

IMGA gas NEWS

Interstate Municipal Gas Agency

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NOAA Updates 2019 Hurricane Forecast

August 8, 2019 NOAA forecasters monitoring oceanic and atmospheric patterns say conditions are now more favorable for above-normal hurricane activity since El Nino has now ended. Two named storms have formed so far this year and the peak months of the hurricane season, August through October, are now underway.

“NOAA will continue to deliver the information that the public depends on before, during and after any storms throughout the hurricane season,” said Neil Jacobs, Ph.D., acting NOAA administrator. “Armed with our next-generation satellites, sophisticated weather models, hurricane hunter aircraft, and the expertise of our forecasters, we are prepared to keep communities informed to help save lives and livelihoods.”

Seasonal forecasters with NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center have increased the likelihood of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season to 45% (up from 30% from the outlook issued in May). The likelihood of near-normal activity is now at 35%, and the chance of below-normal activity has dropped to 20%.

The number of predicted storms is also greater with NOAA now expecting 10-17 named storms (winds of 39 mph or greater), of which 5-9 will become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or greater), including 2-4 major hurricanes (winds of 111 mph or greater). This updated outlook is for the entire six-month hurricane season, which ends Nov. 30.

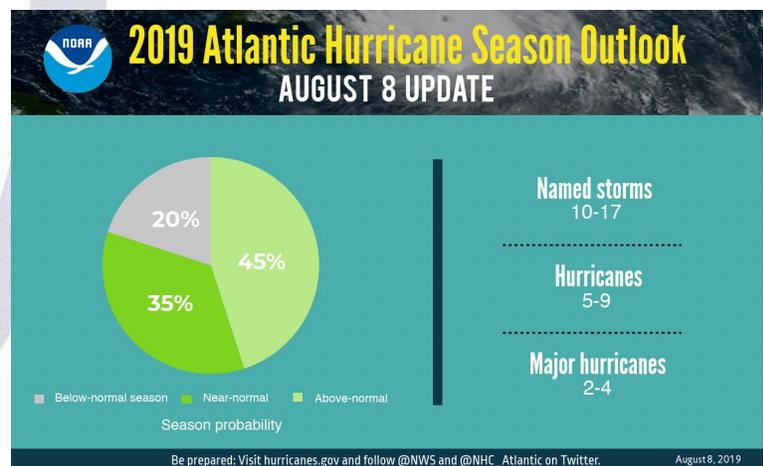
NOAA is also announcing today that the current El Nino in the Pacific Ocean has ended and neutral conditions have

returned. “El Nino typically suppresses Atlantic hurricane activity but now that it’s gone, we could see a busier season ahead,” said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at NOAA’s climate Prediction Center.

“This evolution, combined with the more conducive conditions associated with the ongoing high-activity era for Atlantic hurricanes that began in 1995, increases the likelihood of above-normal activity this year.”

On average, the Atlantic hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which six become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes. NOAA’s hurricane season outlook is for overall seasonal activity and is not a landfall forecast. Landfalls are largely determined by short-term weather patterns, which are only predictable within about a week of a storm potentially reaching a coastline.

“Today’s updated outlook is a reminder to be prepared,” said Pete Gaynor, acting FEMA administrator. “We urge everyone to learn more about hurricane hazards and prepare now, ahead of time, so that if state and local authorities announce evacuations in advance of a storm, you and your family will have planned where to go and what to do to stay safe.”



IMGA Member Communities

Aledo, Illinois
Auburn, Illinois
Bethany, Illinois
Chester, Illinois
Cobden, Illinois
Corning, Iowa
Creal Springs, Illinois
Divernon, Illinois
Enfield, Illinois
Findlay, Illinois
Franklin, Illinois
Fulton, Missouri
Grayville, Illinois
Karnak, Illinois
Lamoni, Iowa
Louisville, Illinois
Milford, Illinois
New Boston, Illinois
Perryville, Missouri
Pinckneyville, Illinois
Pittsfield, Illinois
Plattsburg, Missouri
Pleasant Hill, Illinois
Riverton, Illinois
Rossville, Illinois
Tamms, Illinois
Thebes, Illinois
Vienna, Illinois
Waverly, Illinois
Westville, Illinois
White Hall, Illinois
Winchester, Illinois

IMGA Eligible Utility

DD Farms, Inc.
Graceland University
Illinois State University
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
Western Illinois University

OQ Certification Sessions to Resume

IMGA is pleased to announce that the OQ certification program will be starting up again in December. This training season, courses will be offered on Meter Sets/Pressure Testing, Pipeline Installation, and Pipeline Repair.

All courses will be offered in two locations, one in Franklin, Illinois, and one in Pinckneyville, Illinois. Thus, making a day trip convenient for all. All sessions will continue to have a classroom component as well as hands on experience. More information to be sent out in the future.

Winter Operations Packets Coming Soon

IMGA is providing Winter Operations Packets to all of our purchasing members. Packets will be mailed in the middle of October and will include a winter weather forecast, NYMEX settlement price graph, your community's annual usage graph, your percentage of fixed winter volumes graph, and your winter risk management price graph.

We hope you will find this information useful when you are planning for future winters.

2019 Public Natural Gas Week

Public Natural Gas Week (PNGW) is a nationwide observance that offers the perfect opportunity for you to showcase your public natural gas system and generate enthusiasm about the benefits of public natural gas. This year, PNGW will be celebrated October 6-12, 2019.

We hope that all APGA member utilities join in this nationwide observance to honor the work and importance of locally-owned public natural gas systems. The American Public Gas Association may help you plan and promote your system's PNGW celebrations.

Many APGA members do a wonderful job preparing full-fledged promotional events and campaigns each year, however for those of you who could use some additional ideas, you are encouraged to download sample materials from APGA's website that include a stock press release, op-ed, design templates and suggestions for events to celebrate the week in your community. We hope you find these materials helpful and that together we make 2019 Public Natural Gas Week one of the best yet!

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