

ORANGE



COUNTY
FLORIDA

Office of Emergency Management

2026 Hurricane Season Preview



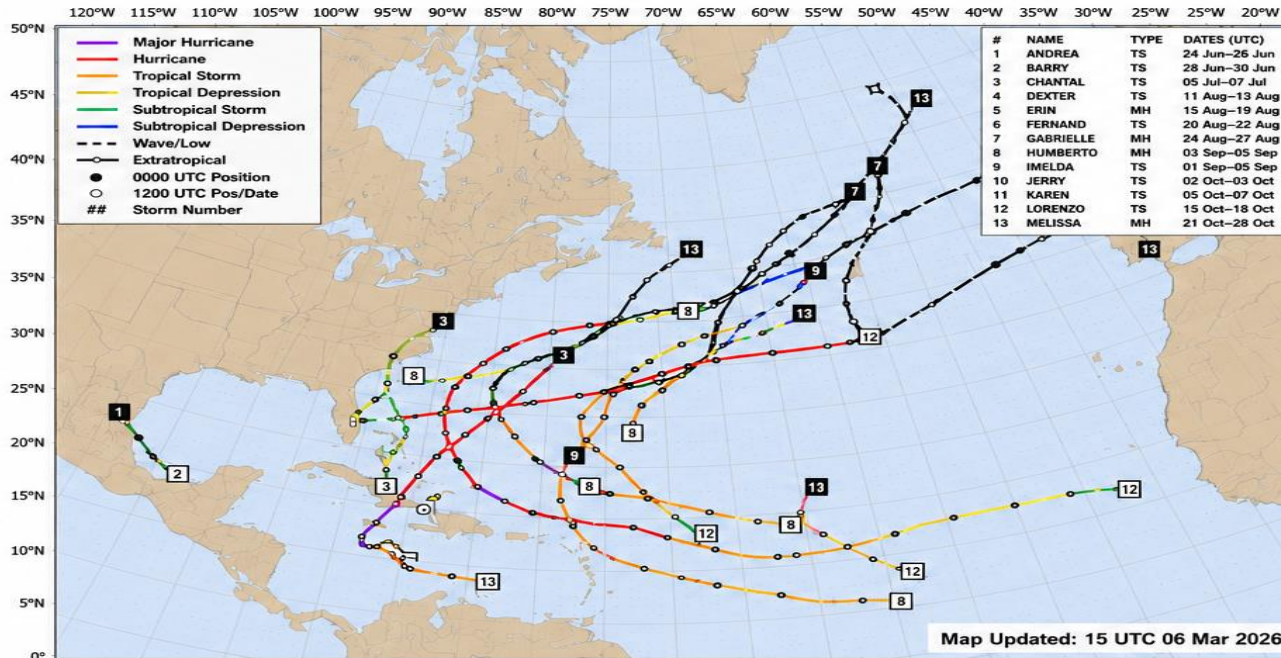
June 16, 2026

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- 2025 Season Review
- 2026 Season Outlook
- Countywide Preparedness
- Public Works Readiness
- Orange County Utilities Readiness
- Conclusion



2025 SEASON IN REVIEW



WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Melbourne Florida

BY THE NUMBERS

- 13 Named Storms
 - 5 Hurricanes
 - 4 Major Hurricanes
- Season featured below-average number of named storms, several with above-average intensity.
 - Several major hurricanes formed: Erin, Gabrielle, Humberto, Melissa.
 - No U.S. hurricane landfalls — first time since 2015 and an uncommon event (1 in 5 seasons overall).
 - Offshore storms still caused significant local impacts: beach erosion and rip currents along east coast.

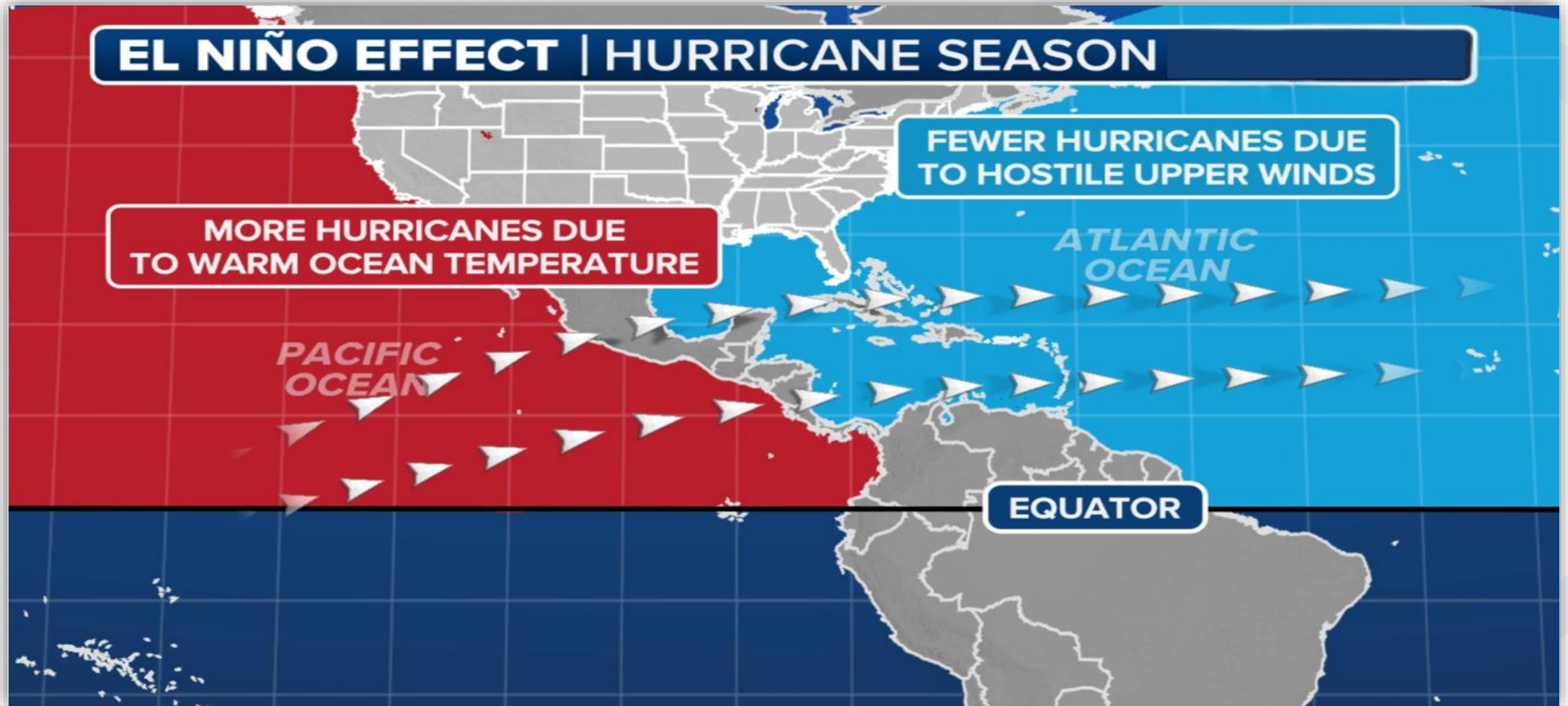
RAPID INTENSIFICATION

- Several storms strengthened rapidly, reducing preparation time and increasing risks from strong winds, tornadoes, flooding rainfall, beach erosion, and dangerous surf across Florida.

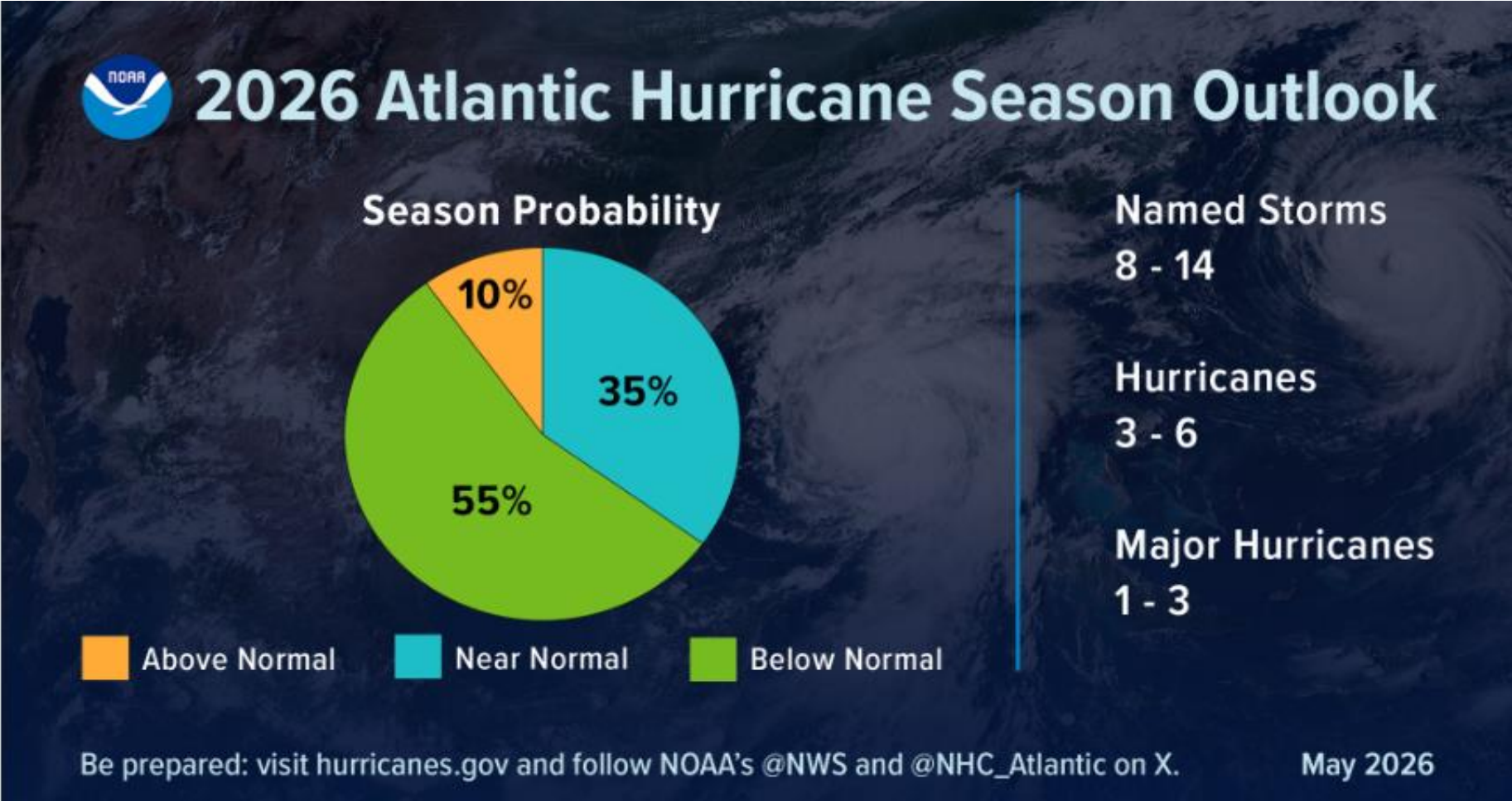
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN

- Even during below-average seasons, storms can intensify quickly and produce serious impacts.
Stay weather-aware and prepared.

2026 SEASON OUTLOOK



2026 SEASON OUTLOOK





HURRICANE CATEGORIES



HURRICANE CATEGORIES

Tropical Storm	39 – 73 mph
Category 1	74 – 95 mph
Category 2	96 – 110 mph
Category 3	111 – 129 mph
Category 4	130 – 156 mph *Charlie 2004 (77 mph; peak gust 105 mph) *Irma 2017 (59 mph; peak gust 105 mph)
Category 5	157+ mph





2026 SEASON OUTLOOK

*Continuous monitoring of National Weather Service (NWS) and National Hurricane Center (NHC) products
Informs planning and decision-making before any response is activated.*

Days 6-7

- NWS Outlooks
- Identify potential threats

Days 3-5

- Potential Track Forecasts
- Wind speed probabilities
- Time of arrival graphics
- NHC Key message

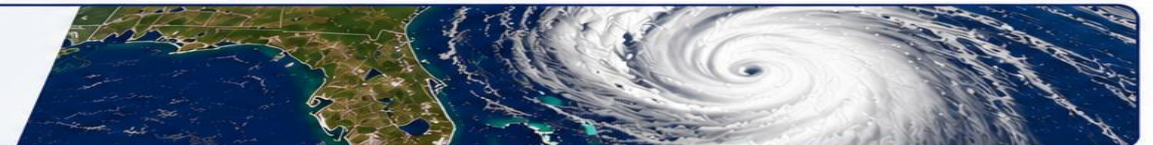
Days 1-2

- Tropical Watches & Warnings
- Potential & expected storm surge
- Hurricane threats & Impacts

Impact Day

- Tornado Warnings
- Extreme wind warnings
- Flash Flood Warnings

Response is driven by continuous monitoring and forecast updates.



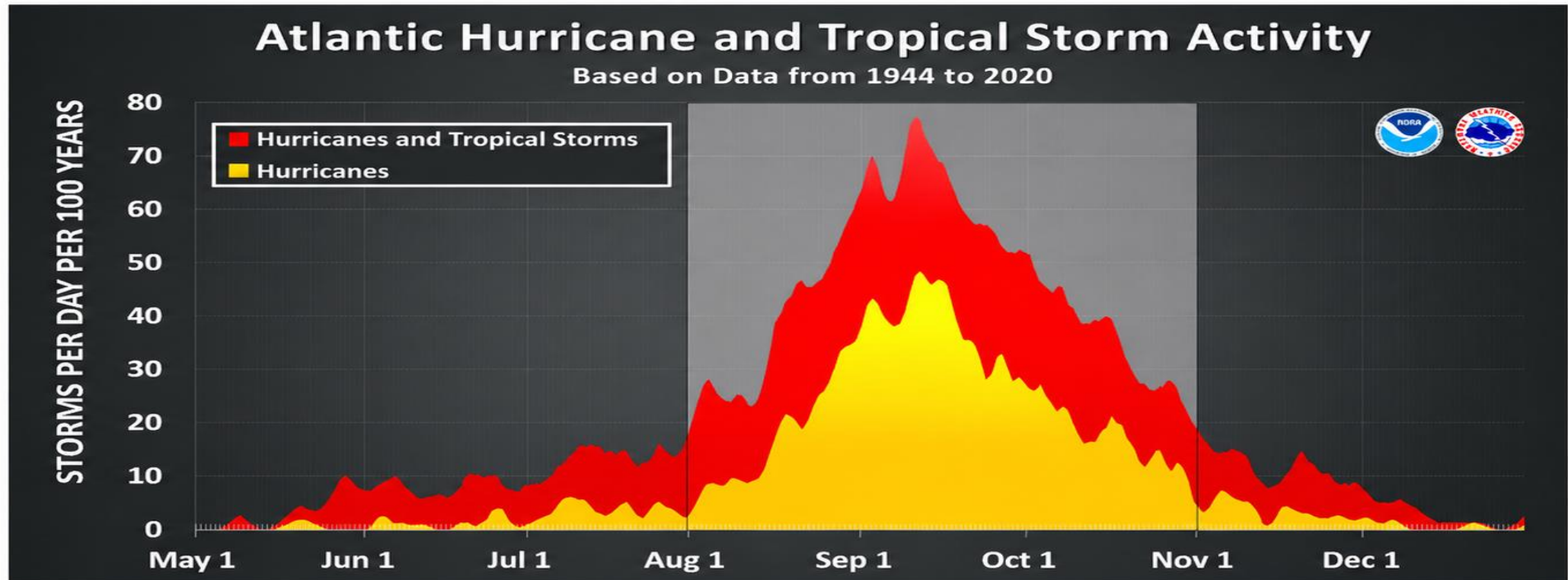
2026 SEASON OUTLOOK

Tropical Cyclones 101

Hurricane Season



WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE
— Melbourne  Florida —



August 1st - October 31st
> 85% of Tropical Storms & Hurricanes Form in Aug, Sep, Oct

2026 SEASON OUTLOOK

ATLANTIC STORM NAMES

2026 HURRICANE SEASON

 ARTHUR	 HANNA	 OMAR
 BERTHA	 ISAIAS	 PAULETTE
 CRISTOBAL	 JOSEPHINE	 RENE
 DOLLY	 KYLE	 SALLY
 EDOUARD	 LEAH	 TEDDY
 FAY	 MARCO	 VICKY
 GONZALO	 NANA	 WILFRED

COUNTY SEASON PREPAREDNESS

Before the Storm

- **Senior Officials Workshop**
- Emergency Operations Center Activation
- Storm Tracking
- Sandbags
- Shelter Readiness

During the Storm

- Public Information & Alerts/Press Briefings
- Residents dial 311 for information
- Dial 911 for Emergencies

After the Storm

- Debris & Infrastructure Clearing
- Damage Assessments
- Coordinated Response & Recovery Operations
- Community Recovery Support

COUNTY SEASON PREPAREDNESS

Shelter Readiness

- OCPS
 - 44 school-based shelter locations
 - 3 PSN
 - 6 Pet friendly
- OC Parks & Recreation
 - 5 Magic Gym facilities

Supporting Agencies

- Sheriff's Office
- Red Cross
- LYNX



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

Year-round engagement supports preparedness across residents, partners, and agencies

Community Outreach

- OEM Presentations
- Community Events & meetings
- Hurricane Expo

Public Communication

- Media interviews
- Social Media engagement
- OCAAlert and OCFL Alert

Partner Coordination

- Partner agency meetings
- Weather radio distribution

PUBLIC WORKS

ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

HURRICANE PREPARATIONS

Operations

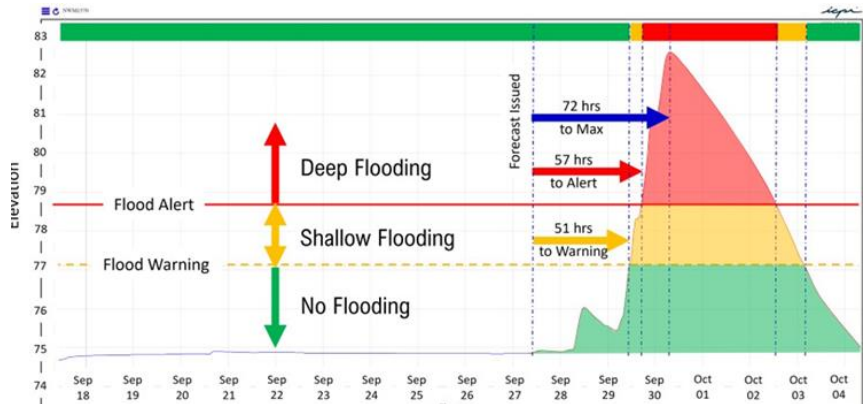
- Monitoring hot spots
- Cleaned inlets, culverts, and pipes on schedule
- Inspected pumps and serviced generators
- Checked lakes and weirs
- Pond drawdown operations
- Established critical intersections
- Enhance communication
- Tiger Dam mitigation



NEIGHBORHOOD FLOODING CONCERNS

Realtime Flood Forecasting

- Predict flooding 72 hours in advance
- Identify evacuation areas
- Prioritize emergency response and staffing
- PROTECT Grant



NEIGHBORHOOD FLOODING CONCERNS

Orlo Vista Improvements

- Three expanded and interconnected retention ponds
- New pump station and force main improving stormwater flow
- Backup power for storm operations
- Erosion control and stabilization improvements
- Flexible stormwater levels before major storms

Estimated Project Completion: June 2026

- Grant closeout activities underway:
 - FEMA HMGP: 18.4M
 - HUD Disaster Recovery: 2.5M
 - Orange County Funding: 3.4M



DEBRIS REMOVAL & SANDBAG DISTRIBUTION

Sandbags

- Five (5) sandbag distribution sites (Parks)
- 10 sandbags per household
- Special needs sandbag distribution through 311



DEBRIS REMOVAL & SANDBAG DISTRIBUTION

Debris Removal

- Milton
 - 175K CY of Debris Removed
 - 10 weeks to substantial completion
 - \$3.95M
- Debris Removal & Monitoring Contracts
 - Debris Removal Contractors
 - Crowder Gulf
 - Ashbritt - Increase request – CPI of 2.4%
 - Debris Monitoring Contractors
 - Tetra Tech



DEBRIS REMOVAL & SANDBAG DISTRIBUTION

Debris Removal Efficiency Modifications

- Re-bid Debris Contracts
 - Advance 2027 Hurricane Season
- Local Sub-Contractors
- Citizen Sites
- Communication

Post-Hurricane Debris Cleanup

Orange County is seeking subcontractors to support storm debris cleanup following hurricanes and other natural disasters. Local businesses with the necessary equipment and expertise in debris cleanup and hauling are encouraged to register with our federally-bid debris contractors.

[Register with AshBritt](#)

[Register with CrowderGulf](#)

Contact Us

Office of Emergency Management

P.O. Box 5879

Winter Park, Florida 32793-5879

Email: ocoem@ocfl.net

Phone: 3-1-1 or 407-836-3111



A low-angle photograph of a modern multi-story building with a facade of large glass windows and light-colored concrete panels. The building is set against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. In the foreground, there are some green trees and a palm tree on the left side.

ORANGE COUNTY UTILITIES

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Field Services Division

- Staff emergency drill exercises
April 14 and June 9
- Cross-training department staff
- Prepping equipment for response
 - 135 mobile generators
 - 70 stationary generators
 - 22 backup pumps



ORANGE COUNTY UTILITIES

Water Division

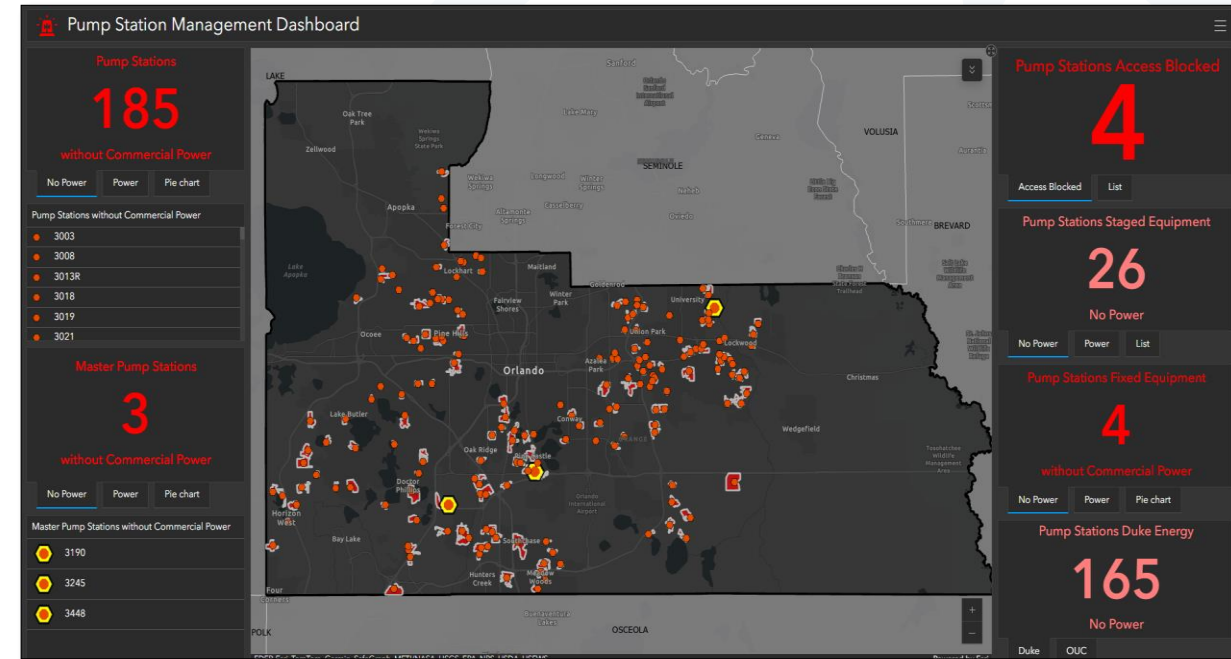
- Exercised fully manual (no automated control) operations procedures at all regional water plants
- Completed annual maintenance and refueling of generators
- Ongoing program to install pressure recorders on water distribution system



ORANGE COUNTY UTILITIES

Engineering Division

- Pump Station Management GIS Dashboards
 - Allow visualization of OCU pump stations, subarea locations, and emergency generator routes by pumping service area
 - Indicators and charts are used to summarize the current operating mode of assets



ORANGE COUNTY UTILITIES

Hurricane Preparedness Reminders

- Yard waste reminders in *Recycler* and social media outreach
 - Trim trees and shrubs ahead of storm season
- Keep water account information updated
- Ongoing collaboration with Public Works and County Communications on storm debris collection response



CONCLUSION

Plan for an active season

- Storm Impacts can occur without a direct strike
- Flooding remains the primary risk
- Impacts will vary across the County
- Residents should prepare for 3 – 7 days
- Follow trusted sources and official guidance



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