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OFCM



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR  
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

# National Hurricane Operations Plan

FCM-P12-2007



*Hurricane Gordon - 18 September 2006 - GOES 12*

Washington, DC  
May 2007

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**FEDERAL COORDINATOR  
FOR  
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH**

8455 Colesville Road, Suite 1500  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
301-427-2002  
[www.ofcm.gov](http://www.ofcm.gov)

**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	5-16 through 5-23	8/30/2007	RJD
2			
3			
4			
5			
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10			

Changes are indicated by a vertical line in the margin next to the change or by shading and strikeouts.

Review Date	Comments	Initial

## 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 61<sup>st</sup> IHC was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 5-9, 2007, and the new procedures, procedural changes, and agreements reached at the conference were incorporated into this publication—the 45<sup>th</sup> edition of the *National Hurricane Operations Plan* (NHOP).

At the 61<sup>st</sup> IHC, the Working Group for Hurricane and Winter Storms Operations and Research (WG/HWSOR) addressed 15 action items. Of the 15, 11 will be closed through incorporation into the 2007 NHOP as approved recommendations and/or changes. One of the items was informational in nature, and one was withdrawn following further discussion. 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](http://www.ofcm.gov/homepage/text/spc_proj/ihc.html).

This edition includes a number of minor revisions and changes to Chapter 3, *General Operations and Procedures of the National Weather Service Hurricane Centers*, and Chapter 5, *Aircraft Reconnaissance*. In Chapter 5, the requirement for high-density/high-accuracy (HD/HA) data is updated to include surface wind and rain-rate data from the stepped frequency microwave radiometer, when available. Detailed information on the new HD/HA data message is contained in Appendix G. Additionally, Chapter 6, *Satellite Reconnaissance*, and Appendix A, *Local National Weather Service (NWS) Office Products* contain some important updates.

After the historic 2005 Atlantic tropical cyclone season, the 2006 season was rather calm. Ten tropical storms formed which was the fewest number since 1997. Of these ten storms, five became hurricanes, including two major hurricanes—the fewest since 2002 and close to the long-term averages of 11, 6, and 2. Of particular note, there were no landfalling U.S. hurricanes for the first time since 2001. The Northeast Pacific, however, had the most number of tropical storms (18) since 1992 and the most hurricanes (10) since 1993. Two hurricanes made landfall in Mexico, resulting in 13 deaths. The other tropical cyclone basins supported by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center had average to slightly below-average years based on their 25-year average climatology.

Once again, the civilian and military organizations that make up our multiagency tropical cyclone forecast and warning system provided outstanding support to their customers. Due to their hard work and dedicated professionalism, the mission was accomplished.

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



# NATIONAL HURRICANE OPERATIONS PLAN

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