2008 Names

The early April forecast update for Atlantic hurricane activity in 2008 anticipates another 'above average' season. Numbers are expected to be above 30 year norms. The 2008 Forecast is

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<th>average</th>
<th>NHC 2008</th>
<th>Dr. Gray 2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Storms</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>13 – 16</td>
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<td>Hurricanes</td>
<td>5.9</td>
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<td>Major hurricanes</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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National Hurricane Center recommends:

**Early in the hurricane season:**
- Learn locations of shelters.
- Review working status of flashlights & battery-powered radios.
- Ensure non-perishable food & water is on hand for two weeks.
- Obtain & store plywood & plastic to secure your home.
- Check home for loose and clogged rain gutters and spouts.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed. Cut away weak branches.
- If you have a boat, determine where to move it.
- Review your insurance policy.
- Individuals with special needs should contact the county emergency management office.
- Post emergency telephone numbers. (Never call 911 for information -- call 911 only if it is a true emergency.)
- Teach children how to make long-distance phone calls and how and when to call 911.

**When a hurricane watch is issued for your area:**
- Monitor weather bulletins.
- Fuel and service family vehicles.
- Inspect and secure mobile-home tie-downs.
- Prepare to cover all window and door openings with shutters or other shielding material.
- Check food and water supplies.
- Have clean, air-tight containers for two weeks of water.
- Stock up on canned provisions.
- Keep a small cooler with frozen gel packs for refrigeration.
- Get a 10-day to two-week supply of prescription medicines.
- Stock up on extra batteries for radios and flashlights.
- Prepare to store and secure outdoor furniture and garbage cans.
- Replenish first-aid supplies.
- Have an extra supply of cash.

**When a hurricane warning is issued for your area:**
- Closely monitor weather bulletins.
- Follow instructions from local officials. When told to leave, do so immediately.
- Complete preparations such as putting up storm shutters or storing loose objects.
- Evacuate storm-surge areas.
- Leave mobile homes.

**Probabilities of a hurricane hitting...**
1) Entire U.S. coastline - 69% (average for last century is 52%)
2) U.S. East Coast Including the Florida Peninsula - 45% (average for last century is 31%)
3) Gulf Coast (FL Panhandle west to Brownsville) - 44% (average for last century is 30%)

**If evacuating:**
- Plan to evacuate if you live: in a mobile home; on the coast; an offshore island or in a flood area; or in a high-rise.
- Stay with friends and relatives if possible.
- Shelters are a last resort. They do not take pets.
- Bring the following things to a shelter: first-aid kit; medicine; baby food and diapers; games and books; toiletries; battery-powered radios; flashlights; extra batteries; blankets or sleeping bags; identification; valuable papers and cash.

**If staying home:**
- Stay home only if you have not been told to leave.
- Fill air-tight containers with enough water for two weeks.
- Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary purposes.
- Turn refrigerator to maximum cold.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Stay inside a well-constructed building.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- Take refuge in a small interior room or closet.
- Close all interior doors; secure exterior doors and windows.
- If you are in a two-story house, go to an interior 1st floor room.
- Lie on the floor under a sturdy object.
- Do not assume improved weather conditions means the end of the storm. It could be the eye of the hurricane.

**After the storm:**
- Stay in protected area until announced: the danger has passed.
- If you have evacuated, do not return home until you are told to do so by emergency officials.
- Do not enter a home with structural damage until it is checked.
- Avoid using candles or other open flames.
- Avoid downed power lines.
- Be alert for poisonous snakes.
- Beware of weakened bridges or washed-out roads.
- Watch for weakened limbs.
- Do not use the telephone unless absolutely necessary.
- Guard against spoiled food.
- Use caution when cutting fallen trees.