

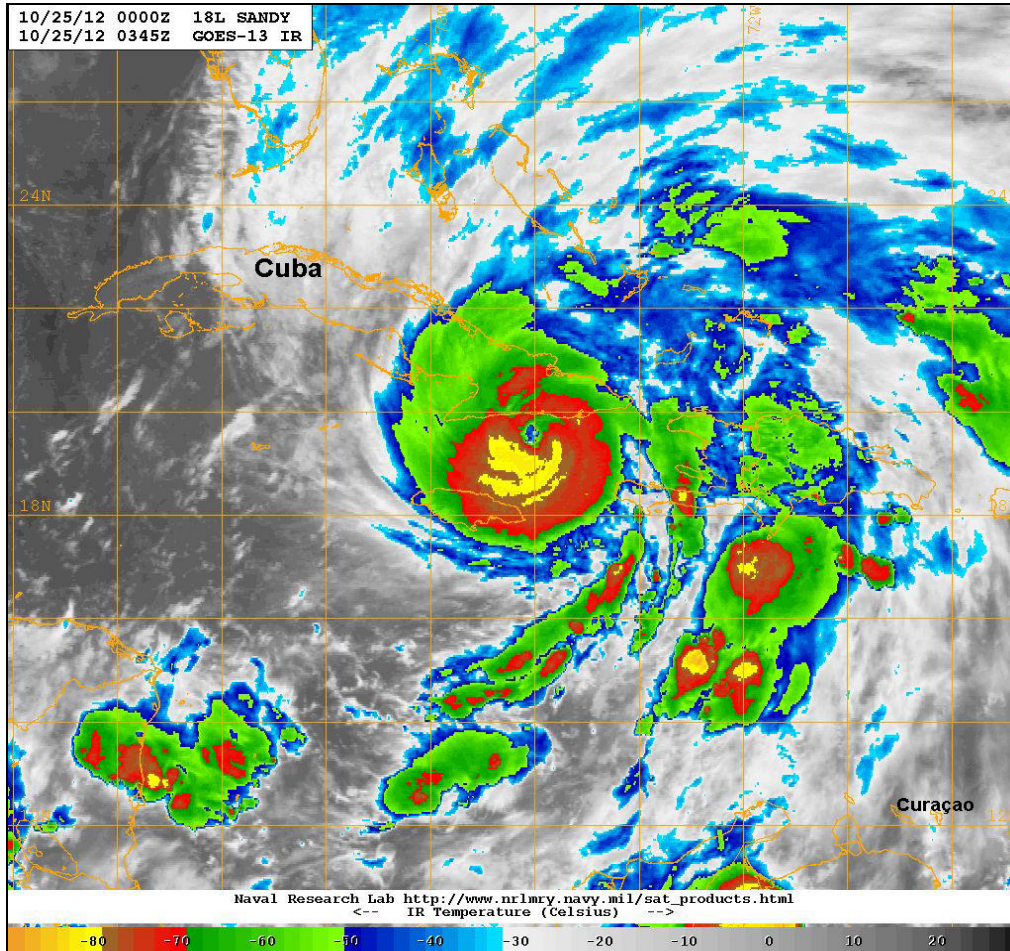


PRESS RELEASE

Hurricane Season 2013: Be prepared!

June 1 (this Saturday) will be the official start of the 2013 hurricane season for the Atlantic Basin (North Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico). Several seasonal forecasts are indicating that this season will be a rather active one (75% above average).

The forecast team of the Colorado State University (CSU), lead by Dr. Phil Klotzbach and Dr. William Gray, is forecasting that the amount of tropical cyclones during the 2013 hurricane season will be above average. According to this forecast, 18 named storms (average is 12 tropical storms) will develop. Nine of these will reach hurricane strength (average is 6.5) and four of these (average is two) will become major hurricanes (category 3 to 5). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the U.S.A. also expects an above average season. Its forecast indicates that a range of 13 to 20 named storms will develop this year. Seven to eleven of these should become a hurricane and three to six of these should become major hurricanes.



Infrared satellite image of Hurricane Sandy while located near eastern Cuba, as it was making landfall on October 24, 2012

Climatological data collected by the CSU team indicates that there have been five seasons since 1900 with comparable atmospheric and oceanic conditions to this year. These years were 1915, 1952, 1966, 1996 and 2004. In 1915 two hurricanes moved through the eastern Caribbean Area during

respectively August and September. The eastern Caribbean, as far as hurricane activity is concerned, was quiet in 1952. In 1966 Hurricane Faith passed just of the SSS Islands on August 26. About a month later (September 27) the center of Hurricane Inez passed a little more than 100 kilometers south of these same islands. On July 8, 1996 the SSS Islands had to deal with Hurricane Bertha and later that same month Tropical Storm Cesar passed very close to the ABC Islands. In both cases little damage was caused by these systems. During the evening of September 8, 2004, the center of Hurricane Ivan passed at a distance of about 130 kilometers north of the ABC Islands. During the early morning of September 10, Aruba experienced very heavy thunderstorms, which lead to flooding. This activity was directly related to Ivan's passage.

The Meteorological Department Curaçao (MDC), as the official source of weather forecasts and warnings, at the start of the hurricane season urges the authorities and the general public in our islands, to prepare for the possible threat of a tropical storm or hurricane.

The forecasts and warnings will be published on our web site, <http://www.meteo.an> and people can follow us on our Facebook page through <http://www.facebook.com/meteo.curacao>.

As is usual, the MDC will monitor closely all disturbances that could become a threat to Curaçao, Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. In case it is necessary, the MDC will issue watches, advisories or warnings, with the associated color codes, for these islands, in order to support for the necessary actions recommended by the authorities.

The greatest hazards caused by tropical cyclones are:

- Violent winds
- Very rough seas and a high surge along the coast and
- Flooding rainfall

The names prepared for this hurricane season are: *Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dorian, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Ingrid, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van and Wendy.*

