



U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER

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## Hurricane preparedness season begins

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After an especially brutal and hazardous winter, it is little wonder military Families nationwide are looking forward to the warm summer months.

However, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, this is precisely the time individuals should prepare for the 2015 hurricane season, which begins June 1.

The National Weather Service National Hurricane Center has yet to release this year's storm predictions, but a leading hurricane cycle prediction company, Global Weather Oscillations, Inc., predicts, "The 2015 Atlantic Basin hurricane season will be the most active and dangerous in at least three years, and the next three seasons will be the most dangerous in 10 years."

In an article released by the company in January, David Dilley, GWO chief executive officer, said that while the past two seasons were dominated by hostile upper atmospheric winds that suppressed tropical activity, these next few years will enter a natural "climate pulse enhancement cycle" that favors more active and intense hurricane seasons.

"GWO predicts the 2015 hurricane season to be a little above average and more dangerous, with 14 named storms, eight hurricanes and three major hurricanes," Dilley said. "In addition, the GWO predicts three hurricane hot spots along the U.S. coastline with at least one major hurricane likely."

Regardless of whether a hurricane threatens landfall, NOAA officials said Families should prepare for the worst-case scenario now rather than later. This is especially important for those individuals living on or near the coast, who should review emergency plans and build "bug-out" bags in the event Mother Nature targets their homes. The strong winds, heavy rain and flooding that accompany hurricanes can cause serious damage to property and endanger lives.

The following planning tips can help ensure everyone's safety during a storm:

- Be aware of emergency alert signals issued by authorities.
- Learn evacuation routes and emergency procedures of places you or your Family may frequent, such as schools or offices.
- Identify the most secure places in your home, such as a room with few windows, hallway or basement.
- Identify neighborhood evacuation and emergency shelters.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit.

- Ensure all blinds and windows are closed and secure (shutters that cover windows will provide added protection).
- Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.weather.gov/safety.php](http://www.weather.gov/safety.php) for complete lists of emergency supplies and other additional considerations during storm season.

For more information on seasonal safety, visit <https://safety.army.mil>.