





# 2012 Hurricane Briefing Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction

Bob Robichaud
Warning Preparedness Meteorologist
Canadian Hurricane Centre
Environment Canada
June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

#### **Contents**

- Canadian Hurricane Centre 25 years of tropical meteorology in Canada
- Hurricanes 101
- Summary of the 2011 Hurricane Season
- Outlook for the 2012 Hurricane Season
- Operational Notes
- What's on the horizon for hurricane forecasts?





#### "Storm of the Century" - 1985







# In Canada: Gloria was relatively low damage.....but definitely high impact!

#### Canadian Hurricane Centre

- Planning began 1985
- Began operations in 1987
- Specially trained forecasters
- Certification program
  - Junior CHC forecasters
  - CHC Forecasters
  - Senior CHC forecasters
- Several landmark and damaging storms since 1987



Hurricane Forecaster Training Miami









#### Our partners in Emergency Management..

NOVA SCOTIA MOUVELLE-ECOSSE

#### Canadian Hurricane Centre

- Very close working relationship with emergency management officials
- Through Warning Preparedness Meteorologist program we train and exercise on a regular basis
- Seasonal prep briefings
- Regular briefings during events
- Relocation the Joint emergency Operations Centre









#### ...and our partners in the media

#### Canadian Hurricane Centre

- Dedicated media room with direct plug-in facilities
- Seasonal forecast briefings
- Media workshops
- Special media technical briefings during actual events



Media Technical Briefings









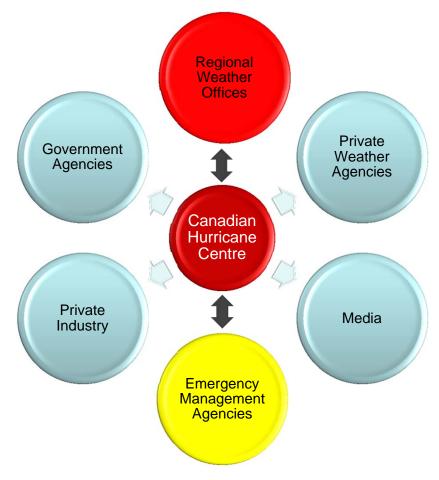
Environnement Canada

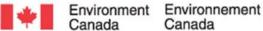


#### CHC Partners and Stakeholders

#### Tropical\_Cyclone\_Information

- Canadian Hurricane Center provides the "Big Picture"
- Regional weather offices (storm prediction centres in **Environment Canada)** Prepare more detailed products







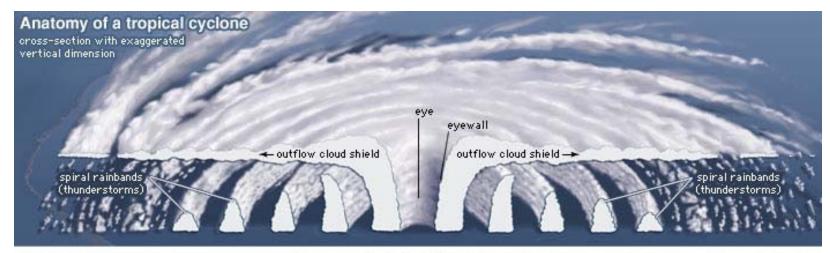
#### From NHC Training Course.....

TEN DEADLIEST ATLANTIC HURRICANES (NHC Training Material)								
Ra	nk Location/Name	Year	<u>Deaths</u>					
1.	Martinique; Barbados	1780	~22,000					
2.	Central America/Mitch	1998	11,000+					
3.	Galveston; SE TX	1900	~8,000					
4.	Honduras/Fifi	1974	~8,000					
5.	Dominican Republic	1930	~8,000					
6.	Haiti; Cuba/Flora	1963	~8,000					
7.	Martinique	1776	>6,000					
8.	FL, Carib./Okeechobee	1928	~4,033					
9.	Newfoundland, Canada	1775	>4,000					
10. Puerto Rico; NC; SC 1899 >3,433								

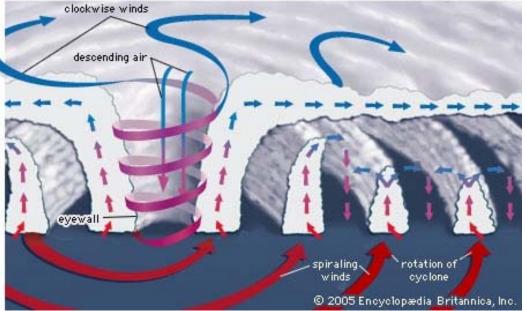




#### What is a Tropical Cyclone?



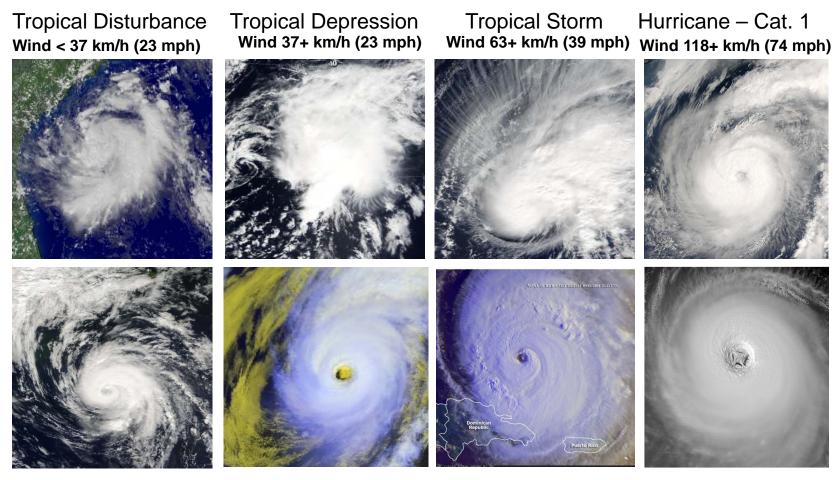








#### Stages of Development



Wind 154+ km/h (96 mph) Hurricane – Cat. 2

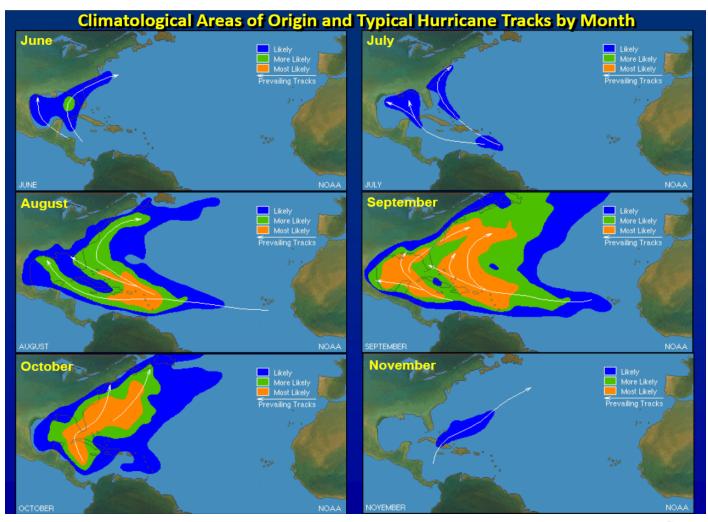
Wind 178+ km/h (111 mph) Wind 211+ km/h (131 mph) Wind > 251 km/h (156 mph)

Hurricane - Cat 3 Hurricane - Cat. 4 Hurricane - Cat. 5





# Areas of Origin and Typical Hurricane Tracks by Month

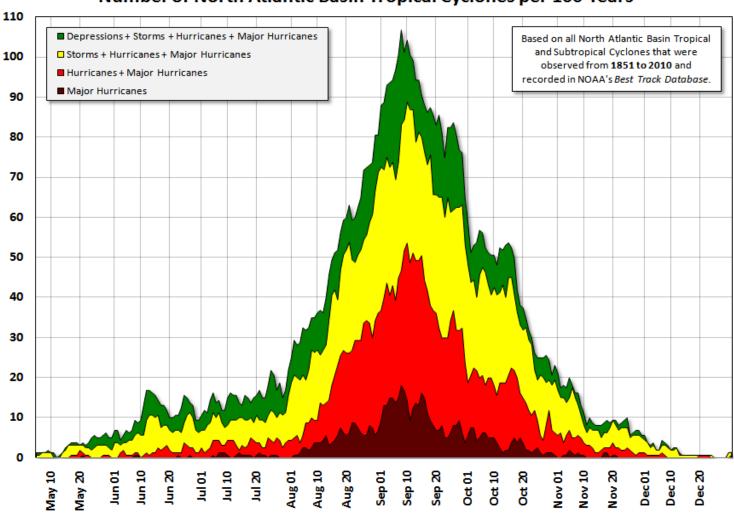






#### Tropical Cyclone Climatology

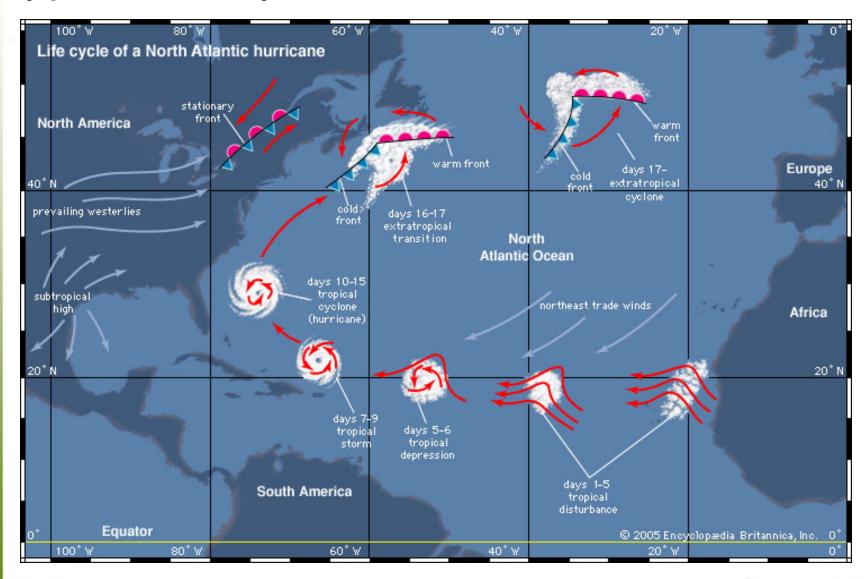
#### Number of North Atlantic Basin Tropical Cyclones per 100 Years







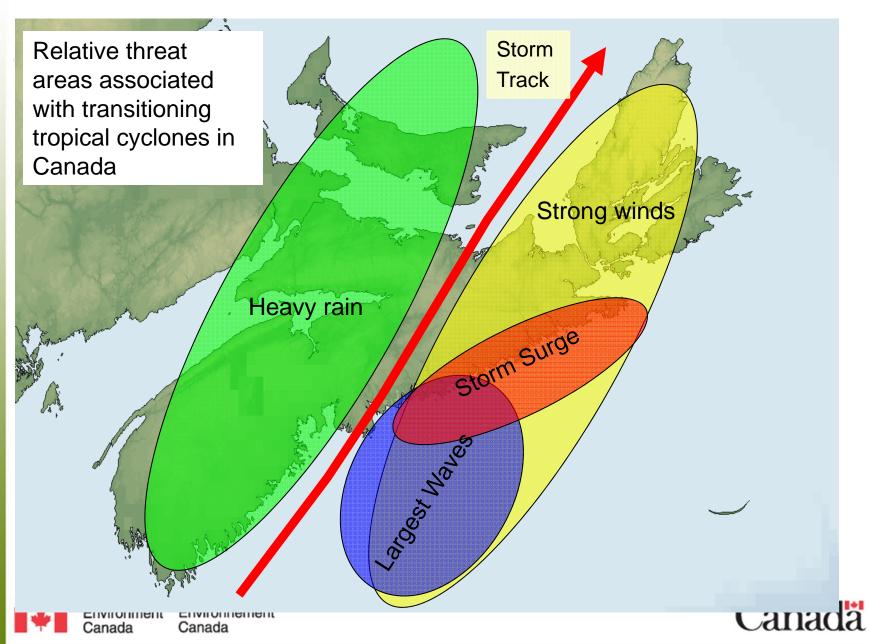
#### Typical life cycle of a hurricane





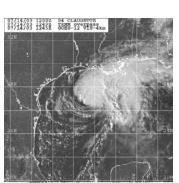


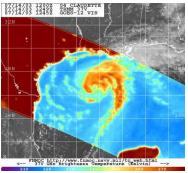
### Typical Threat Areas

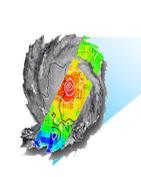


#### How do we observe hurricanes

- Satellites (primary)
  - Geostationary infrared & visible images
  - Microwave imagery
  - Scatterometer derived surface winds

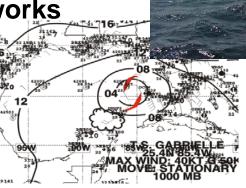








- Surface observations
  - Ships, buoys, land stations
  - Volunteer amateur radio networks



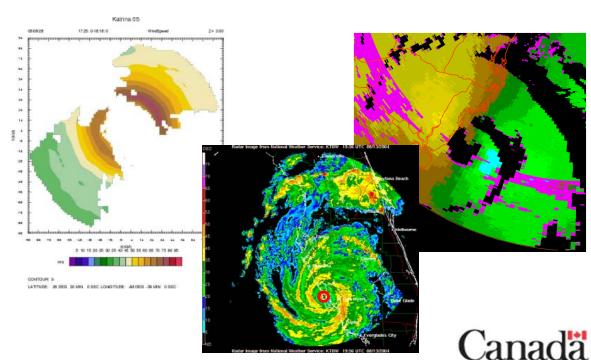




#### How do we observe hurricanes

- Aircraft reconnaissance
  - Flight-level winds
  - GPS dropsondes
  - Stepped-Frequency Microwave Radiometer

- Doppler radar
  - Land-based
  - Airborne



**NCAR GPS Dropsonde** 

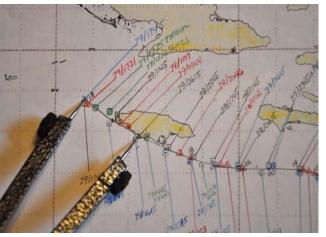


Environment Environnement Canada Canada

#### Hurricane Track Forecasting

- Environmental flow in which the hurricane is embedded is the main factor determining its track
- Computer model consensus is an excellent first guess for the forecast (and often a good final guess!).
- Continuity dictates that it must be considered in view of the previous official forecast.
- Forecasters sometimes have philosophical constraints on the official forecast

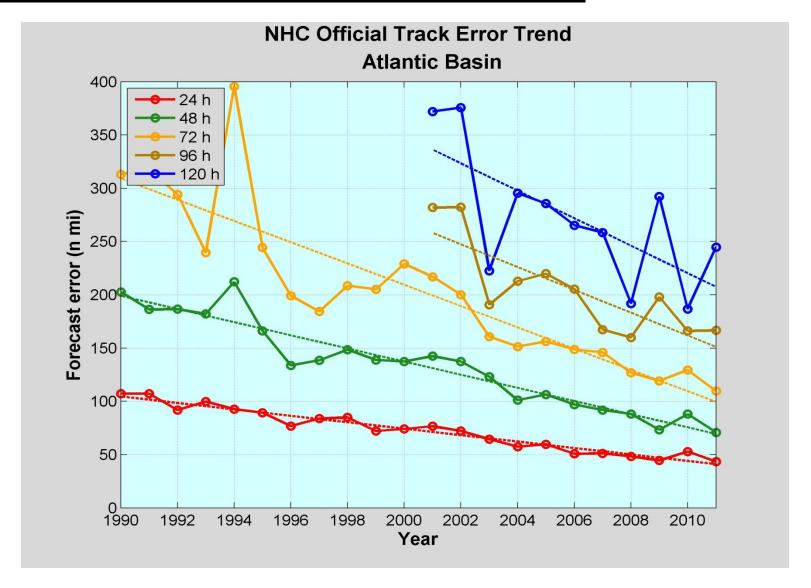








#### **Hurricane Track Error Trend**







#### **Hurricane Intensity Forecasting**

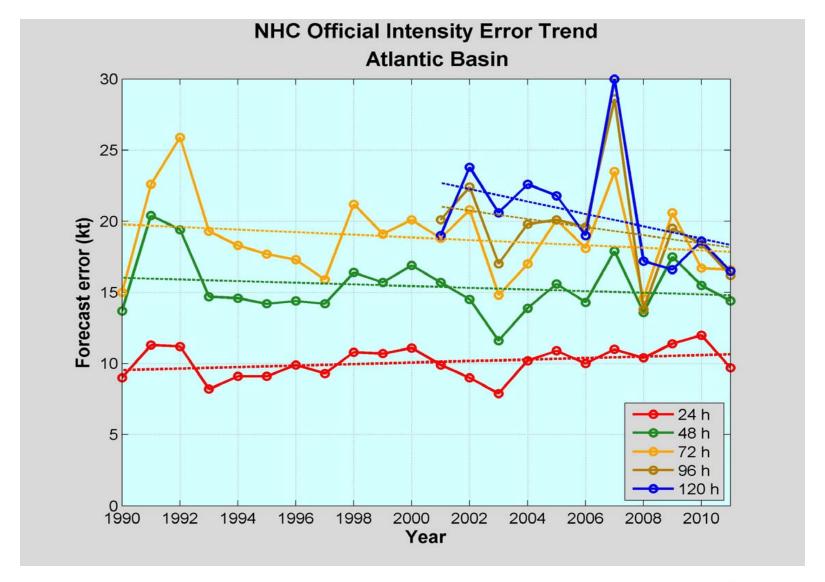
- Intensity forecasting is not as advanced as track forecasting
- There is less skill for intensity forecasting than there is for track forecasting due to the many factors affecting storm intensity (water temp, wind shear, pressure patterns etc...)
- Forecasters use entirely separate models to forecast storm intensity
- Significant difficulty in forecasting rapidly intensifying and rapidly weakening storms.







### Hurricane Intensity Forecast Error Trend







#### Hurricane Season 2011 in Review

#### Summary:

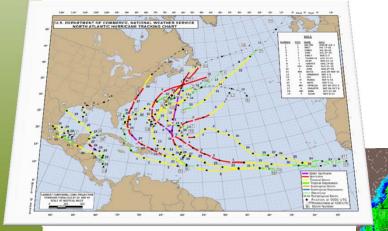
19 Named Storms

7 Hurricanes

4 Major hurricanes









### 2011 Season in Review

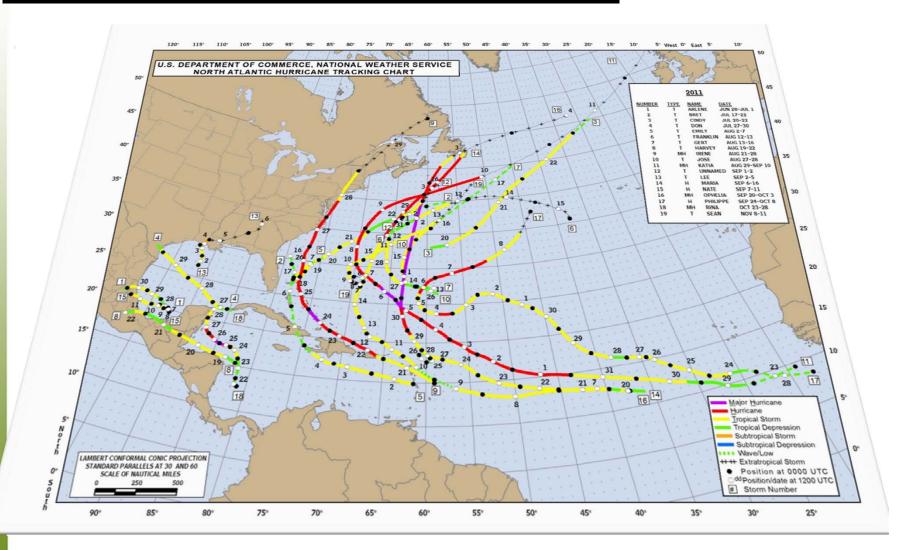
2011 Forecast	Named Storms	Hurricanes	Cat. 3-5 Hurricanes
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	12-18	6-10	3-6
Actual	19	7	4

- CHC issued bulletins on 8 storms
- 8 storms entered CHC response zone
- 3 storms affecting land in Canada





## 2011 Season in Review

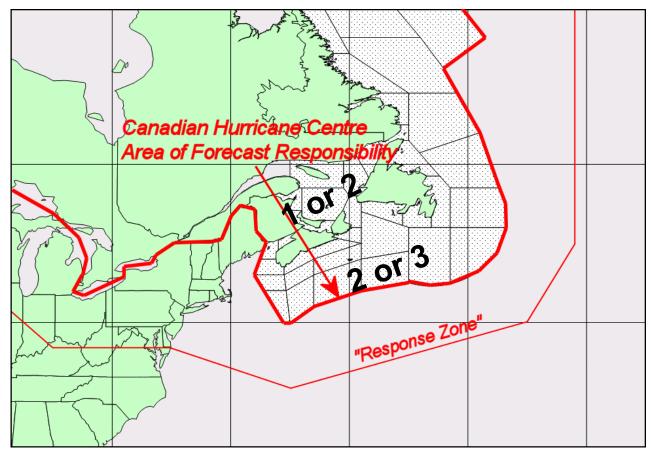






# Canadian Hurricane Centre Response Zone

On average, 1 or 2 storms directly affect Canadian land regions each year. Another 2 or 3 typically threaten our offshore waters.







### 2011 Season in Review

#### 2011 Hurricane Season in 4 minutes

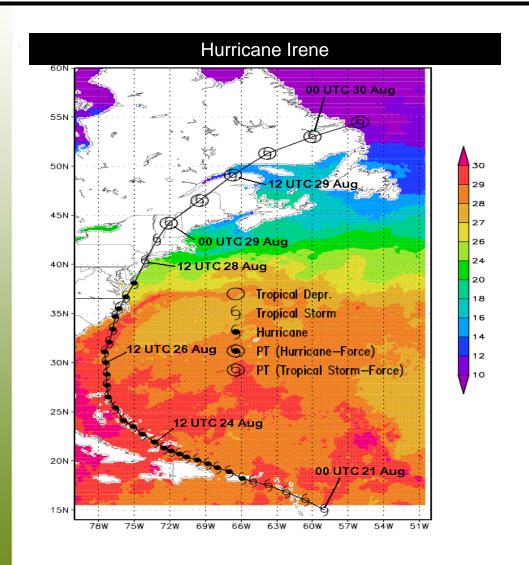


http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fX7Q-0QuID4





#### 2011 Season in Review – Hurricane Irene



- Tracked over islands in the Caribbean before heading towards the U.S., making landfall twice along the East Coast
- 50 fatalities (including 1 in Canada)
- Unprecedented data coverage for a hurricane
- Devastating flooding to left of the track
- Damaging winds and widespread power outages to the right of the track

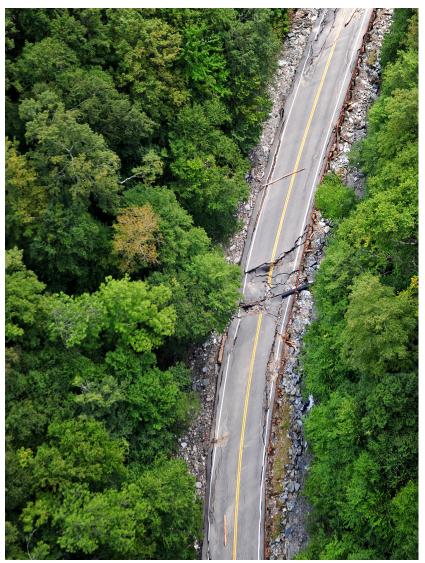




#### 2011 Season in Review - Hurricane Irene







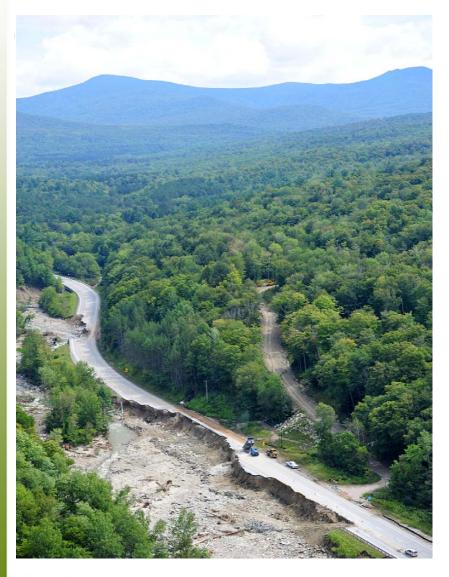


Environment Canada

Environnement Canada



#### 2011 Season in Review - Hurricane Irene







Environment Environnement



#### 2011 Season in Review - Hurricane Irene







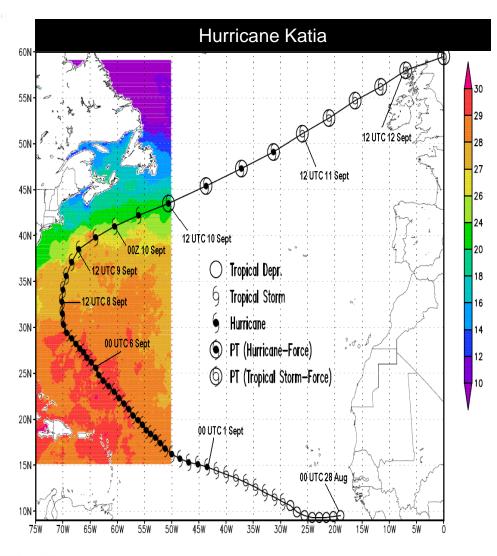




Environment Environnement



#### 2011 Season in Review – Hurricane Katia

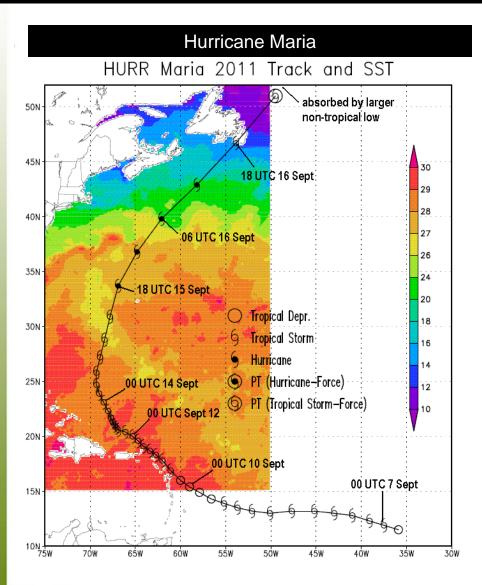


- Reached major hurricane status
- Large swell activity along the Atlantic coast of NS and South Coast Newfoundland and Labrador
- Otherwise no major impacts on Canada





#### 2011 Season in Review – Hurricane Maria

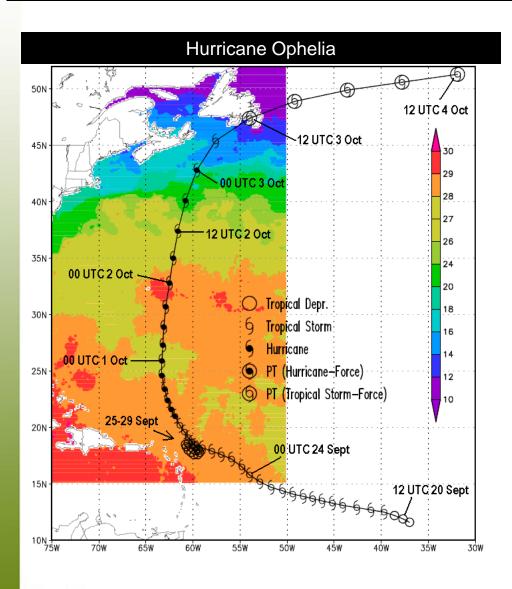


- Formed over the eastern Atlantic
- Maria then became a category 1 hurricane late in its existence
- Made landfall in Argentia / Cape St Mary's September 16<sup>th</sup> as a strong tropical storm
- Strongest winds to the right of the track came within about 50 km of Cape Spear
- Maria then interacted with a non-tropical weather system that gave strong winds to the entire island later that evening





#### 2011 Season in Review - Hurricane Ophelia



Environnement

Canada

Environment

- Ophelia reached category 4 just after passing Bermuda as it tracked towards NL
- Rapidly weakened over colder water
- Landfall near Placentia as a post-tropical storm on October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Wind gusts over 90 km/h
  were reported along with
  heavy rainfall to the left of
  the storm's track (as much
  as 50 mm in a 3-hour
  period)
- Drainage ravine overflowed in the town of Belleoram resulting in local state of emergency

Canadä

#### 2011 Season in Review - Hurricane Ophelia











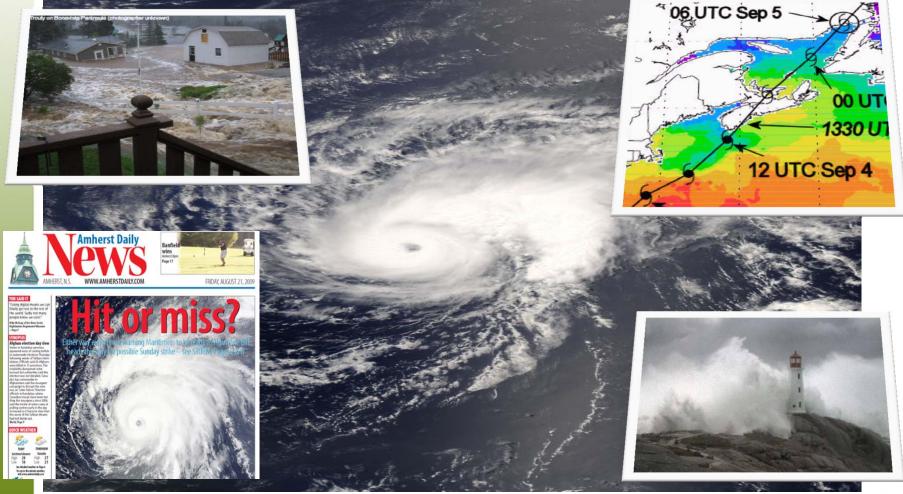






# 2012 Seasonal Hurricane Forecast







Environment Canada

Environnement Canada



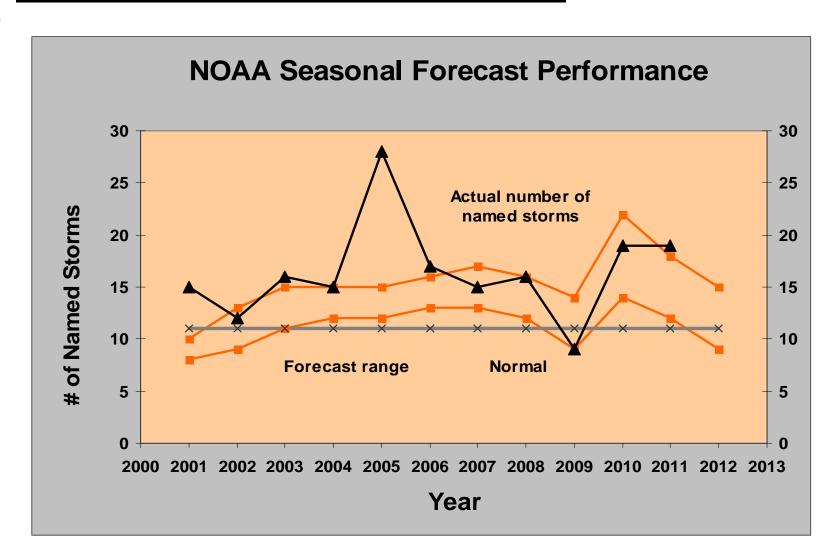
# Spring 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Forecast

	Named Storms	Hurricanes Category 1 to 5	Major Hurricanes Category 3-5
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US)	9-15	4-8	1-3
1981-2010 Average	12	6	3
1961-2010 Average	11	6	2 or 3





#### **NOAA Seasonal Forecast**

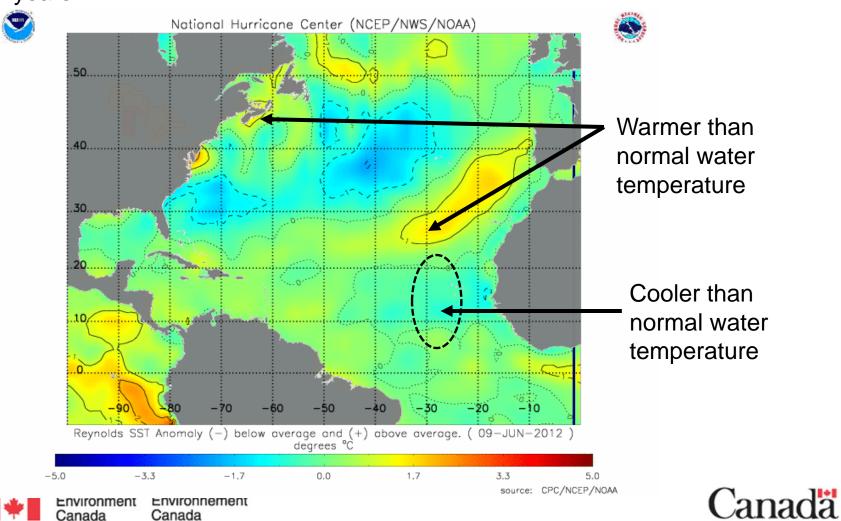






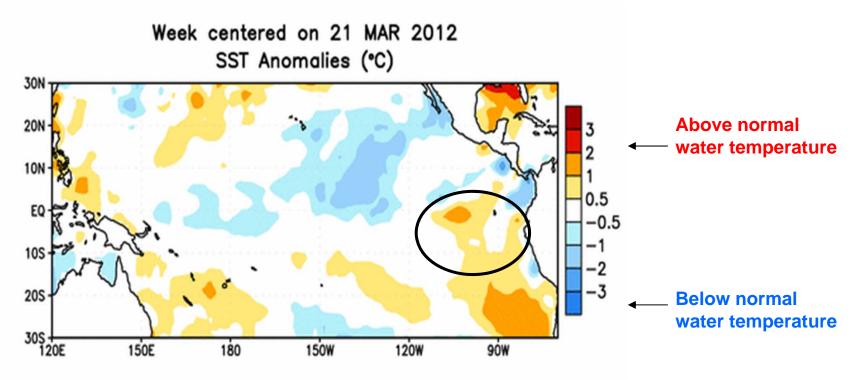
### Latest Water Temperature Patterns

Water temperatures are cooler in the tropical Atlantic compared to recent years.



## East Pacific Ocean Water Temperatures

Water temperatures in the circled area indicate El Nino or La Nina.



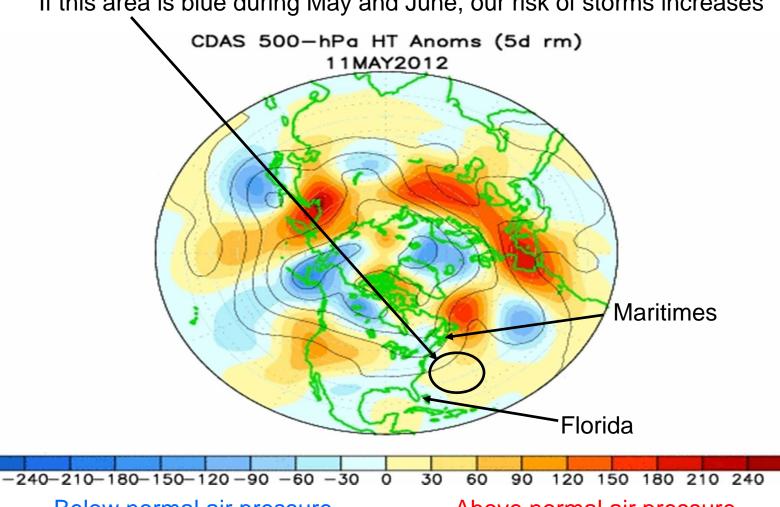
Water temperatures in the East Pacific Ocean near equator





## Eastern Canada/Northern U.S. Pressure Patterns

If this area is blue during May and June, our risk of storms increases



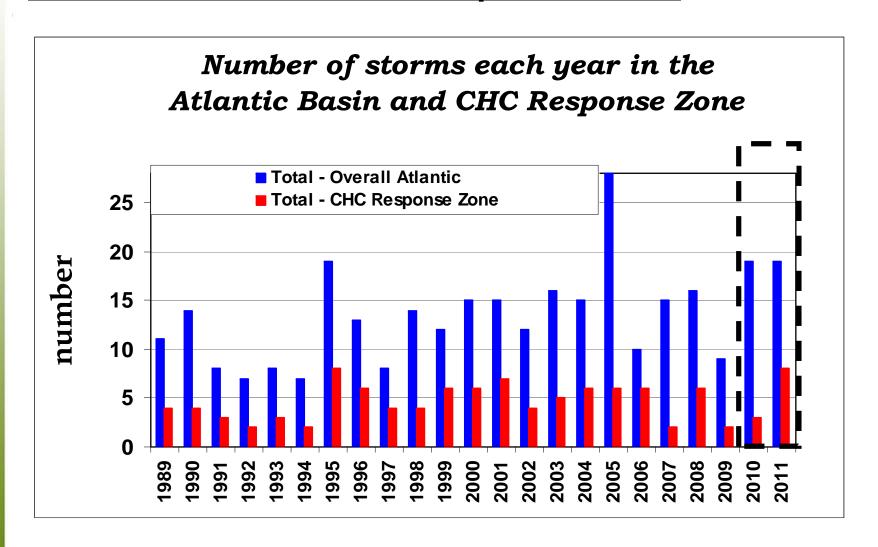
Below normal air pressure

Above normal air pressure

Canada



### Number of Storms per Year







## Significant Tropical Storms and Hurricanes in Canada Since 2001

Year	Hurricane	Wind	Rain	Seasonal Activity	
2001	Gabrielle		<b>✓</b>	Above	
2002	Gustav	<b>√</b>	$\checkmark$	Near normal	
2003	Juan	<b>√</b>	✓	Well above	
2004	Frances		✓	Well above	
2004	Ivan	<b>√</b>			
2005	Rita		✓	Well above	
2006	Florence	✓		Near normal	
2007	Chantal		✓	Noor normal	
2007	Noel	<b>√</b>		Near normal	
	Cristobal		✓	Well above	
2008	Hanna		✓		
	Kyle	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>		
2009	Bill		<b>✓</b>	Below	
2010	Earl	<b>√</b>		Well above	
2010	lgor	<b>√</b>	✓		
2011	Irene	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	Well above	





### List of Atlantic Storm Names

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Alberto	Andrea	Arthur	Ana	Alex	Arlene
Beryl	Barry	Bertha	Bill	Bonnie	Bret
Chris	Chantal	Cristobal	Claudette	Colin	Cindy
Debby	Dorian	Dolly	Danny	Danielle	Don
Ernesto	Erin	Edouard	Erika	Earl	Emily
<b>Florence</b>	Fernand	Fay	Fred	Fiona	Franklin
Gordon	Gabrielle	Gonzalo	Grace	Gaston	Gert
Helene	Humberto	Hanna	Henri	Hermine	Harvey
Isaac	Ingrid	Isaias	lda	lan	Irma *
Joyce	Jerry	Josephine	Joaquin	Julia	Jose
Kirk	Karen	Kyle	Kate	Karl	Katia
Leslie	Lorenzo	Laura	Larry	Lisa	Lee
Michael	Melissa	Marco	Mindy	Matthew	Maria
Nadine	Nestor	Nana	Nicholas	Nicole	Nate
Oscar	Olga	Omar	Odette	Otto	Ophelia
Patty	Pablo	Paulette	Peter	Paula	Philippe
Rafael	Rebekah	Rene	Rose	Richard	Rina
Sandy	Sebastien	Sally	Sam	Shary	Sean
Tony	Tanya	Teddy	Teresa	Tobias	Tammy
Valerie	Van	Vicky	Victor	Virginie	Vince
William	Wendy	Wilfred	Wanda	Walter	Whitney

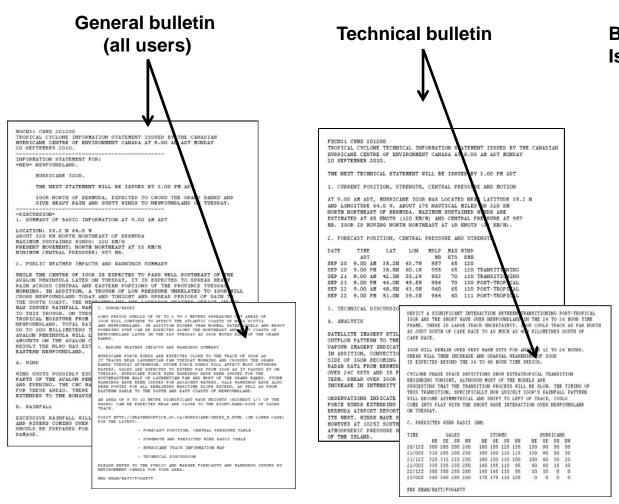
<sup>\*\*</sup> Irene was replaced with Irma



Canada



## Canadian Hurricane Centre Forecast Products



**Bulletins and Track Maps Issued every 6 hours** 

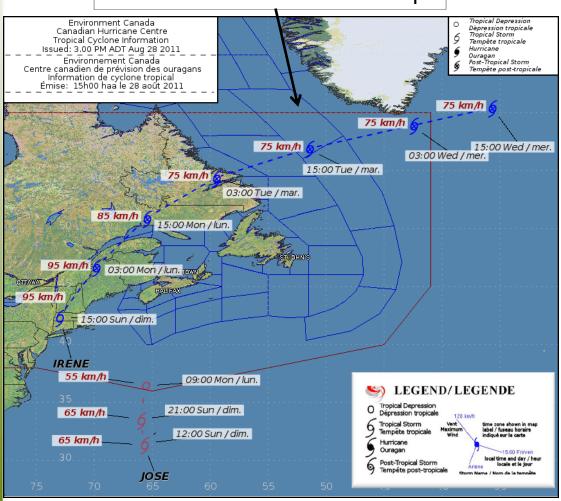
0300 ADT 0900 ADT 1500 ADT 2100 ADT





# Canadian Hurricane Centre Forecast Products

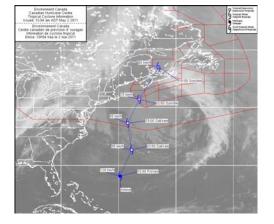
#### New-look Hurricane track map



Environnement

Canada

#### Old Hurricane track map







# Canadian Hurricane Centre Warning Products

- Tropical Storm: winds 70 km/h to 117 km/h
- Hurricane: winds 118 km/h or more
- A Watch: wind conditions possible within 36 hours
- A Warning: wind conditions expected within 24 hours





### Communications/Briefing Timelines:

#### Pre-season/Season Start

- Media Technical Briefing
- Emergency Management **Briefings**
- Special agency briefings

#### **On-going During the Season**

- Ad-hoc media requests
- Weekly tropical weather statement
- Routine informal discussions with emergency management officials

#### **T-7 to 10 days**

- A few media calls
- Daily discussions with **EMO**

#### T-5 days

 Media and FM requirements increase

#### T-4 days

- General Statement
- Critical planning stage

#### T- 3 to 1.5 days

- Emergency Management briefings begin
- Media briefings continue
- Technical statements
- · Plans are reviewed and adjusted as needed
- Watches issued (T-1.5 days)
- Internal ops briefing

#### T-1 day or less

- Warnings issued
- Entire process continues
- Briefing frequency can be increased
- WPM Relocation to EOC

- storm summary
- EMO debriefings
- Contribute to After Action Reports

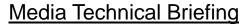




### Pre/Start-Season

#### **Emergency Management Briefing**

- Briefings tailored for emergency managers
- Typically around the start of the season
- Sessions are coordinated by Public Safety Canada who invites provincial EMO and other Federal Departments
- Occasionally we will deliver a full-day or ½-day training session

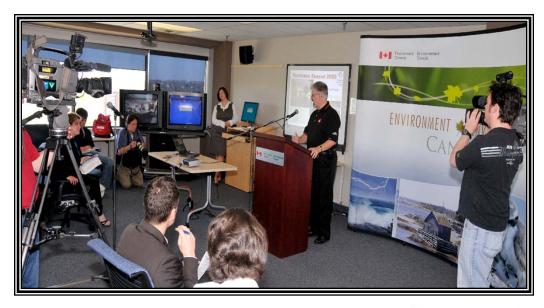


- Timed with the release of the NOAA Hurricane Season **Forecast**
- Forecast numbers are not known prior to our technical briefing
- Emergency management officials invited to speak to enhance the preparedness messages

#### **Special Agency Briefings**

- **ICLR**
- **DFAIT**









### Communications/Briefing Timelines:

#### Pre-season/Season Start

- •Media Technical Briefing
- Emergency Management **Briefings**
- Special agency briefings

#### **On-going During the Season**

- Ad-hoc media requests
- Weekly tropical Weather statement
- Routine informal discussions with emergency management officials

#### **T-7 to 10 days**

- A few media calls
- Daily discussions with **EMO**

#### T-5 days

 Media and FM requirements increase

#### T-4 days

- General Statement
- Critical planning stage
- EM Briefings may begin

#### T- 3 to 1.5 days

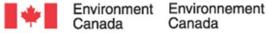
- Emergency Management briefings begin
- Media briefings continue
- Technical statements
- · Plans are reviewed and adjusted as needed
- Watches issued (T-1.5 days)
- Internal ops briefing

Canada

#### T-1 day or less

- Warnings issued
- Entire process continues
- Briefing frequency can be increased
- WPM Relocation to EOC

- storm summary
- EMO debriefings
- Contribute to After Action Reports



### Communication/Briefing Timelines:

#### Pre-season/Season Start

- •Media Technical Briefing
- Emergency Management Briefings
- Special agency briefings

#### **On-going During the Season**

- Ad-hoc media requests
- Weekly tropical weather statement
- Routine informal discussions with emergency management officials

#### **T-7 to 10 days**

- A few media calls
- Daily discussions with EMO

#### T-5 days

Media and EM requirements increase

#### T-4 days

- General Statement
- Critical planning stage
- EM Briefings may begin

#### T- 3 to 1.5 days

- Emergency Management briefings begin
- Media briefings continue
- Technical statements
- · Plans are reviewed and adjusted as needed
- Watches issued (T-1.5 days)
- Internal ops briefing

#### T-1 day or less

- Warnings issued
- Entire process continues
- Briefing frequency can be increased
- WPM Relocation to EOC

- storm summary
- EMO debriefings
- Contribute to After Action Reports









### Communication/Briefing Timelines:

#### Pre-season/Season Start

- •Media Technical Briefing
- Emergency Management Briefings
- Special agency briefings

#### **On-going During the Season**

- Ad-hoc media requests
- Weekly tropical weather statement
- Routine informal discussions with emergency management officials

#### **T-7 to 10 days**

- A few media calls
- Daily discussions with EMO

#### T-5 days

Media and EM requirements increase

#### T-4 days

- General Statement
- Critical planning stage
- EM Briefings may begin

#### T- 3 to 1.5 days

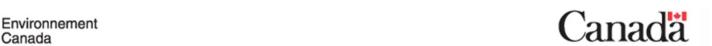
- Emergency Management briefings begin
- Media briefings continue
- Technical statements
- Plans are reviewed and adjusted as needed
- Watches issued (T-1.5 days)
- Internal ops briefing

#### T-1 day or less

- Warnings issued
- Entire process continues
- Briefing frequency can be increased
- WPM Relocation to EOC

- storm summary
- EMO debriefings
- Contribute to After Action Reports





### Communication/Briefing Timelines:

#### Pre-season/Season Start

- •Media Technical Briefing
- Emergency Management Briefings
- Special agency briefings

#### **On-going During the Season**

- Ad-hoc media requests
- Weekly tropical weather statement
- Routine informal discussions with emergency management officials

#### **T-7 to 10 days**

- A few media calls
- Daily discussions with EMO

#### T-5 days

Media and EM requirements increase

#### T-4 days

- General Statement
- Critical planning stage
- EM briefings may begin

#### T- 3 to 1.5 days

- Emergency Management briefings begin
- Media briefings continue
- Technical statements
- Plans are reviewed and adjusted as needed
- Watches issued (T-1.5 days)
- Internal ops briefing

#### T-1 day or less

- Warnings issued
- Entire process continues
- Briefing frequency can be increased
- WPM Relocation to EOC

- storm summary
- EMO debriefings
- Contribute to After Action Reports





### Communication/Briefing Timelines:

#### Pre-season/Season Start

- Media Technical Briefing
- Emergency Management Briefings
- Special agency briefings

#### **On-going During the Season**

- Ad-hoc media requests
- Weekly tropical weather statement
- Routine informal discussions with emergency management officials

#### **T-7 to 10 days**

- A few media calls
- Daily discussions with EMO

#### T-5 days

Media and EM requirements increase

#### T-4 days

- General Statement
- Critical planning stage
- EM Briefings may begin

#### T- 3 to 1.5 days

- Emergency Management briefings begin
- Media briefings start or continue
- Technical statements
- Plans are reviewed and adjusted as needed
- Watches issued (T-1.5 days)
- Internal ops briefing

#### T-1 day or less

- Warnings issued
- Entire process continues
- Briefing frequency can be increased
- WPM Relocation to EOC

- storm summary
- EMO debriefings
- Contribute to After Action Reports





### **Emergency Management Briefings**

- Storm specific briefings tailored for Federal and Provincial emergency management agencies
- We use WebEx and hold a daily briefings at the request of any EM agency OR when CHC deemed appropriate
- Cover an overview of the current status, forecast and any thoughts/concerns by CHC
- Briefing followed by questions and an opportunity for the EMOs to present their concerns
- Broader provincial briefings are held shortly after the morning CHC briefing



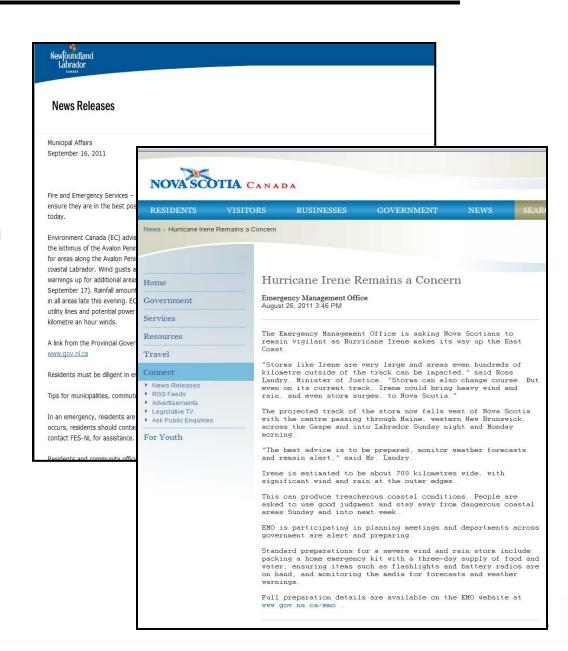






### What is done with this information?

- Various preparedness and response activities
- News releases to inform the public
- Decisions made on closing municipal, provincial or federal facilities (schools and parks)
- Pre-positioning resources
- Emergency staff scheduling





### Communication/Briefing Timelines:

#### Pre-season/Season Start

- •Media Technical Briefing
- Emergency Management **Briefings**
- Special agency briefings

#### **On-going During the Season**

- Ad-hoc media requests
- Weekly tropical weather statement
- Routine informal discussions with emergency management officials

#### **T-7 to 10 days**

- A few media calls
- Daily discussions with **EMO**

#### T-5 days

 Media and FM requirements increase

#### T-4 days

- General Statement
- Critical planning stage
- EM briefings may begin

#### T- 3 to 1.5 days

- Emergency Management briefings begin
- Media briefings continue
- Technical statements

Canada

- Plans are reviewed and adjusted as needed
- Watches issued (T-1.5 days)
- Internal ops briefing (CMAC, SPC, etc...)

#### T-1 day or less

- Warnings issued
- Entire process continues
- Briefing frequency can be increased
- WPM relocation to EOC

- storm summary
- EMO debriefings
- Contribute to After **Action Reports**





### Communication/Briefing Timelines:

#### Pre-season/Season Start

- •Media Technical Briefing
- Emergency Management **Briefings**
- Special agency briefings

#### **On-going During the Season**

- Ad-hoc media requests
- Tropical weather statement
- Routine informal discussions with emergency management officials

#### **T-7 to 10 days**

- A few media calls
- Daily discussions with **EMO**

#### T-5 days

 Media and FM requirements increase

#### T-4 days

- General Statement
- Critical planning stage

#### T- 3 to 1.5 days

- Emergency Management briefings begin
- Media briefings continue
- Technical statements

Canada

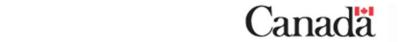
- Plans are reviewed and adjusted as needed
- Watches issued (T-1.5 days)
- Internal ops briefing (CMAC, SPC, etc...)

#### T-1 day or less

- Warnings issued
- Entire process continues
- Briefing frequency can be increased
- WPM Relocation to EOC

- storm summary
- EMO debriefings
- Contribute to After Action Reports





### Partner Communications

### **Operational Briefing Timelines:**

#### Pre-season/Season Start

- •Media Technical Briefing
- Emergency Management **Briefings**
- Special agency briefings

#### **On-going During the Season**

- Ad-hoc media requests
- Weekly tropical weather statement
- Routine informal discussions with emergency management officials

#### **T-7 to 10 days**

- A few media calls
- Daily discussions with **EMO**

#### T-5 days

 Media and FM requirements increase

#### T-4 days

- General Statement
- Critical planning stage
- •EM briefings may begin

#### T- 3 to 1.5 days

- Emergency Management briefings begin
- Media briefings continue
- Technical statements

Canada

- Plans are reviewed and adjusted as needed
- Watches issued (T-1.5 days)
- Internal ops briefing (CMAC, SPC, etc...)

#### T-1 day or less

- Warnings issued
- Entire process continues
- Briefing frequency can be increased
- WPM Relocation to EOC

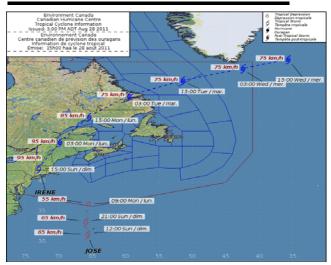
- storm summary
- EMO debriefings
- Contribute to After **Action Reports**





### Canadian Hurricane Centre Products

### **CHC** Website





WOOD I CHEE 201200  WOOD I CHEE 201200  WHEN THE CHEET OF WITHOUSENET CHEEDS BY THE CHEET IN THE								
MINRSCAME 2008.								
THE NEXT STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED BY 3.00 PM ADT								
DOOR NORTH OF BEHEIDS, EXPECTED TO CHOOS THE GRAND BARKS AND GIVE MEANY RAIM AND COUTT WINDS TO MEMOCROCAND ON TOURISM.								
*DISCUSSION* 1. SUMMARY OF BASIC INFORMATION AT 9.00 AM AST								
LOCATION: 55.2 N 64.0 W ABOUT 310 KE NOWTH AND THEAST OF BERWIND BALIERS SUPLINES VANCE: 120 KEV N PRESENT WOVERDAY: NOWTH MONTHANT AT 33 KE/H BALIERS (SUPLIA) PRESENTS 957 MB.								
2. PUBLIC MEATHER IMPACTS AND WARRINGS SUMMARY								
WHILE THE CONTRE OF 1000 IS EXPECTED TO PAGE WELL DOTTERANT OF THE NUMBER PRESENTAL LATER OR THEORY, IT IS EXPECTED TO SPEAK REAVY SAIN SCHOOL CONTRAL AND ANTIHE POSTURES OF THE PROPERTY TO SHE PAGE THE THEORY OF THE PAGE THE								
HAR INSUED RAINFALL MAN TO THE TROOD, OF THE TO THE TOTAL OF THE STANDAY OF THE TOTAL OF	AND THE REGISTER OF THE 1 TO 1 WAS DESCRIBED ON THE REGISTER OF THE REGISTER O	IN MODERNIT						
	- TROMICG PERCENTUR	211 CHINE						

SOURCE COLUMN AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CONTROL OF

www.hurricanes.ca



Canada

### What's on the horizon?

- Continued reduction of track and intensity errors from day 1 through day 5 (50% in the next 10 years)
- Better forecasts of rapid intensity change
- CHC is planning to introduce "cone of error" in 2013
- NHC to extend the lead time for hurricane forecasts out to Day 7





## ....it only takes one storm! Are you prepared?







## Thank you!

### **Bob Robichaud**

Warning Preparedness Meteorologist
Canadian Hurricane Centre
Dartmouth, NS



