

THE 2005 HISTORIC ATLANTIC, CARIBBEAN AND GULF OF MEXICO HURRICANE SEASON

The 2005 Hurricane Season for our Region was a super-active one; a multiple recorder breaker with 29 tropical depressions, 26 named storms, 14 hurricanes, 7 major hurricanes, 3 of which were category 5.

The two main records broken since records were kept from 1851 were the 21 named storms of 1933 and the 12 hurricanes of 1969.

The 1933 record was equaled on 17 October when **Wilma** became the 21st storm and broken on 23 October when **Alpha** became the 22nd storm of the season.

The 1969 record was equaled on 18 October when **Wilma** became the 12th hurricane of the season and broken on 29 October when **Beta** became hurricane the 13th. Other notable records were:

- (i) On 11 July, **Emily** became the 5th named storm of the season and that is the earliest date on record for 5 named storms to develop.
- (ii) On 16 July, **Emily** became the strongest hurricane to ever form so early in the season, beating the record set by **Hurricane Dennis** just 9 days earlier on 7 July. At that time the minimum central pressure was 929 mh and maximum sustained winds were 155 mph.

- (iii) On 19 October, Wilma, a Category 5 hurricane, had maximum sustained winds of 172 mph and a minimum central pressure of 882 mh, the lowest central pressure ever recorded in the Atlantic basin for a hurricane since records were kept in 1851.

Another notable thing about this historic hurricane season was the rapidity in development of lots of systems e.g.

Tropical depressions Nos: 2, 6, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21, 26, 28 and 29 all grew into Tropical storms the day they were formed and tropical storm **Vince** became a hurricane the same day it became a storm from subtropical depression No. 22. A few systems became a Tropical Depression today, a storm tomorrow and a hurricane the day after.

Then a bit of coincidence:

T.D. No. 17 formed on the 17th of July

T.D. No. 26 formed on the 26th of October; and

T.D. No. 29 formed on the 29th of November.

Very strange indeed.

The season also started early and ended late. The first storm was found on 9 June and the last on 29 November. Note also that the last hurricane formed on 2 December.

The monthly breakdown is as follows:

MONTH	TROPICAL DEPRESSION	TROPICAL STORM	HURRICANE
JUNE	2	2	0
JULY	5	5	2
AUGUST	6	5	2
SEPTEMBER	6	5	5
OCTOBER	7	6	4
NOVEMBER	3	3	0
DECEMBER	0	0	1
TOTAL	29	26	14

So October was most active in terms of Tropical Depressions and Tropical Storms while September was most active in terms of Hurricanes.

Around the middle of the season, hurricane forecasters in the United States of America, United Kingdom and Cuba had updated their forecast to number of storms being in the early twenties but none foresaw the mid-twenties.

A memorable season indeed.

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