



‘THESE STORMS ARE COMING’

Devastation from **Hurricane Dorian**
a dire warning for Central Floridians
to be ready for next threat.

People recover items from a beached boat in Marsh Harbour on Sept. 5, 2019 after Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas as a Category 5 storm.

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP-GETTY

**TRACK
STORMS**

**LIVE
UPDATES**

GET ALERTS

STAYING CONNECTED IS ESSENTIAL

DOWNLOAD NOW
THE FOX 35 WEATHER APP

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

DEPEND ON

FOX 35
WEATHER

PREPARATION

Food, supplies to stock up on before storm

Staff report

As hurricane season draws near, it's time to check and double check your food and water supplies.

It's best to keep the following in mind:

Hurricane food

■ 1 gallon water per person per day (don't forget pets). Don't forget — Your tap water is still safe to drink, it's only dicey after a power outage. Fill clean pitchers and water bottles now. Also, you can fill freezer bags with water and freeze them ahead of time. Just let them thaw in a water pitcher for clean drinking water.

■ 3-7 days worth of food for each person (again — don't forget pets. Cat parents — grab extra kitty litter).

Hurricane food safety

■ **4 hours:** The amount of time a refrigerator will keep food cold.

■ **24 hours:** The amount of time a half-full freezer will hold its temperature.

■ **48 hours:** The amount of time a full freezer will hold its temperature.

■ **40 degrees and below:** The temperature a freezer item should still be at to be refrozen. If it still has ice crystals, it's also safe.

■ Don't taste a food to determine if it's gone bad. If you're unsure of it, throw it out.

■ Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.

■ Check out the USDA website for more tips at fsis.usda.gov/

Food items to store

■ **Tough-skinned fruits and**

vegetables: Citrus, carrots, apples, avocados, etc. Wash and dry them in advance of the storm.

■ **Protein rich foods:** Peanut butter, protein bars, unsalted nuts, trail mix, beans, etc.

■ Smoked or dried meats and hard cheeses. (Nonperishable)

■ **Instant drinks:** Shelf-stable milk, instant coffee and tea.

■ **Comfort foods:** Cookies, hard candy, chips, nuts, crackers, etc.

■ **Canned items:** Meats, fruits (in juice), vegetables, soups, stews and chilis.

■ **Condiments:** You're going to need them to spice up those canned vegetables. Snag some hot sauces, mustard, oil and vinegar.

Gather and clean cooking tools

A manual can opener, appli-

ance thermometer, pans or sheets that can be used on a grill, oven mitts, matches, cooking tools, grill fuel, moist towelettes, paper towels, gel fuel such as Sterno, a grill light or flashlight designated for cooking, pet food, paper plates and plastic utensils.

Post-storm grilling tips

■ Never use a grill inside a house.

■ Make sure your grill is a few feet from your home and far away from awning overhangs, plants, etc. Never leave your grill unattended — especially around small children or pets.

■ Use only approved accelerant fuels for charcoal fires — NOT gasoline.

■ Charcoal briquettes need about 48 hours to cool before they're thrown out. Soak the charcoal in water before tossing.

INSIDE

Cover story

Lessons from Hurricane Dorian now contend with coronavirus in 2020 and serve as a reminder to stay alert and prepared of storm threats. **Pages 8-9**

The experts

Richards: 2020 season expected to be active. **Page 6**

King: Higher sea temperatures could bring stronger Atlantic storms. **Page 4**

Giannas: Models for Dorian had errors. **Page 12**

Preparation

■ Know what you can, cannot bring to an evacuation shelter. **Page 7**

■ What to keep in a first-aid kit. **Page 7**

■ Hurricane tracking map for 2020 season. **Page 14**

■ Learn how to keep kids busy during a storm. **Page 15**

ONE MISSION – KEEPING YOU SAFE

FOX 35 WEATHER

LIVE RADAR
HURRICANE WARNING

FLORIDA

Melbourne

Port Saint Lucie

Sewalls Point

Miami

AMS CERTIFIED Chief Meteorologist **GLENN RICHARDS**

FOX 35 WEATHER APP

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

FOX 35 WEATHER

FOX 35 WEATHER

FOX 35 WEATHER

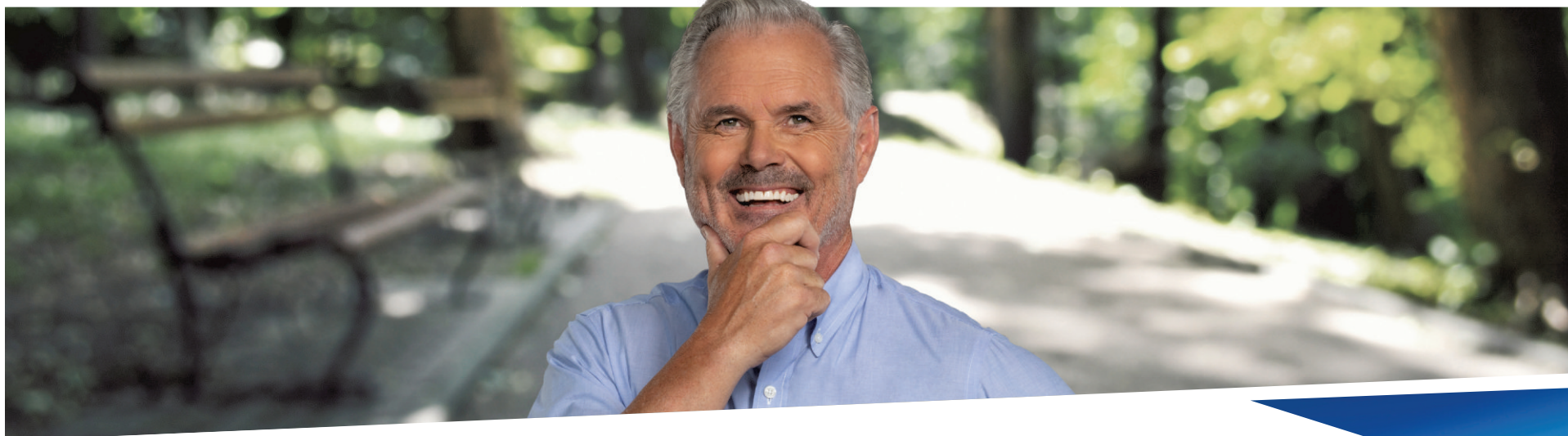
ORLANDO.COM

DEPEND ON FOX 35 WEATHER

WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

ATTENTION MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES

WANT TO SWITCH TO A MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN THAT OFFERS \$0 COPAY FOR DENTAL COVERAGE?



IT MAY STILL BE POSSIBLE. FIND OUT HOW!

You may still be eligible to enroll in Simply Healthcare if you meet any of the following criteria.

- Just moved into the area
- Turning or recently turned 65
- Have chronic health problems such as diabetes or cardiac conditions
- Losing your retiree health coverage
- Get extra help with prescription drugs
- Have Medicaid coverage

Simply Healthcare offers a variety of plans with benefits you can trust, including:

\$0 copay for prescription drugs Tiers 1 & 2

\$0 or low copay for primary and specialist office visits

\$0 copay for dental including dentures, root canals, and NOW IMPLANTS and CROWNS!

Up to \$80 a year, through the Simply Member Rewards program!

Up to \$70 monthly for over-the-counter (OTC) items, that's \$840 a year!

\$0 copay for acupuncture



Call us now to find out if you are still eligible!

1.800.224.5706 / TTY: 711 • mysimplymedicare.com

Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties. Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc. is a Medicare-contracted coordinated care plan that has a Medicaid contract with the State of Florida Agency for Health Care Administration to provide benefits or arrange for benefits to be provided to enrollees. Enrollment in Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc. depends on contract renewal. Every year, Medicare evaluates plans based on a 5-star rating system. We do not discriminate, exclude people, or treat them differently on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in our health programs and activities. ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-877-577-0115 / TTY: 711. Paid actor portrayal.

Y0114_20_119109_U_M_025 Accepted 02/03/2020



RICARDO RAMIREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Tom Bergin, who lives near Satellite Beach City Hall, picks up palm fronds in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian at Satellite Beach on Sept. 4, 2019.

CLIMATE MODELS

Warmer seas could signal stronger storms

BY JAYME KING

As Floridians, we should always be prepared when it comes to hurricane season, keeping our guard up and not letting it down until the end of season in late November.

Increasing evidence is showing a list of factors that could lead to one of the most intense Atlantic storm seasons in quite some time.

One of the reasons? Look no further than the warming, shimmering blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Both bodies of water have historically



King

spawned some of the strongest storms on the planet and this year could be no different, serving as factories that churn out tropical threats to the Gulf States and Atlantic Seaboard as we move through the next six months.

Warm sea-surface temperatures are one on the main components aiding in the development of jumbo-sized, intense tropical systems and much attention is being placed on this particular factor due to above normal ocean temperatures.

The developing situation was noticed in March and again in

April as water temperatures rose a little higher. This is especially true in the area of the Subtropical Atlantic, closest to the U.S. and in the Gulf of Mexico where water temperatures are nearly 5 degrees above normal.

A lack of polar cold fronts coming down into the Southern U.S. and the absence of the associated cold air allowed water temperatures to remain elevated during the spring, potentially giving the start of the 2020 hurricane season quite a springboard.

While this doesn't always mean there will be more storms, it sends a signal to forecasters that there could be stronger storms — and stronger storms can do significant

damage at landfall.

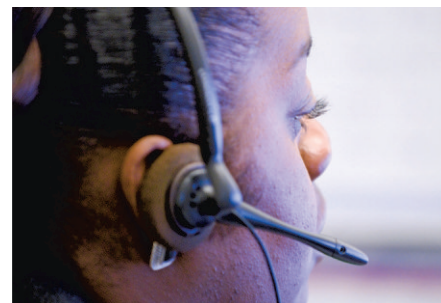
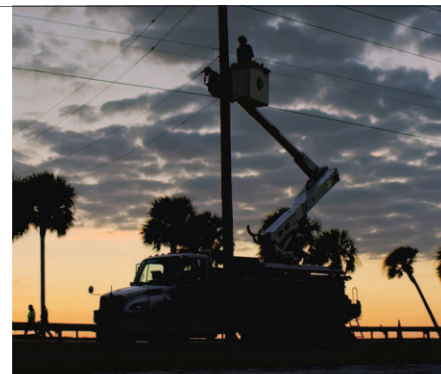
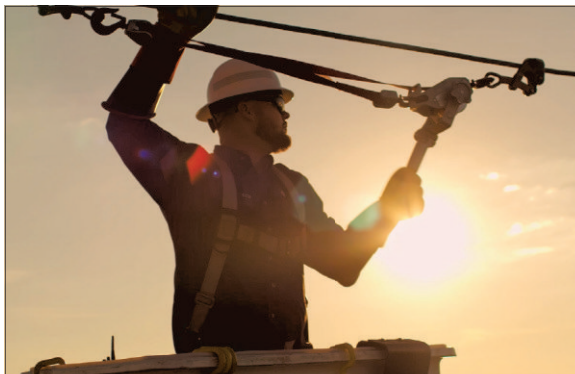
One recent example of a storm getting a “steroid boost” from abnormally warm Gulf of Mexico waters was Hurricane Michael in 2018. Michael strengthened rapidly into a major Category 5 hurricane in a mere two days as it moved across the Gulf and into the Florida Panhandle. That proved to be a substantial jump in intensity over a very short period of time.

The water temperature factor and the impact on tropical systems isn't going anywhere fast. While the start of hurricane season typically crawls out slowly, the influence of the warmer waters could be most noticeable come September

through November. It's during this time that the Atlantic tends to churn out some of the more impactful storms as environmental factors come together.

Current climate models suggest that the Atlantic will be warmer than average as we enter the peak of the 2020 season by Sept. 10. While there is no guarantee of a landfalling U.S. storm even during a busy season, it's important to remember that it only takes one storm to change your world. The best advice would be to remain prepared should a storm strike, big or small.

Jayme King is a meteorologist for Fox 35.



Knowledge is Power

Stay informed this hurricane season.

If the power goes out, our outage alert system will notify you, wherever you are, by text, voice message or email. We'll also provide status updates and estimated restoration times. Sign up online for phone or email alerts or text REG to 57801 for text alerts. To report an outage, text OUT to 57801 or visit our website. We'll keep you informed every step of the way.



Here are a few simple precautions you can take to be ready ...

Have a portable radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio on hand.

Have a plan to move yourself and your family – especially those with special needs.

Keep a supply of water and nonperishable food items on hand.

Ensure first-aid supplies and all medicines are readily available.

If you have an emergency power source, learn how to use it properly.

For additional tips, please visit our storm safety page at duke-energy.com/FLStormReady.



BUILDING A SMARTER ENERGY FUTURE®



SEASON FORECAST

Activity in '20 expected higher than usual

Total of named storms projected Category 3 or stronger:

BY GLENN RICHARDS

The 2020 hurricane season is expected to be slightly more active than normal.

This upcoming season is advertised to be 135% of normal with 14 to 18 named storms and seven to nine becoming hurricanes while three will be intense hurricanes of Category 3 strength or greater.



Richards

The driving force this year is the lack of El Niño and La Niña while water temperatures across the tropical At-

lantic are running warmer than normal. This combination will lead to less destructive wind shear across the Caribbean and tropical Atlantic while encouraging tropical-storm formation.

Water temperatures across the entire Atlantic basin are running slightly warmer than normal. This current scenario most often leads to warmer than normal water temps across the tropical Atlantic in August to October and can increase the frequency and strength of tropical systems.

These warmer waters also increase the amount of available moisture in the atmosphere as well as the vertical motion of the tropical atmosphere. These forces should lead to better storm formation and stronger tropical waves.

The ENSO neutral pattern will provide favorable steering winds that will blow from east to west through the tropics. This lighter steering flow at the "back" of the tropical waves and storms will encourage strengthening.

This steering flow also will place hurricanes near Florida more frequently. The Bermuda High will establish itself in a



STEPHEN M. DOWELL/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Dozens of Orange County residents fill sandbags at Blanchard Park in Orlando on Aug. 28, 2019, in advance of Hurricane Dorian. Orange County residents were allowed up to 10 sandbags at the location across from the Blanchard Park YMCA.

position that would push the hurricanes toward Florida from the east.

These Atlantic hurricanes are the most destructive to our east-coast beaches with larger swells and damaging waves. The normal probability of a landfalling

hurricane each season is 52%, while the 2020 season brings a 69% probability of a landfalling hurricane along our east coast.

The last four years have been "active" for Florida with major Hurricane Matthew along our east coast in 2016 and major

Hurricane Irma along our west coast in 2017.

Last year brought one of the most powerful hurricanes in Dorian to our doorstep, but in the end, it stalled just in time for Florida.

Let's make sure we stay pre-

pared for the potential of at least one tropical system striking this season ... because it only takes one system to make for a bad year.

Glenn Richards is chief meteorologist for Fox 35.



2020 HURRICANE SURVIVAL GUIDE



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Evacuees stand in line to enter Germain Arena, renamed Hertz Arena in 2018, in Estero, which was used as a fallout shelter in advance of Hurricane Irma on Sept. 9, 2017.

SAFETY

What to bring to a shelter

Staff report

The Red Cross runs public shelters, but medical care will not be available. Shelters have food, but if you have special diet needs or want snacks, bring your own.

You can't take guns or alcohol to shelters, but here is what you should bring:

- Three-day supply of water per person.
- Flashlight, extra batteries.
- Cellphone, with a battery-operated charger.
- Radio with extra batteries.
- Medicines.
- Snacks.
- Special-diet foods.
- Baby food and diapers.
- Pillows, blankets, cots, sleeping bags.
- Comfortable clothing (two changes).
- Identification.
- Photocopies of valuable documents.
- Eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures.
- Toiletries, first-aid kit.
- Cash.
- Service animals.
- Games, books or playing cards.

HEALTH

What to pack in a first-aid kit

Staff report

Hurricane season is the time to get your first-aid kit ready.

Here's what to stock your first-aid kit and store in waterproof container:

- First-aid manual.
- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes.
- Sterile gauze pads and roller bandages in a variety of sizes.
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape.
- Scissors and tweezers.



DAVID ARKY

- Needle, for sewing and removing splinters.
- Bars of soap in their

own plastic bags or waterproof containers.

- Moist towelettes.
- Antiseptic spray.
- Hydrogen peroxide.
- Rubbing alcohol.
- Iodine.
- Thermometer.
- Petroleum jelly to relieve itching.
- Ointments for burns and cuts.
- Latex gloves.
- Aspirin, acetaminophen and antacid tablets.
- Ointments for babies' teething.

GENERATORS

Standby and Portable Full Line

WHEN THE STORM IS COMING...
YOU'LL HAVE PEACE OF MIND



Free OnCue
First Year Service Free

CALL TODAY
(352) 735-8285

FLORIDAPOWERVERGENERATOR.COM



KOHLER
IN POWER. SINCE 1920.

Platinum Dealer

Lessons of rapid intensification from Hurricane Dorian in '19 now contend with coronavirus restrictions of '20

By JOE MARIO PEDERSEN

At 11 a.m. on Aug. 28, 2019, the National Hurricane Center distributed the projected path of a tropical system that in the days that followed would become Hurricane Dorian, a monster storm that packed 185 mph winds.

Central Florida lay directly in its path.

“Game on,” said Volusia County Emergency Manager Jim Judge recalling his reaction to the news. “This was going to be an epic and historical event. It was coming at us as a Cat 3 moving over the Brevard-Volusia County line. You have to know that these storms are coming. We plan for the worst and hope for the best.”

Dorian was the strongest Atlantic hurricane to make landfall in history, tied with the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane. The Bahamas sustained the heaviest toll. On Sept. 1, Dorian hammered Great Abaco island with gusts over 200 mph and median flood water height of 6.4 feet, according to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration’s 2020 report.

The storm then hovered over Grand Bahama, where it continued to pummel the community. Eyewitness accounts reported storm-surge levels over 20 feet. Dorian was responsible for 200 deaths, another 245 missing people and \$3.4 billion in damage, according to the report.

With Florida still in its sights, Volusia, like other Central Florida counties, prepared shelters and even evacuated some 2,000 residents. After days of turtle-like movement, Dorian finally marched away from the Bahamas and targeted Florida’s coastline. But it didn’t make landfall, instead skirting the coast and lashing Georgia and the Carolinas.

“We were very lucky,” Judge said. “I think the lesson we learned, and that we learn every year is you have to pay close attention. You have to be ready.”



‘YOU HAVE TO BE READY’

Exposed from three sides, Florida more than any other state still faces the risk of being met with a powerful tropical event.

“The most important thing to remember heading into the 2020 season is that the state can be vulnerable to a powerful storm without much notice,” said

Michael Brennan, the National Hurricane Center’s branch chief in Miami. “Dorian was an unfortunate reminder of what storms of that magnitude can do.”

In recent years, Florida has had to contend with 2016’s Category 3 Hurricane Matthew, 2017’s Category 3 Hurricane Irma and 2018’s

Category 5 Hurricane Michael.

The latter brought devastation to Florida’s Panhandle, where communities are still picking up the pieces a year and a half later. Michael and Dorian shared one thing in common in their developmental process: rapid intensification in which the development

of both storms progressed quickly into Category 5 status shortly before making landfall.

“Storms like Michael and Dorian reinforce the uncertainties of storm prediction models, especially in the time scale of two or three days in advance or longer in some places,” Brennan said. “We

have a safety margin of error built into our models to account for uncertainty when making those predictions. That’s why residents need to be prepared for anything. Rapid intensification can make a worst-case scenario.”

Emergency communication is one area that has improved im-

mensely over the last decade. Dorian was a textbook case on the need for immediate information as the storm went through several changes before avoiding Florida.

Orange County created a bevy of communication methods for residents with its Orange County Alert texting system, Twitter

updates and Facebook posts. Seminole County was also vocal in messaging to residents with its text notification system. Emergency Manager Alan Harris said 20,000 people in the county registered to receive updates.

Please turn to **Page M13**



STEPHEN M. DOWELL/ORLANDO SENTINEL

The shelves that normally hold bottled water are bare at the Walmart on East Colonial Drive in Orlando on Aug. 28, 2019. The shoppers were stocking up in advance of Hurricane Dorian.



STEVE HELBER/AP

A utility worker walks through downed power lines along a causeway in Nags Head, N.C., on Sept. 7, 2019. Hurricane Dorian moved through the area downing power lines and causing beach erosion.



FERNANDO LLANO/AP

Homes lay in ruins in the Marsh Harbor area of Abaco, Bahamas, on Sept. 9, 2019, one week after Hurricane Dorian struck the island as a Category 5 storm.



PHOTOS BY JOE BURBANK/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Residents hang on to the railing as a wave generated by Hurricane Dorian explodes into the jetty at Lighthouse Point Park in Ponce Inlet on Sept. 2, 2019. Dorian largely missed the state.

LOOKING BACK ON 2019

Why did Dorian stall, turn?

BY GLENN RICHARDS

The 2019 hurricane season will forever be remembered for the destruction to Great Abaco Island and Grand Bahama Island produced by Hurricane Dorian.



Richards

Dorian was a Category 5 hurricane with winds of 178 mph when it made landfall on the east side of Great Abaco Island. Catastrophic damage occurred across the extreme northern Bahamas with peak winds reaching 184 mph just prior to landfall.

A devastating storm surge combined with torrential rainfall brought the northern islands to their knees.

Dorian was earlier forecast to move across the northern islands and then slam into Brevard County within 12 hours, but Dorian stopped.

The Florida peninsula and especially Central Florida dodged a bullet with Dorian. The strongest wind gust across Florida produced by Hurricane Dorian was 69 mph at New Smyrna Beach.

Why did Dorian stop?

The steering currents collapsed.

All tropical systems are either pushed or pulled by steering currents that are altered by cold fronts, high-pressure centers and

developing nearby storm systems.

While Dorian was moving steadily west toward Florida, the high-pressure center to the north of Dorian began to weaken. This weakening of the high pressure reduced Dorian's forward speed to less than 3 mph.

This slowing caused Dorian to pound Great Abaco Island with tropical-storm force winds or greater for three days.

The high pressure weakened further and caused Dorian to stall out right over Grand Bahama Island. As Dorian continued to spin in the same general area for nearly two days, the cool water coming up robbed the energy from Dorian and caused the winds to decrease to 161 mph.

The steering and blocking of



JOE BURBANK/ORLANDO SENTINEL

A Lowe's customer loads plywood in his truck at a Lowe's hardware store in Altamonte Springs on Aug. 30, 2019.

the high-pressure center shifted east and allowed a small opening for Dorian to turn north and carry it away from the Central Florida east coast.

This slowing and then turning

caused Dorian's turn to the north to be nearly a 90-degree angle or right angle ... remarkable.

Glenn Richards is chief meteorologist for Fox 35.

IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO STAY SAFE AT HOME



Protect your home with impact rated doors

In high winds, unreinforced garage doors can be torn away, threatening the integrity of your home. Family owned and operated since 1991, we have experience installing garage doors that meet Florida's wind-code requirements.

During these difficult times we are even more committed to providing top quality garage doors from manufacturers such as Clopay, new garage door openers from LiftMaster and Genie, and accurate installation, service, and repair on ALL garage door products.



**D & D GARAGE
DOORS**

\$50 OFF INSTALLATION
On Liftmater 8550 WLB with
Battery Backup

Not valid with any other coupons or offers.
Does not include permit. Expires 11/30/20.

FREE UPGRADE
On Ultra Grain Doors

Not valid with any other coupons or offers.
Does not include permit. Expires 11/30/20.

GARAGE DOOR SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

(407) 347-4406 • DandDGarageDoors.com

Visit our Orlando Design Center
1723 Premier Row, Orlando, FL 32809



State Lic.#CBC1258205

FORECASTING

Dorian models had 'larger than normal' errors

BY KRISTIN GIANNAS

Dorian was the strongest hurricane in modern records to make landfall in the Bahamas, but not one model was able to capture the intensity trend of Dorian five days prior to the storm reaching peak intensity of 185 mph.

A 74-page report released by the National Hurricane Center documents the progression of the deadly Category 5 hurricane and critiques its official forecast, indicating larger than normal errors in predicting Dorian's ultimate power and track.



Giannas

While some of the models and the official NHC forecast suggested Dorian would slow in forward speed near the northern Bahamas, "none of them indicated that Dorian was going to stall there."

After landfall at Elbow Cay, Great Abaco, high pressure north of Dorian weakened, causing the steering currents to collapse and the hurricane to creep slowly westward, "pounding Great Abaco for several hours with its greatest fury," the report says.

"You just feel this sense of dread, because you know what that storm has the potential to do both from a storm surge and from a wind perspective," said Michael Brennan, the National Hurricane Center's hurricane specialist branch chief.

The hurricane's forward speed slowed even more, with the eye crawling west-northwestward toward Grand Bahama Island.

The report points out that while Dorian was still in its early stages over the southeastern Caribbean Sea, most of the models incorrectly brought the storm's center over Hispaniola.

There was a significant shift in Dorian's track after the center of the storm passed directly over St. Lucia on Aug. 27.

The island's wooded mountains disrupted the storm's low-



JOE BURBANK/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Evacuees rest onboard the Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Seas cruise ship after it arrived in Freeport, Bahamas, on Sept. 7, 2019. The ship delivered 10,000 relief meals and picked up refugees wanting to leave Freeport to go to Nassau after the island was devastated by Hurricane Dorian.

level circulation and caused the center to re-form and eventually track east of Puerto Rico, contrary to all model forecasts.

These errors "resulted in the lack of adequate warning for some of the islands of the northeastern Caribbean Sea," the report noted.

"With that big track change came no land interaction and a system that was able to go on and just take advantage of that environment," Brennan said.

An environment ideal for hurricane formation: warm sea-

surface temperatures, high atmospheric moisture and very low vertical wind shear.

"Those are some of the warmest waters in the Atlantic basin, there in the southwestern part of the basin, near the Bahamas," Brennan said.

The NHC report maintains the large intensity errors, and failure of all models to forecast Dorian's rapid intensification near the Bahamas, are linked to Dorian's escape of Hispaniola's mountainous terrain.

Several NHC forecasts issued

from August 28-30 brought the center of Dorian over Florida.

But the intense core of the hurricane stayed east of Florida from Sept 3 to 5, due to a large mid-level trough over the eastern United States that pushed eastward.

This relieved east-central Florida from significant storm surge flooding, but a small shift in Dorian's forward speed could have brought the hurricane over the state and extensive damage to Central Florida.

The highest observed surface

wind speed was a 69 mph wind gust measured at New Smyrna Beach on Sept. 4, according to the report.

Brennan said Dorian is a reminder that deadly storms do happen, and slight changes in the track of a storm can make a big difference in a storm's potential.

"Everyone in Florida has to be ready, like you're going to be affected this year — you have to plan for that," Brennan said.

Kristin Giannas is a meteorologist for Fox 35.



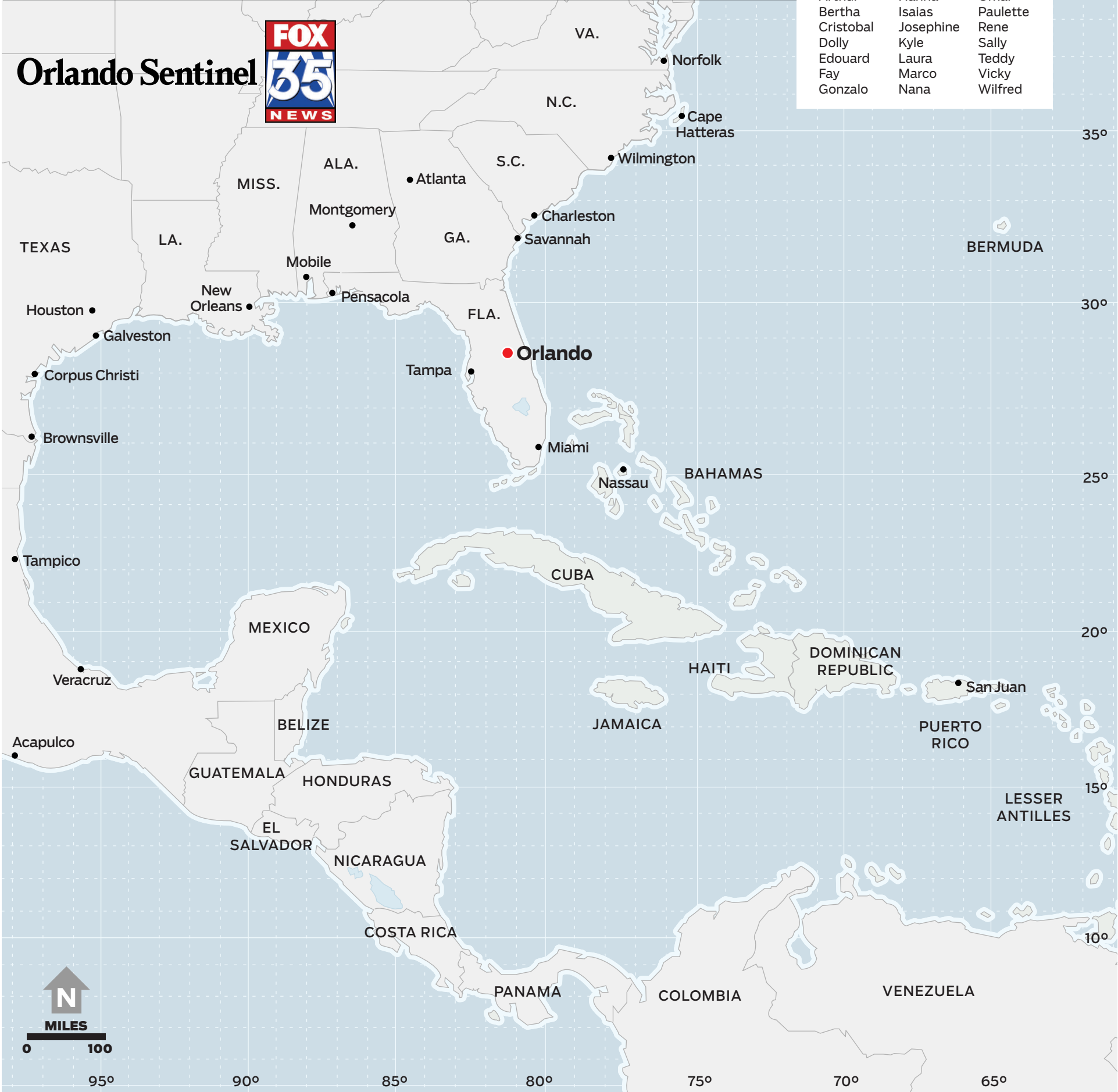
2020 HURRICANE SURVIVAL GUIDE

Orlando Sentinel



2020 tropical storm, hurricane names for the Atlantic basin:

Arthur	Hanna	Omar
Bertha	Isaias	Paulette
Cristobal	Josephine	Rene
Dolly	Kyle	Sally
Edouard	Laura	Teddy
Fay	Marco	Vicky
Gonzalo	Nana	Wilfred



COPING

Keeping kids busy before, during, after the storm

Staff and wire reports

Children likely have no idea what to expect from a major hurricane and could very well be frightened.

To cut down on your child's anxiety, not to mention the cries of "I'm bored," here is a list of things to prepare them for a hurricane and to keep them entertained.

Explain hurricanes: Tell your children that a hurricane is a giant, rainy windstorm that requires a lot of preparation and precaution.

The more children know about the storm and safety procedures, the more confident they will be. But keep it simple; detailed information is useless if children can't digest it.

Younger children may have trouble understanding the idea of a hurricane. Talk to them instead about its effects and that it could leave them without electricity.

Using a map, help older children name the states and cities where hurricanes are likely to strike. Have them mark where you live in the hurricane zone.

Ask children, whatever their age, to make a list of what they do during a typical day. Explain to them that those activities

might change if a hurricane hits: School might close; they may not get to play outside; they may have to eat different foods.

Involve kids in preparations:

It's important for children to feel they are a part of the preparations. Allow children to help plan and pack safety kits, help check hurricane shutters and make preparations for their pets.

Children should be reminded of their hurricane lessons throughout the year; a crash course in hurricanes only hours before one arrives may cause them to panic.

Have them pack a supply kit:

As a part of the preparation process, your child can pack a supply kit equipped with all the soothing items they might take on an overnight stay at grandma's.

Give them a checklist of things to gather. Some suggestions: games, toys, blankets, stuffed animals, favorite books, favorite snacks, a toothbrush and toothpaste, rain gear, paper and pencils, coloring books, a flashlight.

Plan fun activities

■ **Card games.** Games and puzzles are a good way to pass the time. As preparation for the storm, research new card games

on the internet and print directions. Gather the family and learn the rules together.

■ **Build a fort.** Pillows. Check. Blankets. Check. Sofa cushions. Check. Dining room chairs. Check. Hours of fun. Check.

■ **Play flashlight tag.** Stock up on as many batteries as you can find before the storm. Flashlight tag is an oldie but goodie and will have parents giggling like schoolgirls along with their kids.

Some variations to try: Leave the flashlights on and allow the hiding players to change positions as they see the "It" person approaching. Players also can be put in "jail," where they can be rescued.

■ Conduct a scavenger hunt.

With or without a flashlight, searching the house for treasure can keep kids (and parents) busy for hours. And it's so much more fun to bump around in the dark to find that long lost doll or for-

gotten box of toy cars.

Some variations to try: Hide pieces of a puzzle around the house (be sure to keep count). When you've found all of the pieces, you have another project to work on. You can also use your digital camera as part of the fun. Take a picture of something — make sure it is cropped closely and isn't too easily identifiable — and ask the other players to find it.

■ **Cook with them.** Choose meals that are easy to prepare and let your kids help cook. No power? Get the fireplace or grill going and everyone can cook their own hot dogs on a stick. Don't forget the s'mores for dessert.

■ Devour the ice cream.

There's no better excuse than a dead freezer to demolish your ice cream supply. Since the best way to conserve your freezer's chill is to keep the door closed,

have someone time your mad dash for sugar.

A variation to try: Make the door-opening excursion count by making a list before the storm of all the freezer items you should eat. A few frozen peas on top of that sundae might make for an interesting round of Truth or Dare.

Talk to you kids: Before, during and after the storm, it's important to talk to your children, according to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. Encourage them to ask questions and express concerns. Reassure them that they are safe, stay upbeat, keep them busy and maintain regular family routines.

Children are influenced by the adults around them, so remaining calm and staying aware of adult conversations about the hurricane's aftermath will help your child weather any storm.



CHRIS PECORARO/GETTY

PREPARATION

How to store, operate a generator safely

BY RICHARD TRIBOU

Generators can be deadly if used improperly. Here is what you need to do to use a generator safely:

■ Do NOT use the generator inside. They can cause carbon monoxide poisoning and also

could start a fire.

■ Do have a carbon monoxide detector.

■ Do not place it on a patio, in a garage or under an eave.

■ Keep the generator at least 20 feet away from your house.

■ Do not keep the generator near a window.

■ Do not refill generators with gas while it's hot.

■ Do not overload it with too many appliances.

■ Use recommended extension cords.

■ Store the gasoline for it safely.

■ Use a fuel stabilizer.



A man pushes a cart with a generator at a Home Depot store in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, ahead of the expected landfall of Hurricane Irene in 2011.

NICHOLAS KAMM
GETTY-AFP

OUC is here, helping Central Florida recover and re-open while preparing for hurricane season. Because being *The Reliable One*® has never mattered more.

HERE WITH YOU



We're here, preparing our shared community for another active hurricane season that will include new COVID-19 related challenges.

We're here, providing utility payment assistance through Project CARE. Customers can learn more by calling the Heart of Florida United Way at 2-1-1.

We're here, maintaining safety measures and supporting small business customers as Central Florida re-opens.

We're here, providing helpful storm tips for you and your family at [OUC.com/StormCenter](https://www.ouc.com/stormcenter).

OUC

Prepare for hurricane season at
[OUC.com/StormCenter](https://www.ouc.com/stormcenter).

OUC
The Reliable One®