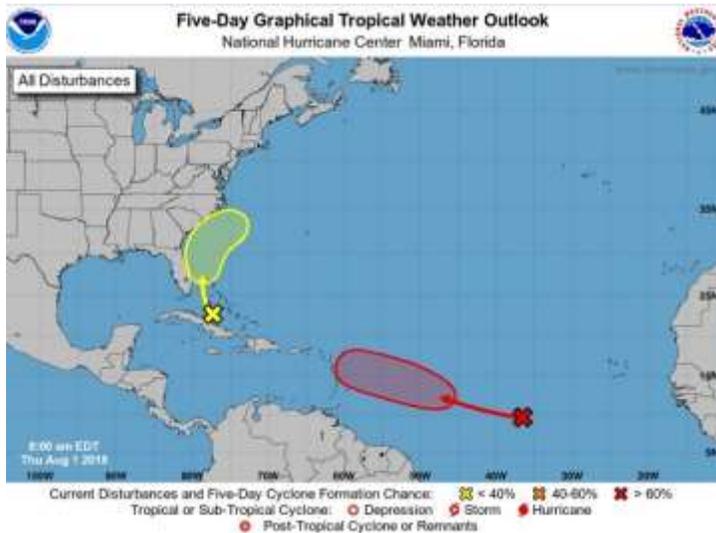


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Cyclone formation odds increase to 60 percent in 5 days;

Be prepared – plan



This map by the National Hurricane Center in Miami reflects the forecast as of 8 a.m. Thursday (Aug. 1). It serves as a reminder that tropical storms, including deadly hurricanes, form at this time of year. Every Emergency Management Department in Florida wants residents and visitors to be prepared by having supplies for a disaster and to have an evacuation plan.

Graphic By NWS

By Jeff M. Hardison © Aug. 1, 2019 at 10:19 a.m.

MIAMI – The Tropical Weather Outlook by the National Weather Service's (NWS) National Hurricane Center in Miami, shows that as of 8 a.m. on Thursday (Aug. 1), there is no immediate danger of tropical storms for Florida.

However, this color map shows one of the two "X"s on the radar has been colored red -- meaning that in the next five days, there is greater than a 60 percent chance of cyclone formation there.

In regard to the North Atlantic, the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, the NWS shows those areas have two "X"s on the map.

The Tropical Weather Outlook, according to the NWS National Hurricane Center in Miami, as of 8 a.m. (Eastern) today (Thursday, Aug. 1) shows that for the North Atlantic, Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico:

1. An area of disturbed weather located near the northwestern Bahamas is forecast to move northward, producing locally heavy rainfall over portions of Cuba, the Bahamas, and Florida during the next day or two. Conditions could briefly become marginally conducive for development over the weekend before the system merges with a front and accelerates northeastward off the southeastern United States coast on Sunday (Aug. 4).

* Formation chance through 48 hours...low...near 0 percent.

* Formation chance through 5 days...low...10 percent.

2. A broad low pressure system located about 1000 miles west-southwest of the Cabo Verde Islands continues to produce a large area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms. Only gradual development of this system is expected for the next day or so while it moves west-northwestward at 10 to 15 mph. Environmental conditions could become more supportive by Saturday and a tropical depression is likely to form over the weekend, several hundred miles east of the Lesser Antilles.

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* Formation chance through 48 hours...low...20 percent.

* Formation chance through 5 days...high...70 percent, The NWS forecasters noted at 8 a.m. on Aug. 1.

The Levy County Emergency Management Department, just as every emergency management department in Florida, reminds residents and visitors to be prepared for a disaster.

First, assure that a disaster response kit is stocked. This includes water, food, first aid supplies, prescriptions, battery-powered lights, batteries, a weather radio, tarps, garbage bags and other essentials.

Also, have an evacuation plan ready. Evacuate immediately when told to do so.

Please remember to plan for pet care as well.

Here are some helpful links to prepare:

Emergency Notification System Sign Up For Levy County

www.AlertLevy.com

Don't want to sign up online?

Contact Levy County Emergency Management

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays to sign up over the phone. No computer required.

352-486-5213

Special Needs Sheltering Registry For Levy County

www.LevySpecialNeeds.com

Levy County Emergency Management Website

www.LevyDisaster.com

Dixie County Emergency Services, Emergency Management Division Website

http://www.dixieemergency.com/Emergency_Management.cfm

Gilchrist County Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management Website

<https://gilchrist.fl.us/gilchrist-county-fire-rescue-emergency-information/>

Find your Evacuation Zone

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/KnowYourZone/>

Florida Division of Emergency Management

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/>