



WEATHER.GOV/CHS

# STORM COURIER



SUMMER 2005

## HURRICANE SEASON TO KEEP FORECASTERS BUSY

It's only a few months into the 2005 hurricane season and it is already one for the record books. When Dennis formed in early July, it was the earliest that four named storms had ever formed in the Atlantic basin. While the East Coast has been relatively quiet so far this year, the northern Gulf Coast has seen the brunt of the tropical activity. Tropical storms Arlene and Cindy, along with Hurricane Dennis, all made landfall along the northern Gulf Coast between New Orleans LA and Apalachicola FL. In addition to all the activity, both Dennis and Emily reached Category 4 status on the Saffir-Simpson Scale.

Since early June, a large area of high pressure over the Atlantic has protected the Georgia and South Carolina coasts from this onslaught of storms. Unfortunately for us it is very unlikely that this high pressure area will protect us all summer. NOAA updated its forecast in early August to include a 95 percent chance that this year's tropical activity will be above normal with 18 to 21 named storms, 9 to 11 of which will become hurricanes.

### Tropical Storm/Hurricane Names for 2005

<i>Arlene</i>	<i>Lee</i>
<i>Bret</i>	<i>Maria</i>
<i>Cindy</i>	<i>Nate</i>
<i>Dennis</i>	<i>Ophelia</i>
<i>Emily</i>	<i>Philippe</i>
<i>Franklin</i>	<i>Rita</i>
<i>Gert</i>	<i>Stan</i>
<i>Harvey</i>	<i>Tammy</i>
<i>Irene</i>	<i>Vince</i>
<i>Jose</i>	<i>Wilma</i>
<i>Katrina</i>	

*"Impacts from hurricanes, tropical storms and their remnants do not stop at the coast."*

retired Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, Director of the National Weather Service

**2005 Atlantic Hurricane Outlook**

<b>Tropical Storms:</b>	<b>18 - 21</b>
<b>Hurricanes:</b>	<b>9 - 11</b>
<b>Major Hurricanes:</b>	<b>5 - 7</b>

2005 Outlook Probability

**ABOVE NORMAL**  
95 - 100%

Remainder of Season  
August - November

<b>Tropical Storms:</b>	<b>11 - 14</b>
<b>Hurricanes:</b>	<b>7 - 9</b>
<b>Major Hurricanes:</b>	<b>3 - 5</b>

## TORNADOES DURING HURRICANE SEASON

Normally when you talk of hurricane season and the dangers of these immense storms, residents prepare for storm surge, flooding rains, and damaging hurricane-force winds. Did you know that significant damage can occur from tornadoes that are formed as the hurricane, or remnants of a tropical system, make landfall and push inland? Tornadoes normally form when there is sufficient wind shear, or the changing of wind speed and direction with height. This wind environment normally develops during the spring and fall when warm southerly winds at the surface are met by westerly winds in the middle layers of the atmosphere. As a tropical system makes landfall, a similar wind field develops to the right of the eye or center of circulation. While most of these tropical tornadoes are small and short lived, they can reach F2 and F3 intensity on the Fujita scale with wind speeds between 113 and 206 mph. Many times these tornadoes are rain-wrapped and occur within the spiral rainbands of the tropical system.

*The list of tropical storm/hurricane names for any given year ends with the "W" storm. This year it is the name Wilma. Question: If a storm forms after "Wilma", what name will it acquire?*

**Answer:**

*see page 4*

### **FACT:**

*On September 7th, 2004, there were 43 tornadoes across South Carolina. This broke the single day record for reported tornadoes in South Carolina. The previous record of 23 tornadoes occurred on August 16th, 1994 with the remnants of Tropical Storm Beryl.*

To the right is a photograph of a tornado taken from the backyard of a resident of Talahi Island near Savannah, Ga. The tornado was spawned by the remnants of Hurricane Frances on Sept. 6, 2004.

Photo courtesy of Porter Harrison.



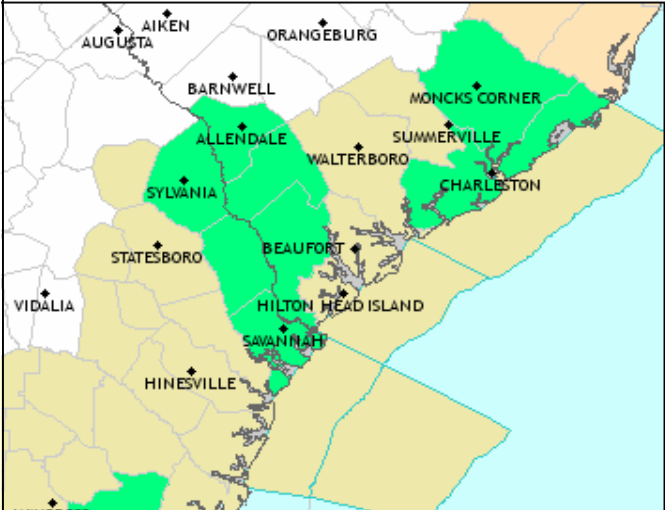
## HURRICANE FRANCES TORNADO OUTBREAK


2004 was a very active year for tornadoes across portions of South Carolina and southeast Georgia. The majority of these reported tornadoes were spawned by tropical systems moving across the Southeast and portions of the southern Appalachians. Across the 20 counties that the Charleston National Weather Service has jurisdiction, tornadoes were spawned from Bonnie, Charley, Frances, Jeanne, and Ivan. By far the most tornadoes occurred the first week of September 2004 when the remnants of Frances moved north through the region. Areas were under a tornado watch for nearly 48 hours, in which the National Weather Service issued 46 tornado warnings with 20 confirmed tornado touchdowns.


## NEW CHANGES TO OUR WEBSITE


If you haven't noticed already, our website address has recently changed. You can now get to the Charleston NWS website much easier. Just click on **weather.gov/chs** to get the latest weather information for portions of southeast Georgia and the low country of South Carolina. One major change you will find is the new "point and click" forecast (see below). Just click on a location on the map and you will get a forecast derived from the NWS's digital database (NDFD). Previously when you "clicked" on your location you would have accessed our local Zone Forecast Product, giving you the forecast for your county. As you know the weather can vary significantly across a specific county. With a resolution of just a few miles, the digital database will provide you with the latest forecast information for your specific area or town within the county.


Click on the map below for the latest forecast.



Read watches, warnings & advisories. 

Flood Statement 

Special Weather Statement 

Hazardous Weather Outlook 

### FACT:

There are 2 WP-3 Orion aircraft that NOAA flies into hurricanes. They belong to NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center (AOC) and are stationed out of MacDill AFB in Florida. The two planes carry the nicknames "Kermit the Frog" and "Miss Piggy."

## HURRICANE AWARENESS TOUR 2005

NOAA's Hurricane Awareness Tour made a stop in Charleston, SC on May 5, 2005. The purpose of the tour was to increase hurricane awareness and encourage preparedness in vulnerable coastal and inland communities. The morning included numerous tours of the WP-3 Orion four-engine turboprop "hurricane hunter" aircraft (see picture to the right) by various school groups. In addition, the NWS Charleston provided each group with a brief presentation on hurricanes and the American Red Cross discussed the importance of their mission, especially after hurricanes. A press conference was held around noon which included Max Mayfield, director of the National Hurricane Center, Dean Gulezian, NWS Eastern Region Director, and Michael Emlaw, NWS Charleston Meteorologist in Charge. The afternoon was open to the public for tours of the plane. The day was a huge success despite the rain! For pictures from the event visit our website at [www.weather.gov/chs/hatpics.shtml](http://www.weather.gov/chs/hatpics.shtml)





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**NOAA AND THE  
NATIONAL WEATHER  
SERVICE...WORKING  
TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES!**



Whenever severe weather strikes, remember, as a trained weather spotter *we want to hear from you!* If you measure or estimate winds of 50 mph or greater, observe trees and/or power lines down, hail (any size), flooding (water running across the road, ditches overflowing, creeks/streams out of their banks), tornadoes, funnel clouds or waterspouts, pick up the phone and call us. In addition, if you see or hear of any injuries, fatalities, or damage from lightning, give us a call. Your valuable reports help us confirm what we're "seeing" on the radar, and could make a life-or-death difference for the people in the next town or in the next county about to be hit by that severe storm that just went over your house. *When in doubt, please call us at 1-800-897-0823!*



Phone contact numbers:

Toll-free 24/7:

**1-800-897-0823**

or

leave a severe weather report  
on our severe weather  
answering machine :  
**1-888-383-2024**

[CHS.SKYWARN@NOAA.GOV](mailto:CHS.SKYWARN@NOAA.GOV)

**Answer:** Once the "W" name has been used, the storm is then given a name in accordance with the Greek Alphabet. In this case, the storm would be called "Alpha."

If you take any interesting pictures of weather phenomena, we would love to see them. You can email your digital pictures to our Skywarn email address at **[chs.skywarn@noaa.gov](mailto:chs.skywarn@noaa.gov)**