

The Naming of Pacific Hurricanes

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE — NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

History of Hurricane Names

For several hundred years, many hurricanes in the West Indies were named after the particular saint's day on which the hurricane occurred. Ivan R. Tannehill describes in his book "Hurricanes" the major tropical storms of recorded history and mentions many hurricanes named after saints. For example, there was "Hurricane Santa Ana" which struck Puerto Rico with exceptional violence on July 26, 1825, and "San Felipe" (the first) and "San Felipe" (the second) which hit Puerto Rico on September 13 in both 1876 and 1928.

Tannehill also tells of Clement Wragge, an Australian meteorologist, who began giving women's names to tropical storms before the end of the 19th century.

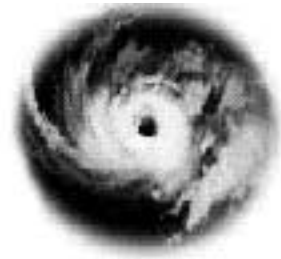
An early example of the use of a woman's name for a storm was in the novel "Storm" by George R. Stewart, published by Random House in 1941, and since filmed by Walt Disney. During World War II, this practice became widespread in weather map discussions among forecasters, especially Air Force and Navy meteorologists who plotted the movements of storms over the wide expanses of the Pacific Ocean.

In 1953, the United States abandoned as confusing a two-year old plan to name storms by a phonetic alphabet (Able, Baker, Charlie) when a new, international phonetic alphabet was introduced. That year, this Nation's weather services began using female names for storms. The practice of naming hurricanes solely after women came to an end in 1978 when men's and women's names were included in the Eastern North Pacific storm lists. In 1979, male and female names were included in lists for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.



Eastern North Pacific Names

Given names are also used to identify typhoons and hurricanes in the Pacific Ocean. A set of six alphabetical lists is used in the eastern North Pacific Ocean. As in the Atlantic, the sets are used again when the six-year lists are completed. The 2006 list will be used again in 2012. In addition, names are retired, after land-falling storms having major economic impact.



The Six Year List of Names for Eastern Pacific Storms

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Alma	Andres	Agatha	Adrian	Aletta	Alvin
Boris	Blanca	Blas	Beatriz	Bud	Barbara
Cristina	Carlos	Celia	Calvin	Carlotta	Cosme
Douglas	Dolores	Darby	Dora	Daniel	Dalila
Elida	Enrique	Estelle	Eugene	Emilia	Erick
Fausto	Felicia	Frank	Fernanda	Fabio	Flossie
Genevieve	Guillermo	Georgette	Greg	Gilma	Gil
Hernan	Hilda	Howard	Hilary	Hector	Henriette
Iselle	Ignacio	Isis	Irwin	Ileana	Ivo
Julio	Jimena	Javier	Jova	John	Juliette
Karina	Kevin	Kay	Kenneth	Kristy	Kiko
Lowell	Linda	Lester	Lidia	Lane	Lorena
Marie	Marty	Madeline	Max	Miriam	Manuel
Norbert	Nora	Newton	Norma	Norman	Narda
Odile	Olaf	Orlene	Otis	Olivia	Octave
Polo	Patricia	Paine	Pilar	Paul	Priscilla
Rachel	Rick	Roslyn	Ramon	Rosa	Raymond
Simon	Sandra	Seymour	Selma	Sergio	Sonia
Trudy	Terry	Tina	Todd	Tara	Tico
Vance	Vivian	Virgil	Veronica	Vicente	Velma
Winnie	Waldo	Winifred	Wiley	Willa	Wallis
Xavier	Xina	Xavier	Xina	Xavier	Xina
Yolanda	York	Yolanda	York	Yolanda	York
Zeke	Zelda	Zeke	Zelda	Zeke	Zelda

Central Pacific Tropical Cyclone Names

Use Column 1 list of names until exhausted then use Column 2, etc. All letters in the Hawaiian language are pronounced, including double or triple vowels.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Akoni	Aka	Alika	Ana
Ema	Ekeka	Ele	Ela
Hana	Hali	Huko	Halola
Io	Iolana	Ioke	Iune
Keli	Keoni	Kika	Kimo
Lala	Li	Lana	Loke
Moke	Mele	Maka	Malia
Nele	Nona	Neki	Niala
Oka	Oliwa	Oleka	Oko
Peke	Paka	Peni	Pali
Uleki	Upana	Ulia	Ulika
Wila	Wene	Wali	Walaka