

24 May 2011

Tropical Storm Risk warns of above-norm 2011 hurricane season

Tropical Storm Risk (TSR), which provides real-time mapping and prediction of tropical cyclone windfields worldwide and is co-sponsored by Aon Benfield, today releases its pre-season outlook* to coincide with the start of the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season. The outlook anticipates Atlantic basin and U.S. landfalling hurricane activity being 25% above the long-term (1950-2010) norm.

TSR, part of Aon Benfield Research's academic and industry collaboration, maintains its April forecast for a moderately active hurricane season. The pre-season outlook includes:

- A 55% probability of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season; a 29% probability of a near-normal season, and only a 16% chance of a below-normal season.
- 14 tropical storms including eight hurricanes and four intense hurricanes. This compares to long-term norms of 11, six and three respectively.

For U.S. landfalling activity, TSR forecasts:

- A 59% probability of above-normal U.S. landfalling hurricane activity; a 26% likelihood of a near-normal season, and only a 15% chance of a below-normal season.
- Four tropical storm strikes on the U.S., including two hurricanes. This compares to long-term norms of three and 1.5 respectively.

Three main climate factors will determine the level of hurricane activity in the Atlantic basin. Occurring in August and September, these are the speed of trade winds over the tropical North Atlantic, sea temperatures in the tropical North Atlantic, and the sign and strength of El Niño Southern Oscillation. U.S. landfalling hurricane activity is influenced by July tropospheric wind patterns over the North Atlantic and U.S., and by the level of hurricane activity occurring at sea.

Professor Mark Saunders at Tropical Storm Risk, said: "At present all main climate indicators point to the 2011 hurricane season being above-norm but less active for basin activity than 2010, and more active for U.S. landfalling activity than 2010. If a major hurricane does not strike the U.S. in 2011 it will be the first occasion going back to at least 1900 where six consecutive years have passed without such an event."

TSR's next hurricane forecast will be issued on 6 June. Professor Mark Saunders will also be revealing new technology to help (re)insurers manage real-time hurricane risks at an *expose of valuable data for insurance and reinsurance* in the Lloyd's Old Library on the 1 June (hosted by the Lighthill Risk Network). Please register [here](#) if you would like to attend.

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*** TSR Pre-Season Hurricane Forecast Report**

Please click [here](#) to view a copy of the report issued today entitled "TSR Pre-Season Forecast for Atlantic Hurricane Activity in 2011".

About TSR

Tropical Storm Risk (TSR) offers world-leading products for mapping and predicting the windfields of active tropical cyclones worldwide in real-time. Led by Professor Mark Saunders, TSR is affiliated to University College London (UCL) and endorsed by Aon Benfield, RSA and Crawford & Company. TSR's products help re/insurers elucidate the potential upcoming and immediate post-event impact of these damaging storms on their portfolios. TSR also offers seasonal outlooks to benefit risk awareness and decision making.

About Aon Benfield Research

The Aon Benfield Research team is responsible for monitoring and analyzing reinsurers and the reinsurance industry and providing insights that help our clients to make informed decisions for their businesses. Aon Benfield Research also brings together our academic relationships under one banner to deliver a wealth of relevant academic research material. We combine world class academic research with Aon Benfield's industry-leading catastrophe modeling, actuarial analysis and broking expertise to create a more risk aware world.

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