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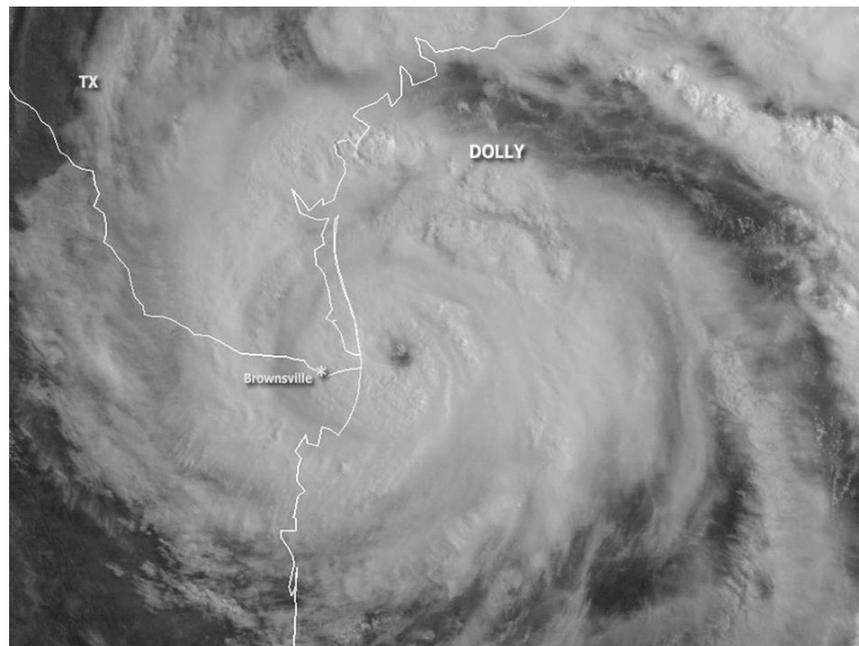
OFCM



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

National Hurricane Operations Plan

FCM-P12-2009



Hurricane Dolly - 23 July 2008 - NOAA's GOES 12

Washington, DC
May 2009

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NATIONAL HURRICANE OPERATIONS PLAN

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CHANGE AND REVIEW LOG

Use this page to record changes and notices of reviews.

Change Number	Page Numbers	Date Posted	Initial
1			
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Changes are indicated by a vertical line in the margin next to the change or by shading and strikeouts.

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FOREWORD

The Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference (IHC) is sponsored annually by the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) to provide a forum for the responsible Federal agencies, together with representatives from the user communities like emergency management, to review the Nation's hurricane forecast and warning program and to make recommendations on how to improve the program in the future. The major objective is to plan and prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. The 63rd IHC was held in St. Petersburg, Florida, March 2-5, 2009, and the new procedures, procedural changes, and agreements reached at the conference were incorporated into this publication—the 47th edition of the *National Hurricane Operations Plan* (NHOP).

At the 63rd IHC, there were 19 new actions items stemming from the meeting of the Working Group for Hurricane and Winter Storms Operations and Research. Of those, 12 items (mostly informational) will be closed through incorporation into the 2009 NHOP as approved recommendations and/or changes. Five items were informational in nature which did not require any action. Two items (plus four open actions from previous IHCs) will be worked through follow-on actions by the group. Detailed descriptions of the action items are available on the OFCM's web site at http://www.ofcm.gov/homepage/text/spc_proj/ihc.html.

The following summarizes the 2008 tropical cyclone season:

- For the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season, there were 16 named storms. Eight of these storms became hurricanes, including five major hurricanes. This was above the long-term averages of 11, 6 and 2. Four of the five major hurricanes reached category 4 status, with the remaining major hurricane reaching category 3 status. Of note, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike struck the U. S. as Category 2 hurricanes, while Dolly struck as a Category 1. Gustav and Ike produced at least 40 and 29 tornadoes, respectively. Ike was the fourth costliest landfalling U. S. hurricane and its extratropical remains caused hurricane-force wind gusts and damage across the Ohio Valley.
- For the Eastern North Pacific, there were an above average number of tropical storms (16). However, there was a below average number of hurricanes (seven) and major hurricanes (two). One hurricane (Norbert) and one tropical storm (Julio) made landfall in Mexico—a near-average number of landfalls.
- The other tropical cyclone basins supported by the Central Pacific Hurricane Center and Joint Typhoon Warning Center had the following tropical cyclone activity in 2008 (25-year averages are noted in parenthesis): Central Pacific – 1 (5); Northwest Pacific – 27 (31); South Pacific – 8 (6); Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal – 7 (5); South Indian Ocean and Australian Region – 21 (23).

The multiagency efforts—from both civilian and military organizations—that are part of the tropical cyclone forecast and warning system, once again provided outstanding support to their customers, helping to prevent loss of life and injuries and to reduce vulnerability to these devastating storms.

//SIGNED//

Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological
Services and Supporting Research

NATIONAL HURRICANE OPERATIONS PLAN

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