

CASUALTY ISSUES

Alert No. 2019-C-5

August 12, 2019

NOAA Forecasts Potentially Increased Hurricane Activity

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released a [forecast](#) Thursday finding that conditions are now more favorable than previously projected for higher-than-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic Ocean this year. NOAA's updated forecast projects overall hurricane activity for the entirety of the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season and does not predict whether forecasted storms will reach land, since landfalls "are only predictable within about a week of a storm potentially reaching a coastline."

In its forecast, NOAA predicts a 45 percent likelihood of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season, compared to its May forecast predicting a 30 percent likelihood. According to NOAA, hurricane seasons in the Atlantic produce, on average, 12 storms with winds of 39 miles per hour or greater (known as "named storms"), half of which form into hurricanes. In this updated forecast, the agency projected 10-17 named storms, 5-9 of which are expected to become hurricanes, including 2-4 major hurricanes, with winds of 111 mph or greater. According to NOAA, this increased likelihood of a more active hurricane season may be attributable to the end of El Nino conditions in the Pacific Ocean, "combined with the more conducive conditions associated with the ongoing high-activity era for Atlantic hurricanes that began in 1995."

If you have any questions regarding this *Academy Alert*, please contact Marc Rosenberg, senior casualty policy analyst (rosenberg@actuary.org; 202-785-7865).

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