# NOAA Predicts Record-Breaking Hurricane Season for 2024



The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season is anticipated to be one of the busiest on record, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The agency predicts between 17 to 25 named storms, with 8 to 13 expected to develop into hurricanes, and 4 to 7 possibly becoming major hurricanes. This forecast indicates an 85% chance of above-average storm activity.

The increased activity is attributed to a combination of unprecedented ocean heat and the expected emergence of La Niña, which typically enhances hurricane formation in the Atlantic. NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad remarked that this year's forecast is the busiest ever for a May outlook, emphasizing the significant potential for storm activity.

Meteorologists point to continuous record-high ocean temperatures, which have persisted for the past 13 months, as a crucial factor. Additional contributing elements include the lingering aftermath of the 2022 South Pacific undersea volcano eruption, which released massive amounts of water vapor, and a reduction in sulfur emissions from shipping fuels, leading to warmer atmospheric conditions.

Experts highlight the importance of water in hurricane impact, noting that 90% of hurricane-related fatalities occur in water. Ken Graham, Director of the National Weather Service, stressed that while there is reason for concern, there should not be alarm.

The season officially begins on June 1 and ends on November 30, with peak activity usually occurring between mid-August and mid-October. Both NOAA and independent meteorologists emphasize the critical influence of warm ocean waters in fueling hurricanes, potentially making this season one of the most severe in recent years.