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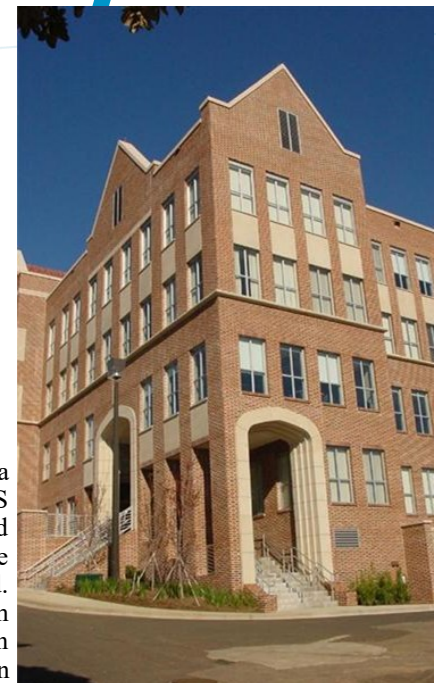
Tallahassee topics

NEWS AND NOTES FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE.

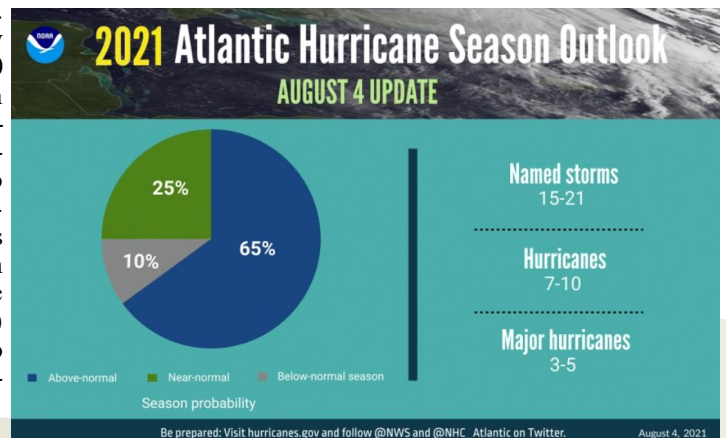
The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Tallahassee, FL provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for Southeast Alabama, Southwest & South Central Georgia, the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico coastal waters. Our primary mission is the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the local economy.

Hurricane Mid-Season Review and Updated Prediction from NOAA By Israel Gonzalez

The Atlantic Hurricane Season got off to another “premature” start, with Subtropical Storm Ana forming in late May. Three tropical storms then formed in June; Claudette and Danny making US landfalls. Claudette most notably killed 14 people in AL (outside of our forecast area) and caused widespread impacts across the southeast US. Elsa was the sole named storm in July, but became the 1st hurricane (twice, briefly) of the season and the earliest forming 5th named storm on record. Elsa made an early-July landfall in the southeast FL Big Bend and produced heavy rain, storm surge, and strong winds in the region. Thereafter, tropical activity went into a lull period through early August, which was mainly attributed to the presence of Saharan Dust in the basin’s Main Development Region. However, oceanic and atmospheric conditions became more favorable for increased tropical development as we entered the peak months of the season. NOAA adjusted their seasonal outlook accordingly on August 4th, <https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/atlantic-hurricane-season-shows-no-signs-of-slowing>: 15-21 named storms and 7-10 hurricanes (3-5 major); a slight increase from the pre-season prediction. This update included the aforementioned named storms. The likelihood of an above-normal season also rose (from 60% to 65%), while the chances for a normal season dropped from 30% to 25%.



About a week later, the Tropics rebounded in a big way. Tropical Storm Fred made landfall in Cape San Blas, FL on August 16th and caused considerable flooding in the Panhandle and southeast AL. Not long after, Hurricane Grace rapidly intensified to major hurricane strength over the Bay of Campeche before striking central Mexico. Meanwhile, Hurricane Henri meandered around Bermuda for a few days prior to striking New England, the region’s first hurricane in 30 years! By the end of August, Hurricane Ida rapidly intensified from the northwest Caribbean all the way to landfall in central LA to high-end category-4 strength; eerily on the 16-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Ida is easily the strongest and most destructive storm to date this season after bringing significant surge, rain, and wind impacts to the Pelican State. Abundant power outages occurred across the region, but Ida’s remnants also wreaked havoc on the northeast in the form of flooding rain and severe weather. Sadly, over 80 people died in the US from Ida. Two more named storms (Kate and Julian) would go on to develop in the open Atlantic but pose no threat to land, followed by a tropical depression (Pre-Larry) by the end of August.



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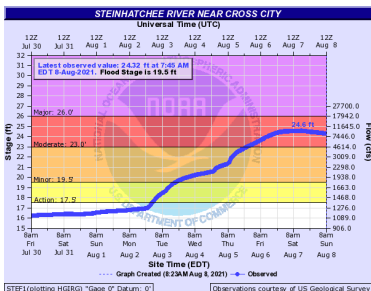
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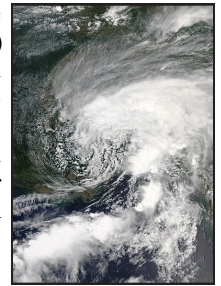


weather.gov/tae



Summer Highlights *By Israel Gonzalez*

June 1st was the beginning of meteorological summer and the official start to the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Tropical Storm Claudette (*right-hand figure*) was the most prominent highlight of the month. Our forecast area was affected by dangerous marine and beach conditions, heavy rain, and severe weather, despite a landfall in LA. Claudette's outer rainbands produced a confirmed EF-1 tornado (100-mph winds) that tracked through rural portions of Early, Clay, and Randolph Counties, GA on the 19th. Fortunately, there were no injuries or deaths. The Claudette event spanned a few days and contributed to widespread rainfall of 3-6" (isolated 6-8") across our forecast area.

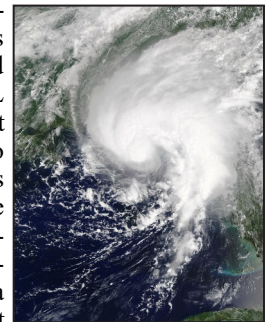


Tropical Storm Elsa (*left-hand figure*), bouts of flash flooding & strong/severe storms, and dangerous heat highlighted July. Elsa made landfall in Taylor/Dixie County, FL as a strong tropical storm on the 7th and caused localized storm surge, minor flooding, and strong winds



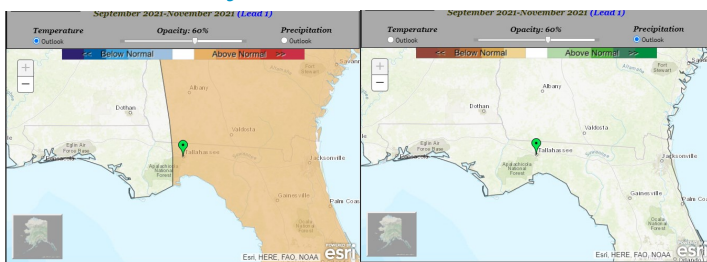
in the southeast Big Bend and south-central GA: https://www.weather.gov/tae/2021_tropicalstorm_elsa. Portions of Apalachee Bay (Steinhatchee/Suwannee basin) saw minor storm surge inundation, while neighboring inland locations received heavy rainfall – widespread 3-5", isolated 6-8". Several observations in the area recorded tropical-storm force winds of 40-41 mph, but the 71-mph reading at Horseshoe Beach, FL was the highest! A few GA locations experienced notable flash flooding from strong summertime storms in the latter part of July – Donalsonville (15th), Moultrie (22nd), and Albany (27th). Minor urban flooding also affected east Tallahassee on the 19th. The most active storm day was on the 29th when several instances of downed trees were reported in portions of southwest GA (mainly Colquitt & Cook County). Late July was very hot and humid, which prompted the first Heat Advisories of the season for portions of the FL Big Bend and Panhandle on the 22nd. Dangerous heat conditions amplified further to end the month when Excessive Heat Watches & Warnings were issued for much of the forecast area from the 29th-31st. Many locations experienced feel-like temperatures in excess of 110° during that timeframe! The highest actual temperature in Tallahassee was 98° on the 31st.

The beginning of August transitioned from hot to wet weather as an anomalous frontal system dropped down from the north and stalled for a few days across portions of the southeast Gulf States. Periods of heavy rain affected the FL Big Bend the most, where isolated locations near Cross City, FL received well over a foot of rain from the 3rd-7th. This prolonged event produced significant flooding in Dixie and Taylor County, which led to many flooded yards of residents, with some unable to leave their homes because of water intrusion. The were also numerous road closures, and the evacuation of the Dixie Correctional Institute. Lastly, the Steinhatchee River reached its 2nd highest observed water level (24.6 ft; hydrograph pictured left) since records began in 1950; trailing only the Hurricane Dora event in September 1964! Tropical Storm Fred (*right-hand figure*) brought flood impacts to the FL Panhandle and southeast AL mid-month when it made landfall near Cape San Blas on the 16th. Those locations experienced widespread 3-6" of rain (isolated higher). Youngstown, FL (Bay County) measured the highest accumulation of 6.94" during the event. Some minor coastal flooding also occurred, with the highest water level of 3.37 ft measured at Apalachicola. Many locations also experienced sustained winds close to or above tropical storm force. A few coastal spots measured peak gusts near hurricane strength—St George Island was the highest recording (73 mph), while the Tallahassee Airport maxed out at 46 mph. Numerous power outages and downed trees occurred. The latter injured one person in Bay County. There were also reports of damage to some structures. August concluded on an active note when trailing rain bands from the remnants of Hurricane Ida produced pockets of heavy rainfall and 3 confirmed EF-0 tornadoes in Dale, Houston, and Geneva Counties, AL on the 31st.



Tallahassee Climate "Summer-": From June through August, Tallahassee experienced near-normal temperatures and below-normal rainfall. The average max and min temperatures this summer were 91° and 72.7°, respectively. Out of a possible 92 days, 60 recorded daily max temperatures ≥90°, with the highest overall reading of 98° on July 31st. The Capital city saw a significant deficit in rainfall this summer when only 16.03" of rain fell (-6.47 anomaly). July was the driest month, producing a meager 4.53" of rain . This precipitation data is the antithesis for neighboring locations in the FL Panhandle and southeast Big Bend, as those areas were affected by many instances of heavy rain and flooding. The Tallahassee Monthly Climate Summary page link is found here: <https://forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=TAE&product=CLM&issuedby=TLH>.

Fall Outlook by Israel Gonzalez



IS THERE A TOPIC YOU'D LIKE US TO COVER? SEND US AN E-MAIL:
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The Climate Prediction Center calls for equal chances for above/below/normal temperatures and precipitation from September through November. Meteorological Fall began on September 1st, while the Autumnal Equinox start date is September 22nd. The average autumn temperatures and rainfall accumulations in Tallahassee are 69.9° and 11.25”, respectively. October and November are climatologically our driest months of the year, accounting for only 6.34” of rainfall combined! The Atlantic Hurricane Season is due to officially end on November 30th. Visit our local climate page for more details: <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=tae>.

Staffing Update

Our operational staff is rounding into shape thanks to Lead Forecaster, Karleisa Rogacheski (pictured left) and General Forecaster, Cameron Young (pictured middle) making their office debuts in the late summer. The Meteorologist-In-Charge position was also recently filled by Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Felecia Bowser (pictured right) of NWS Jackson. Her official start date is September 26th. We look forward to her arrival as she brings many years of NWS experience and leadership. Science and Operations Officer, Parks Camp will continue as the Acting MIC until then.



The final staffing update is the retirement of Tim Barry (left-hand picture), long-time NWS Forecaster, on September 11th. Tim started his NWS career at Augusta, GA in 1989. Over the next 32+ years, he spent time in Augusta (until 1996) and Jacksonville (1996-1999) before coming to Tallahassee in 1999, the office's inaugural year as a fully functioning forecast office when it was still stationed at the airport. Tim has led the Fire Weather and Climate programs in Tallahassee. As Fire Weather program leader, he was dedicated to training our state and federal partners across the region. Tim worked diligently with surrounding forecast offices, along with state and federal partners, to update Red Flag Warning criteria across our three-state area to truly impactful thresholds. He was also a fixture of the Operational Meteorology course for FSU, passing along his knowledge of Fire Weather and the Climate Program to multiple generations of students. His voice has even been a staple in our phone recordings for quite some time, leading callers with “Hello, you have reached the National Weather Service in Tallahassee, FL...” Lastly, our Newsletters Articles were always better because of his contributions, particularly in climatology. Tim's presence in the office will be greatly missed, from his unquestioned reliability, to his “Barry punny” sense of humor. The NWS and WFO Tallahassee owe a debt of gratitude to Tim for his service. While we will certainly miss Tim, we wish him great happiness as he enters his next phase. Thank you, Tim!

Employee Spotlight—Marty Rieman (right-hand picture): The 1st of 2 recently added Electronic Technicians is featured. Get to know him better in the Q&A below:

How did you get to become an ET?

I joined the US Navy at 19 and became a submarine electronics technician. I stayed for 5 years and then began working for a company that was a subcontractor for the US Marines as a communications equipment electronics technician for 19 years. I then decided to go to the federal government side and worked at a VA hospital for 2 years as an electronics technician and I have worked the last 2.5 as one at the NWS.

What are your favorite parts of the job?

I have always loved electronics. I enjoy working on complex problems in the equipment and digging in tech manuals and schematics. My father also worked on electronics as a US Navy radioman and a TV repairman so I guess it is just in my blood.

Outside of work, what are your hobbies and interests?

I love sports. Now that I'm getting older I watch them more than I play them. I love football, basketball, soccer and golf. I won't mention my favorite college football team, but my favorite pro team is the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Continued on





Summer Outreach Efforts

By Mark Wool

Management-Admin Team

Felecia Bowser, MIC
Mark Wool, WCM
Parks Camp, SOO/AMIC
Doug Sherrick, ESA
Jennifer Nichols, ASA
Vacant, ITO
Kelly Godsey, Hydrologist
Ricardo Humphreys, OPL

Lead Forecasters

Don Van Dyke
Jessica Fieus
Blair Scholl
Andy Haner
Karleisa Rogacheski

Forecasters

Lance Franck
Wright Dobbs
Eric Bunker
Israel Gonzalez
Kristian Oliver
Jasmine Montgomery
Molly Merrifield
Cameron Young
Vacant

Electronic Technicians

Aaron Basti
Marty Rieman

Summer is typically a slower time for outreach and COVID provides additional limitations. However, we did manage a few interactions over the past few months. In June, WCM Mark Wool gave a hurricane season briefing to the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition on the 1st and the Apalachee Local Emergency Planning Committee on the 16th. Mark also discussed weather preparedness for universities with FAMU officials on the 24th. That same day, Mark spoke on weather survival science with 7-9th graders from across Florida. The discussion was facilitated by [stemCONNECT](#), a program of The Florida High Tech Corridor. The Corridor is a joint economic initiative between UF, UCF, and USF that connects classrooms across Florida to experts in industry and academia. Sessions reinforce classroom topics and showcase relevant careers helping build a future workforce. They serve school districts across Florida at no-cost thanks to state funding and volunteer speakers. Also in June, forecaster Lance Franck met with the South Gulf Fire Dept. to discuss rip current forecasting.

In July, several forecasters gave media interviews on Tropical Storm Elsa. Late in the month, Mark was interviewed about enhancements to NWS severe thunderstorm warnings and how the most severe of these will now trigger [Weather Emergency Alert \(WEA\)](#) cell phone alerts. On the 29th, AWCM Blair Scholl virtually attended a quarterly meeting of GEMA Area 2 emergency managers.

In August, staff were interviewed about Tropical Storm Fred and ongoing flooding concerns across parts of the Florida Panhandle, exacerbated by debris remaining from 2018's Hurricane Michael. On the 7th, Mark conducted virtual Basic SKYWARN Spotter Training for a Wakulla County teen CERT/Leadership group. On the 19th, Lance virtually attended a quarterly meeting of FDEM Region 1 emergency managers.



WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS CAPABLE



Employee Spotlight—Marty Rieman (continued from Page 3):

How do your duties with the Tallahassee Forecast Office compare with Key West?

Tallahassee has a lot more work to do. We have 20 different sites. Key West had 6. There also is a lot more traveling here in different directions. We go north, south, east, and west, and all locations in between. In Key West there is 1 main road and the locations are all somewhere off of that road. I am happy with all the BBQ and southern food restaurants here!