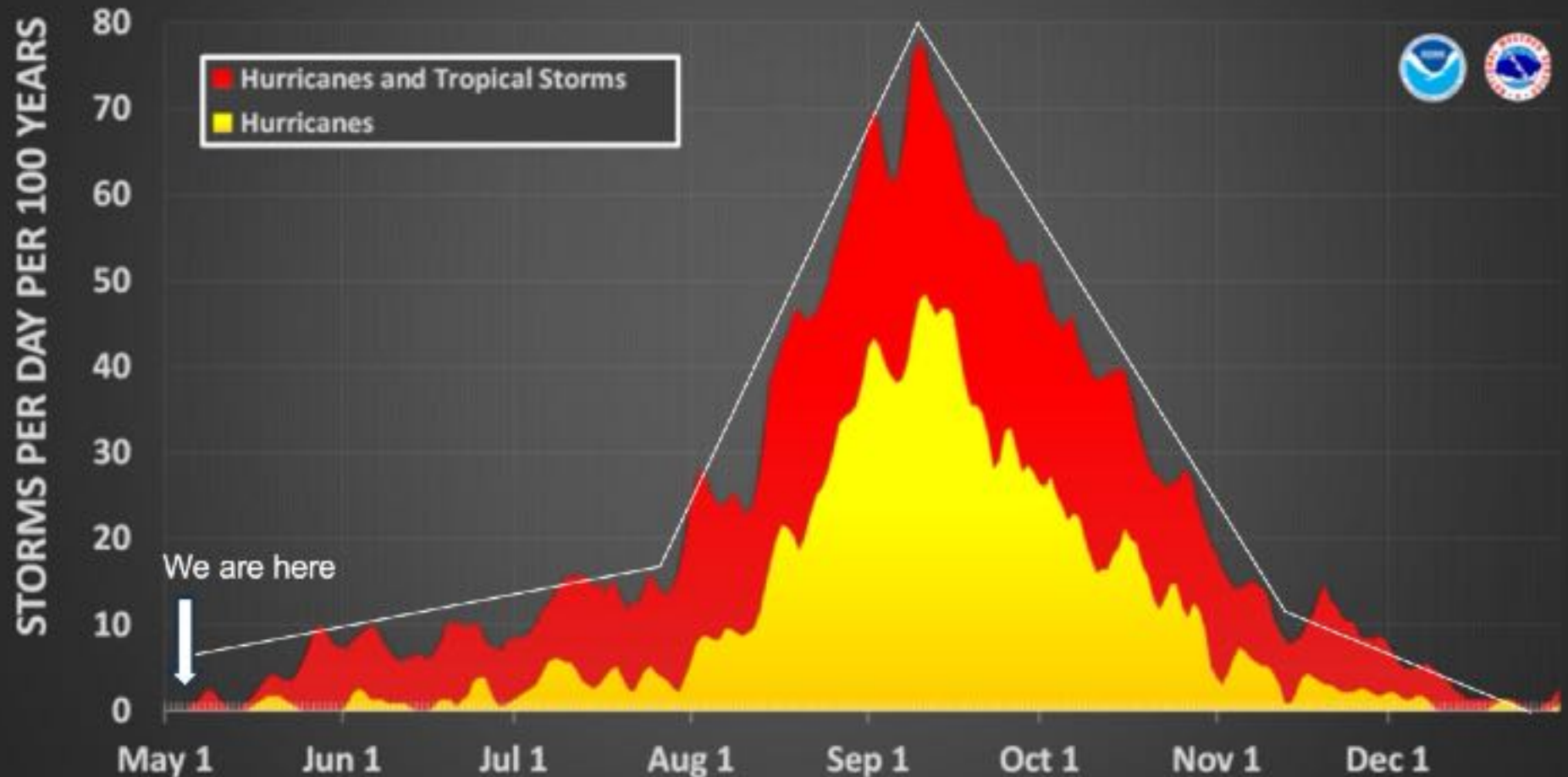
Very slow, gradual
build up May, June,
July then quickly ramps
up in August.

Most active period Mid
August through Mid
October (peak~Sep12)

For Texas, storms are
rare after October 1st

Atlantic Hurricane and Tropical Storm Activity

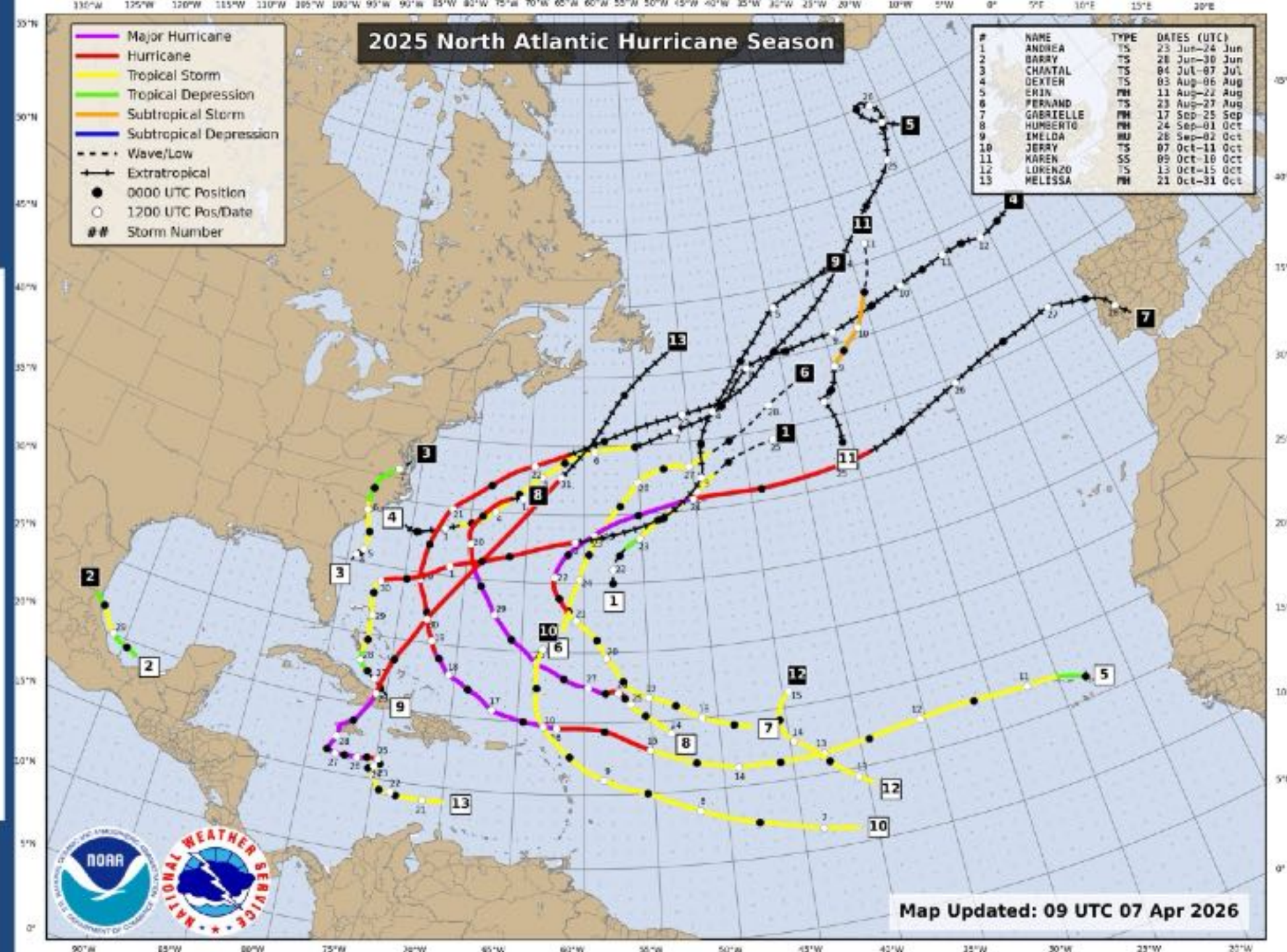
Based on Data from 1944 to 2020

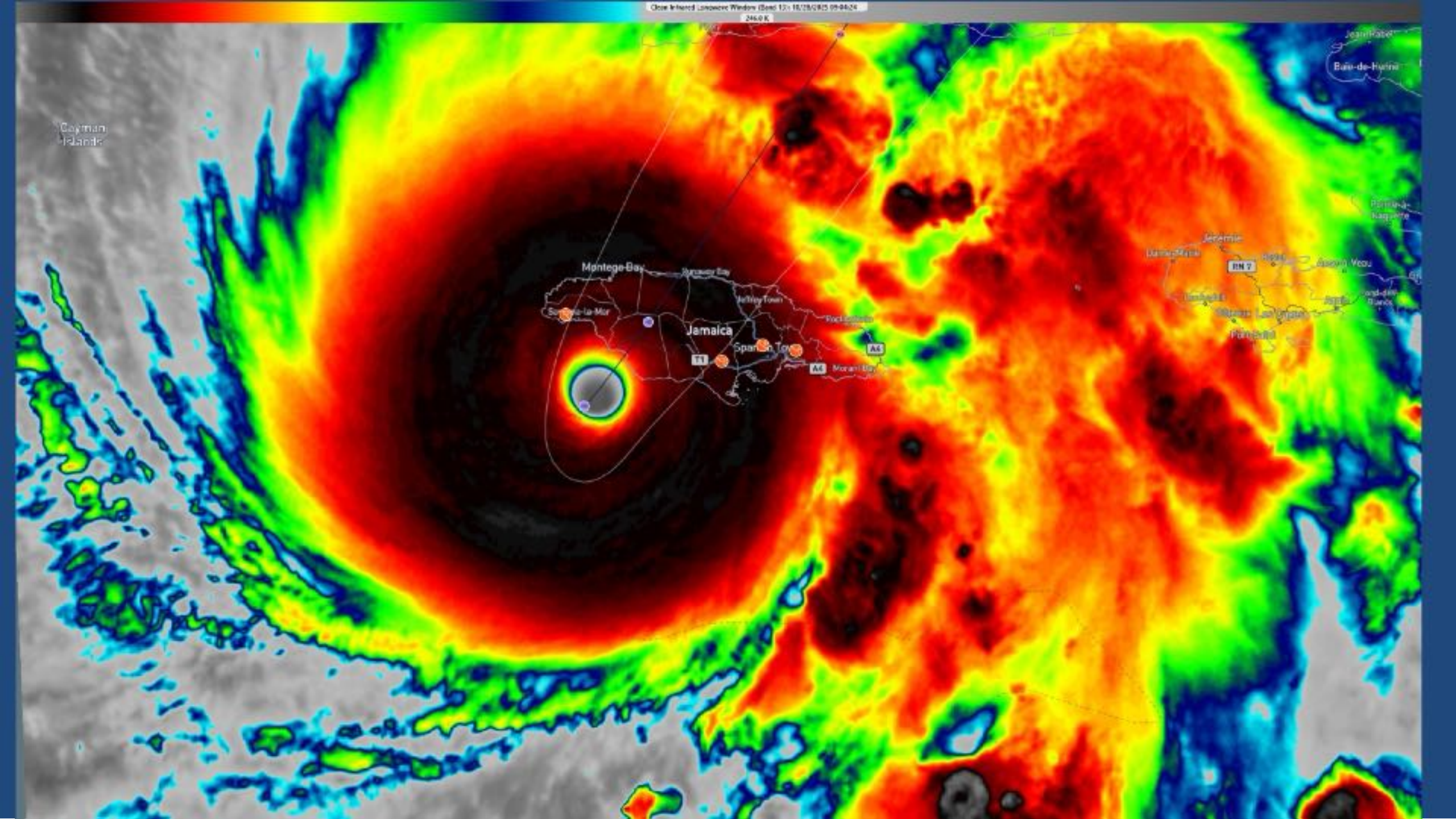


2025 Season

Quiet year for U.S.
Storms tended to recurve out to sea.

The Atlantic basin produced 13 named storms (winds of 39 mph or greater), of which five became hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or greater), including four major hurricanes with winds reaching 111 mph or greater. An [average season](#) has 14 named storms, seven hurricanes, and three major hurricanes.





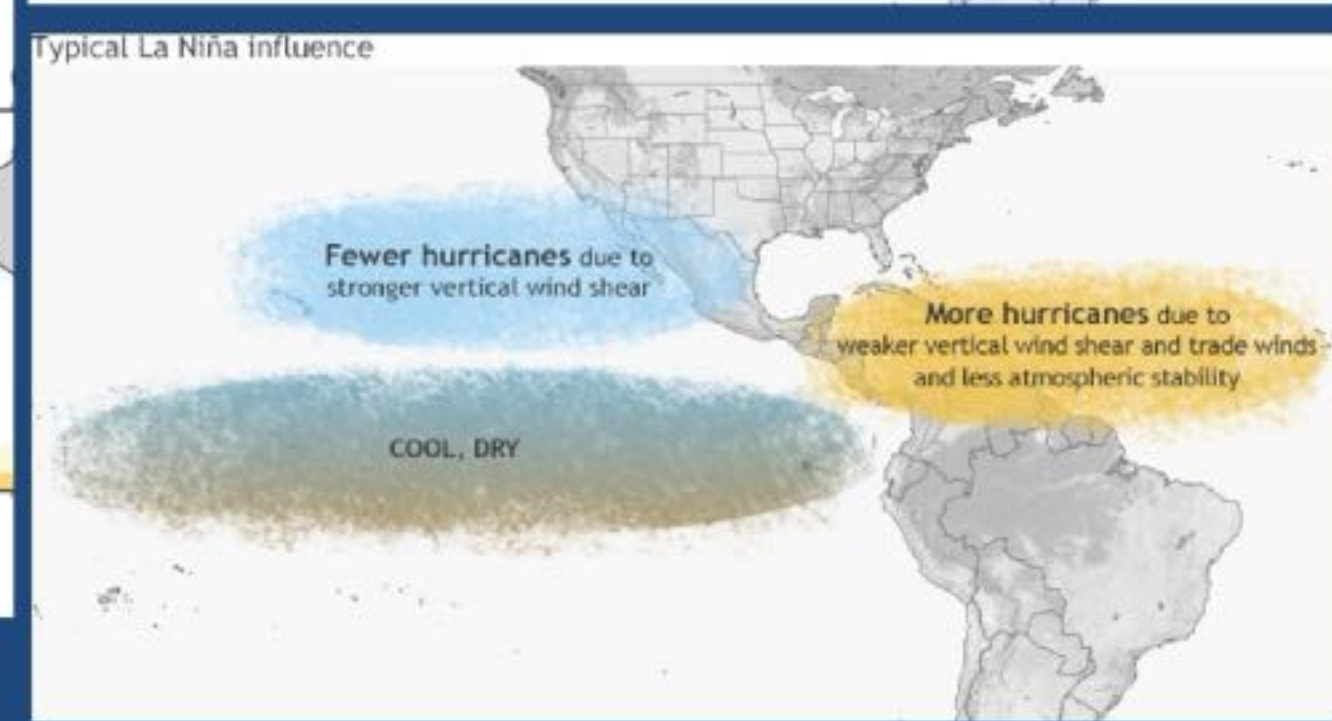
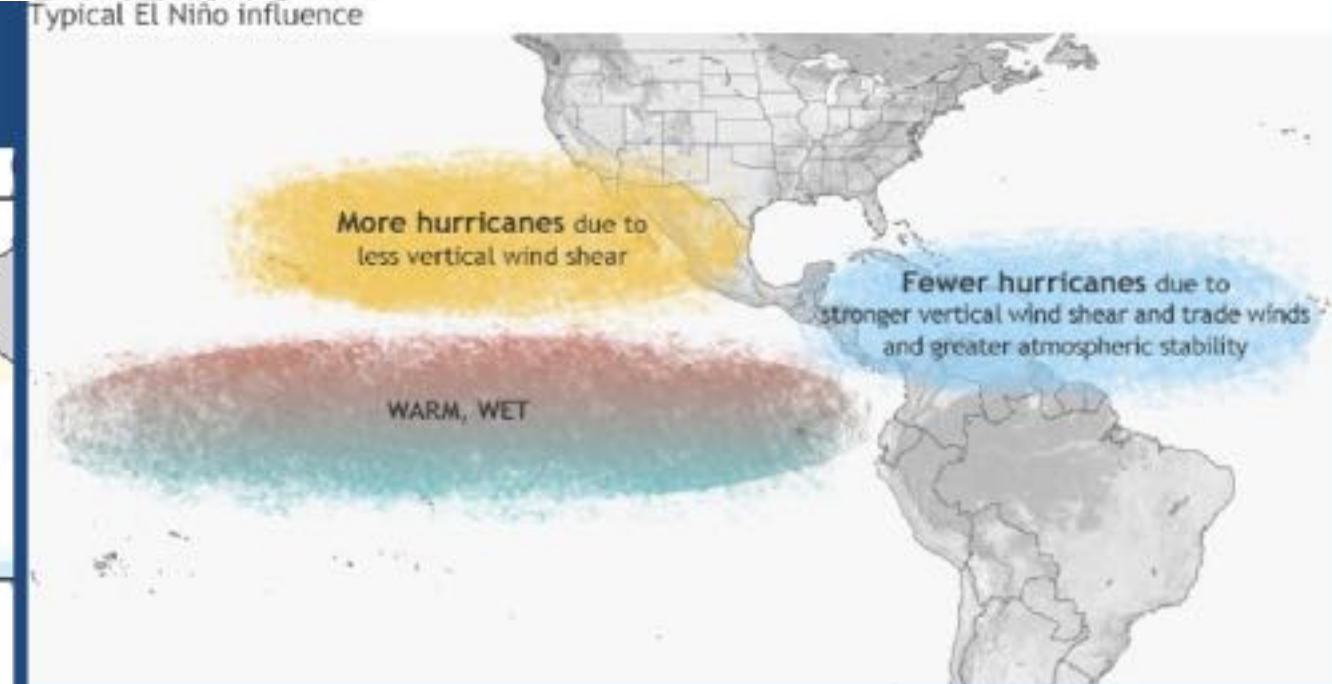
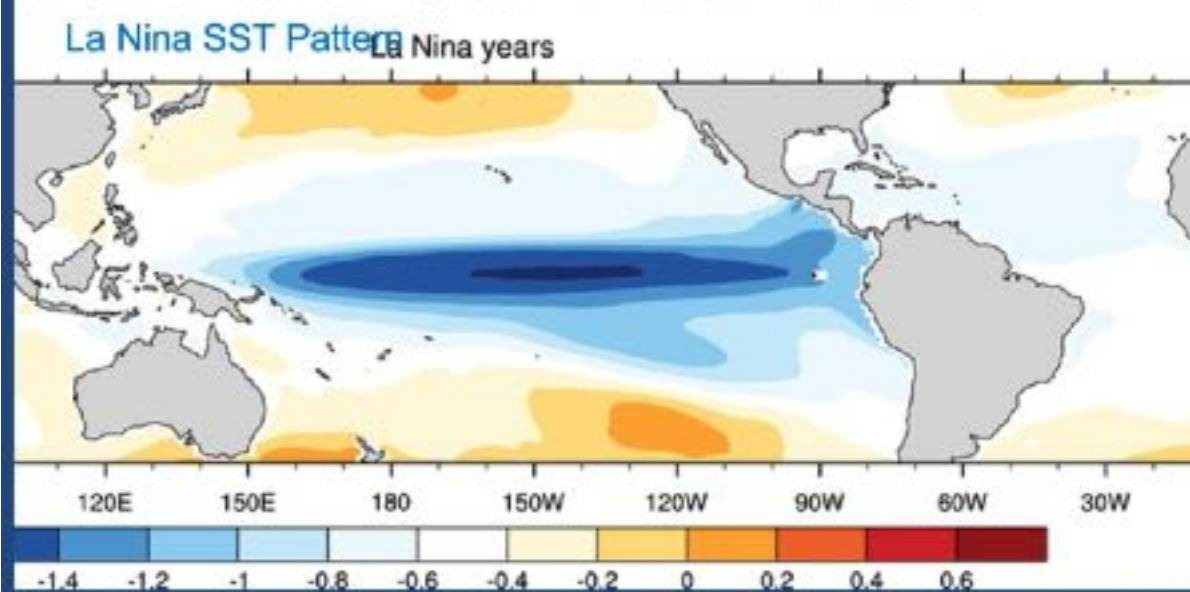
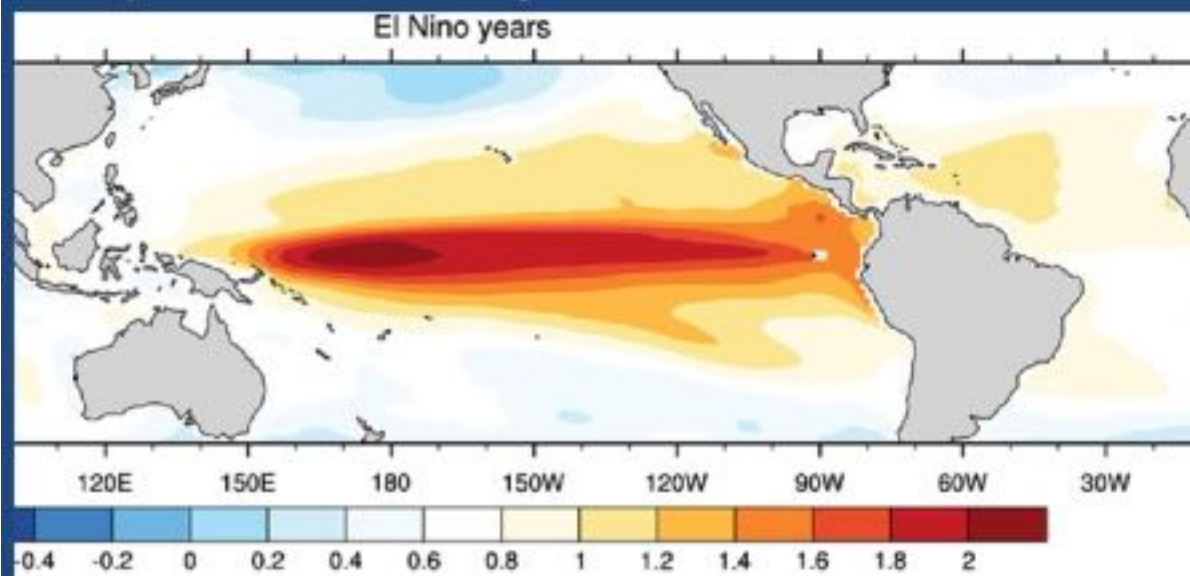
Cayman Islands

Juanillo
Barranquilla

Montego Bay
Spanish Town
Port Antonio
Jamaica
A1
A6
Morantia

Caracas
Cumaná
Maracaibo
Trujillo
Valencia
Barinas
Maturín
Cruces
San Juan de los Rios
Córdoba
Medellín
Bogotá
Cali
Ibagué
Pasto
Quito
Guayaquil
Lima
Arequipa
Cuzco
Machu Picchu
Cusco

En Nino/Southern Oscillation Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly Patterns



Li, Hui & Srivler, Ryan. (2019). Impact of air–sea coupling on the simulated global tropical cyclone activity in the high-resolution Community Earth System Model (CESM). *Climate Dynamics*, 53. 10.1007/s00382-019-04739-8.

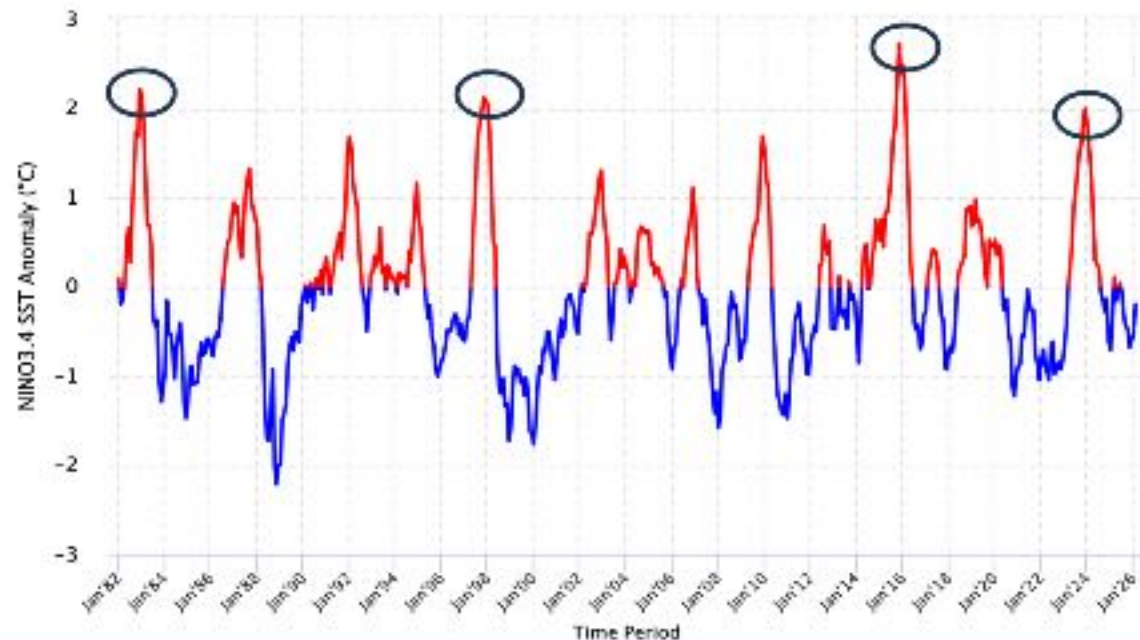
What is This I Hear About a Super El Nino?

For Texas, main impacts are fewer hurricanes in the Atlantic and a lower chance of a hurricane impact (but it only takes one!)

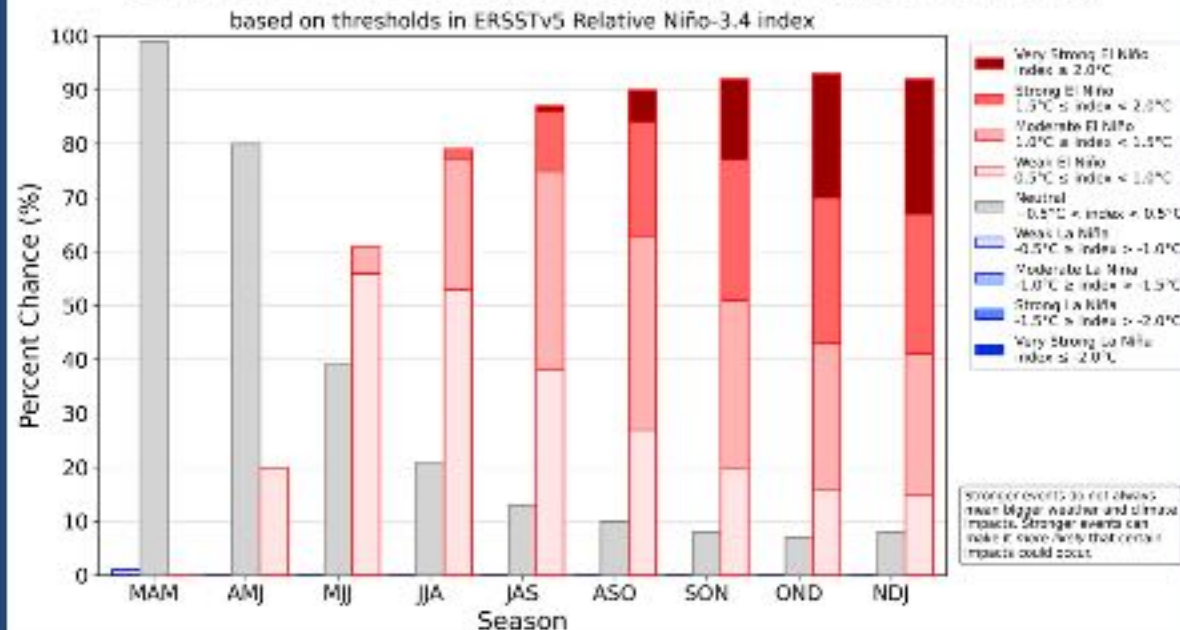
In cool season/winter, wetter, stormier than average. More rain, cloud cover, thunderstorms.

Some bump up in average temperatures.

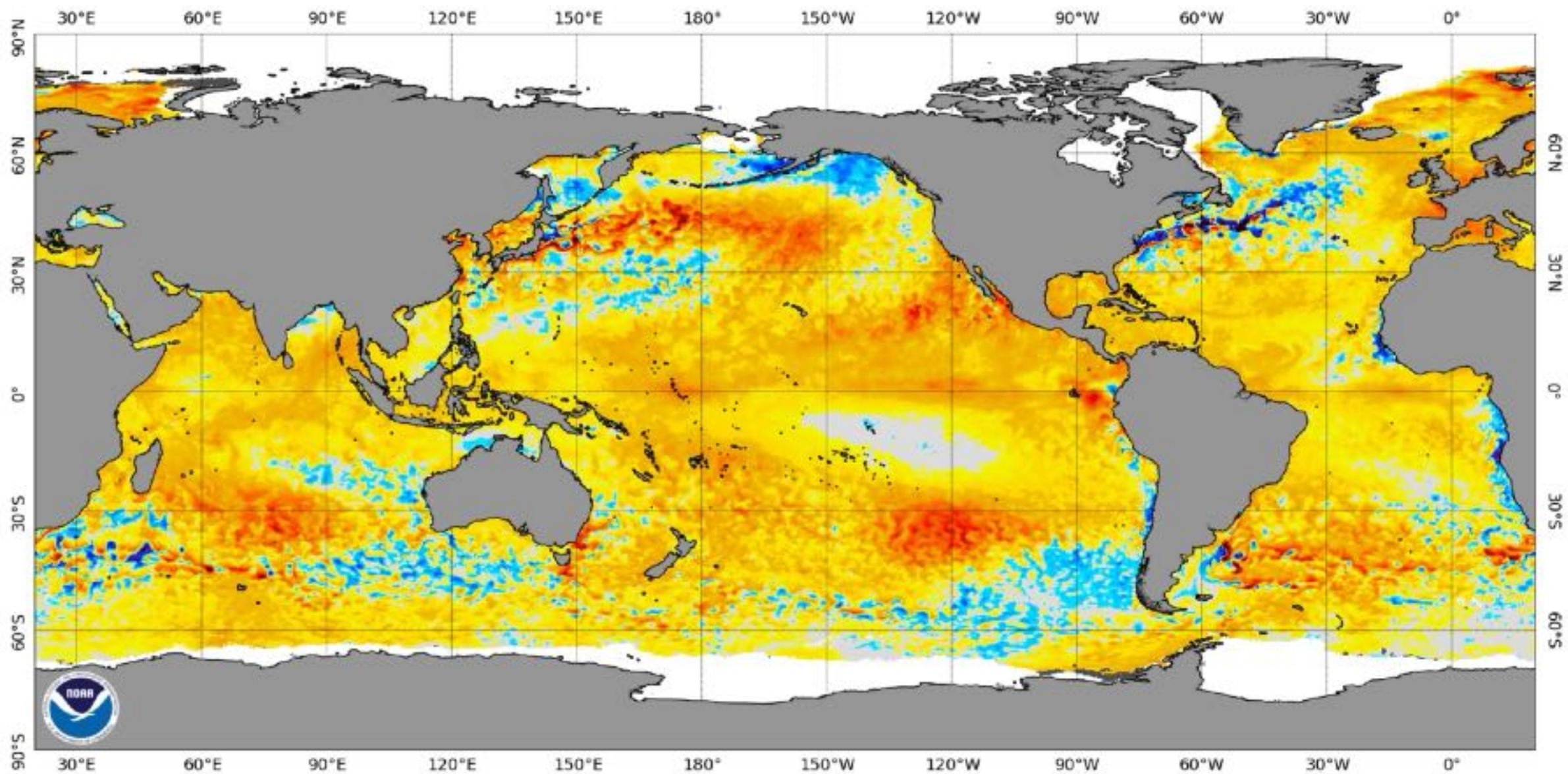
Historical Nino 3.4 Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly



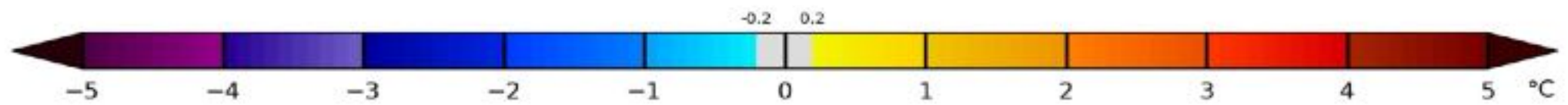
NOAA CPC ENSO Strength Probabilities (issued April 2026)



NOAA Coral Reef Watch Daily 5km SST Anomalies (v3.1) 2 May 2026



■ No data
□ Ice



CSU Forecast: Near or Slightly Blow Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Activity

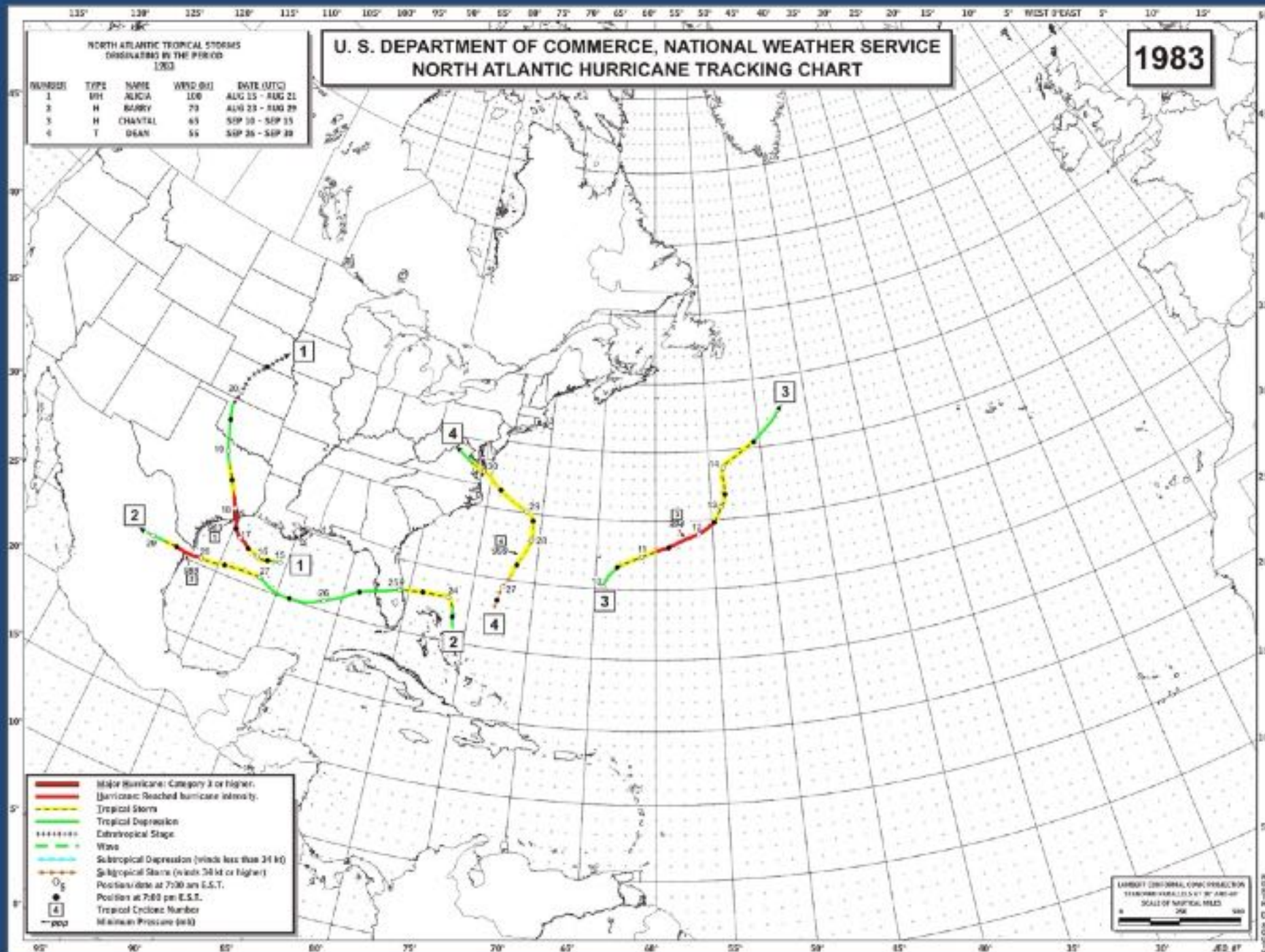
- Given warm SSTs (favors more storms) plus strong El Nino phase (fewer hurricanes in Atlantic), one would expect the seasonal forecast to be for a near normal season or possibly slightly below season in terms of numbers.
- “Normal” season is 14 named storms, 7 hurricanes, 3 major.

Forecast for 2026 Hurricane Activity

Forecast Parameters	CSU Forecast for 2026*	Average for 1991-2020
Named Storms	13	14.4
Named Storm Days	55	69.4
Hurricanes	6	7.2
Hurricane Days	20	27.0
Major Hurricanes	2	3.2
Major Hurricane Days	5	7.4
Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE)+	90	123
ACE West of 60 degrees longitude	50	73

1983 Season Track Map

Good reminder, it only takes one to be an active season.



Caring for Yourself While Caring for Others

Amanda Groller

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Caring for Yourself While Caring for Others

Maintaining wellness to support responders effectively

Why Well-Being Matters: The Power of Resilience



Adaptation and Recovery

Resilience enables responders to adapt quickly and recover effectively from high-stress scenarios.



Emotional Strength

Prioritizing well-being builds emotional strength crucial for sustained response efforts.



Better Decision-Making

Strong well-being supports clear thinking and better decisions under pressure.



May Is Mental Health Awareness Month: Let's Celebrate You!

Mental Health Awareness Importance

May highlights the need to recognize and support mental health for overall well-being.

Celebrating Dedication

Acknowledging personal commitment to mental wellness promotes positive and ongoing support.

Encouraging Openness

Promoting openness about mental wellness helps build a supportive and understanding community.

Common Challenges Faced by VOAD Responders



Emotional Exhaustion

Responders frequently experience emotional exhaustion due to intense and prolonged exposure to traumatic events.

Exposure to Trauma

Repeated exposure to traumatic scenes can lead to mental health challenges among responders.

Long Working Hours

Extended shifts and long hours contribute to both physical and mental fatigue for responders.

Physical Strain

The physical demands of emergency response work often cause strain and exhaustion.

Stress & Burnout in Disaster Response

High Stress Levels

Many disaster responders face intense stress due to demanding and high-pressure environments during crisis situations.

Burnout Risks

Prolonged exposure to traumatic events leads to burnout, impacting responder wellbeing and job performance.

Need for Wellness Measures

Proactive wellness strategies are crucial to support mental health and reduce stress and burnout among disaster responders.





Physical Health Tips: Move, Hydrate, Rest (and Dance!)

Regular Movement

Engage in daily physical activities to improve fitness and overall well-being.

Stay Hydrated

Drink enough water throughout the day to maintain hydration and support body functions.

Adequate Rest

Ensure quality sleep and rest to allow the body to recover and rejuvenate.

Regular Breaks

Meals, walks, micro-breaks, and changing scenery to help lower stress levels

Mental Health Strategies: Breathe, Laugh, Connect



Mindful Breathing

Mindful breathing helps calm the mind and reduce stress effectively during challenging moments.



Finding Humor

Laughing releases tension and elevates mood, contributing to better mental resilience.



Social Connection

Staying socially connected provides support and a sense of belonging, improving mental health.

Humor Heals: Funny Stories From the Field



Relieving Tension

Humorous stories help reduce stress and tension among disaster responders during challenging times.



Strengthening Team Bonds

Lighthearted moments foster stronger connections and camaraderie within response teams.



Finding Joy in Tough Situations

Humor encourages responders to maintain positivity despite difficult circumstances.

Support Networks: You're Not Alone

Resource Connections

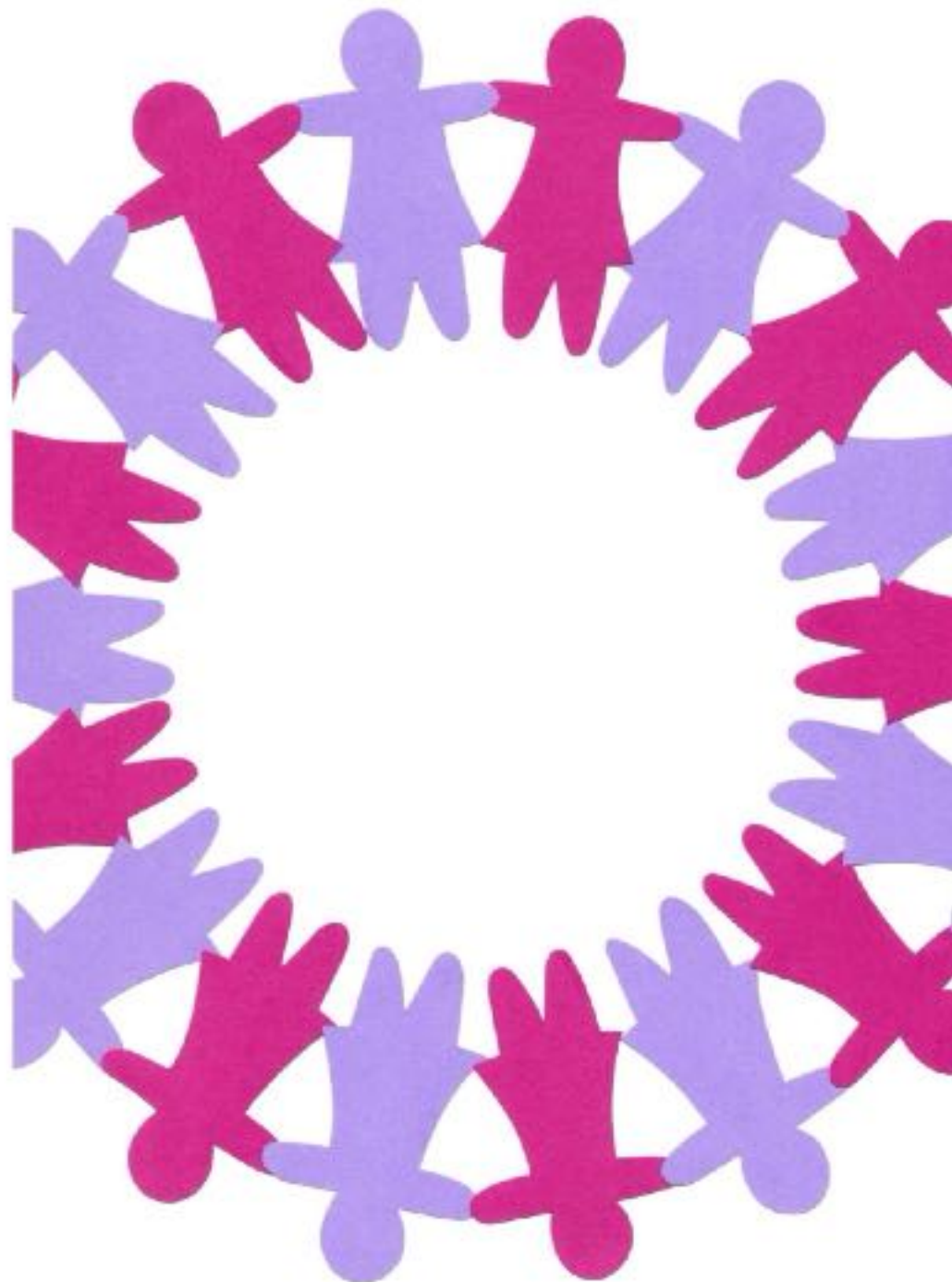
Various resources provide essential mental health support to responders during challenging situations.

Peer Support Networks

Peer groups offer emotional support and shared experiences to sustain responders' mental well-being.

Promoting Self-Care

Engaging with support networks encourages continuous self-care and resilience in response efforts.



Self-Care Action Plan: Small Steps, Big Impact

Daily Self-Care Actions

Simple daily self-care routines significantly enhance overall health and resilience.

Realistic Goal Setting

Setting achievable goals helps maintain balance and manage stress effectively during crisis.

Maintaining Balance in Crisis

Maintaining mental and physical balance is essential for effective disaster response.



Conclusion: Sustaining Wellness to Serve Better

Importance of Self-Care

Prioritizing mental and physical wellness is essential for responders to maintain effectiveness.

Empowering Effective Support

Wellness empowers responders to better serve and support communities during crises and challenges.

Care for Others Begins with You

Taking care of yourself is the foundation for providing quality care to others in need.

Education and Training

Amanda Groller

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Individual, Family, and Community Resources

Phelon Taylor

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IFCR in the Recovery Continuum

- Positioned at the transition between Response → Recovery
- Identifies needs that persist beyond initial response
- Connects those needs to member agencies positioned to respond



Unmet needs are identified and then connected to member agencies who are best positioned to respond

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From Handoff to Action

- **Identify:** Needs emerge as cases move beyond response
- **Clarify:** Define scope, constraints, and required support
- **Connect:** Member agencies engage based on capacity and alignment

**Needs don't stop at handoff —
they continue moving toward resolution**

Why Coordination Matters

- Prevents unmet needs from stalling post-response
- Strengthens coordination across VOAD partners
- Supports complete household recovery outcomes

IFCR Priorities

Build out the Committee

Develop a Resource Guide

Strengthen the Fire Team as an ongoing operational capability

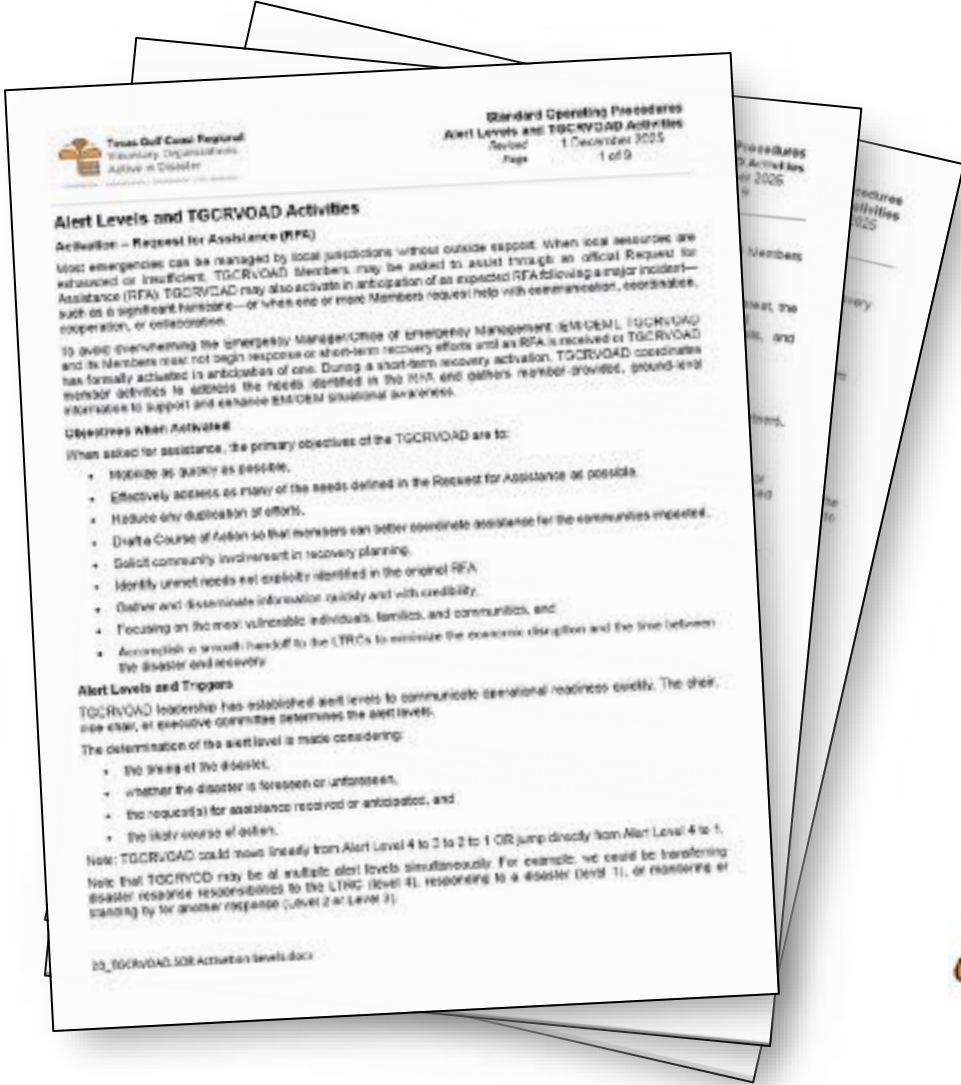
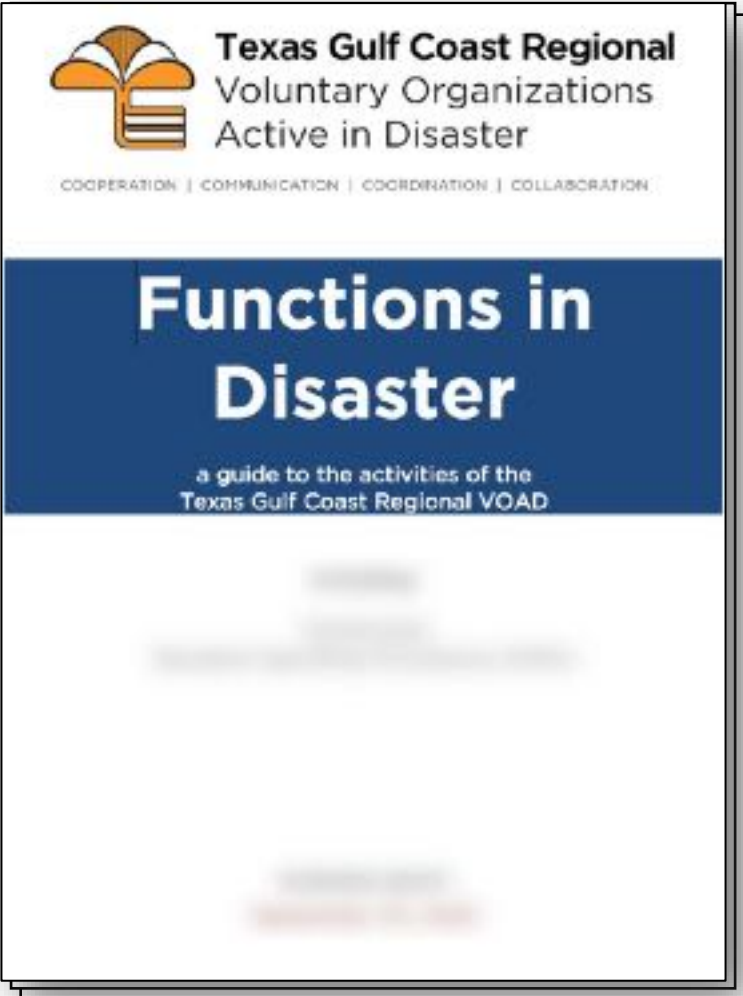
Operational Coordination

Debbie Allensworth

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Functions in Disaster → SOPs



Draft and Publish SOPs

Collaborate with Process Owners to Draft SOPs

Review and Vet SOPs for Clarity and Accuracy

Publish SOPs and Train Teams for Implementation on the TGCRVOAD website.

Gather Feedback, Revise and Repeat

The Ask: 4-8 people and 4-6 hours per month

**Great SOPs turn intent into
consistent, reliable action under pressure**

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Membership

Joe Fuentes

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Building the Network That Delivers

**Driving growth, engagement, and readiness across
TGCRVOAD**

75 member organizations across sectors

Strengthening relationships BEFORE disasters (“blue sky days”)

Focused on engagement, structure, and leadership pathways

Stronger membership = faster, more effective response

Growth & Engagement Strategy

Goal: Add 20 new members (75 to 95)

Priority: Recruit Food Services Organizations

Critical for mass feeding during disasters

Ensures equitable food distribution

Strengthens shelter + response coordination

Engagement Goal: 1 active representative per organization

If we don't build the network now, we feel it during activation!

Get Involved: Membership Committee

Launching recruitment campaigns & engagement strategy

Building camaraderie through socials & gatherings

Conducting surveys to improve member experience

Opportunity to lead, connect, and shape regional response

Direct Ask: Join the committee & recruit 1 new member

This is where real impact begins!

Build the Network Before We Need It

The strength of our relationships defines the strength of our response!

This is our moment to grow, strengthen, and activate our network

Membership is mission-critical

The work we do today determines how we respond tomorrow

JOIN THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Bring one new organization into the network

Stay engaged and connected

Let's build something that shows up when it matters most!

Volunteers

Andi Cook

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*The Texas Gulf Coast Regional VOAD
in collaboration with Just Serve and Volunteer Houston*



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TXGC Volunteers – Internal Processes

Help Members Prepare for Spontaneous Volunteers

Posting on JustServe and Volunteer Houston

Processing Interested Volunteers

Credentialing

Verify Suitability / Right Job

Safety Brief

Onboarding to your Organization

Classroom / Video Training

On-the Job Training and Supervision

Affiliation!

TXGCVolunteers - External Processes

Job Postings

Standard Job Descriptions
Just Serve / Volunteer Houston

Recruiting

Individuals - Volunteer Houston
TXGCVolunteers - Corporate, Civic and Faith-Based

- *Tier I - Amplification*
- *Tier II - Teams*
- *Tier III - Self-guided Teams*

One-on-one Meetings, Group Meetings, Preparedness Fairs

Goals

**Measure our Ability to Accept
Unaffiliated Spontaneous Volunteers**

Fill Every Slot with a Spontaneous Volunteer

Affiliate the Unaffiliated!

Communications

Lesla Skipper

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Communications

News You Can Use

Newsletter format

- *1x per month October - May*
- *2x per month June - September)*
- *Solicit, edit, and write articles*

Social Media Strategy

Grow affiliated volunteer pipelines

Shared amplification for disaster messaging

Strengthen situational awareness for VOAD network

Shared amplification for TGCRVOAD

A Shared Communications Capability

Central Coordination, Decentralized Voice

Members keep identity; VOAD amplifies

Three Core Platforms

Facebook & Instagram, LinkedIn

Two Operating Modes

Blue-Sky: Build trust, recruit volunteers, preparedness, increase awareness

Disaster: Amplify JIC + member needs (no freelancing)

Promote Single Volunteer Pathway

***We don't compete with members!
We make their work more visible and accessible***

What We Need

5-7 members to start:

Platform leads (Facebook and Instagram, LinkedIn)

Commitment:

2-4 hours/month (blue-sky)

Optional surge support during disasters

Who Should Step Forward:

VOAD member staff (comms / volunteers)

Faith-based or nonprofit communicators

Digitally fluent volunteers

*Help us connect willing volunteers
to the organizations already doing the work.*

Activation Processes

Gary Flaharty

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Recovery Rhythm

Before the Event

- Level 4 Normal Operations
 - *Preparedness*
 - *Mitigation*
- Level 3 Situational Awareness
 - *Situational Brief(s)*
- Level 2 Stand By
 - *Situational Briefs*
 - *Pre-Event Collaboration Call*

After the Event

- Level 1 Activation

Level 1 Activation

Course of Action

Collaboration Calls

0900 - 0950

Collaboration Call

1000 - 1050

1500 - 1550

Faith Community Collaboration Call

1600 - 1630

OEM Check in
Jurisdiction Calls
Mass Care Calls
Recovery Calls

Building Blocks

Situational Awareness / Common Operating Picture

+

Shared Course of Action

+

Jurisdiction's Priorities and RFAs

+

Collaboration Aid Arena

+

Well-Motivated Members, Partners and Guests

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Your Critical Contributions

Participation in the Collaboration Calls

Resource Share

Resources

Information

Reporting Discipline

Check In

Check Out

Sit Reps / Activity Reporting

- *Crisis Cleanup, Connective, TCR*
- *Excel Spreadsheets, Photos of Napkins, ...*

Announcements

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Texas Gulf Coast Regional Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

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May 6, 2026

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General Membership Meeting

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