

**YOUR
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**HURRICANE
GUIDE**

HURRICANE SEASON 2020: La Niña and Global Heat Mean More Storms Than Average

By John Patrick

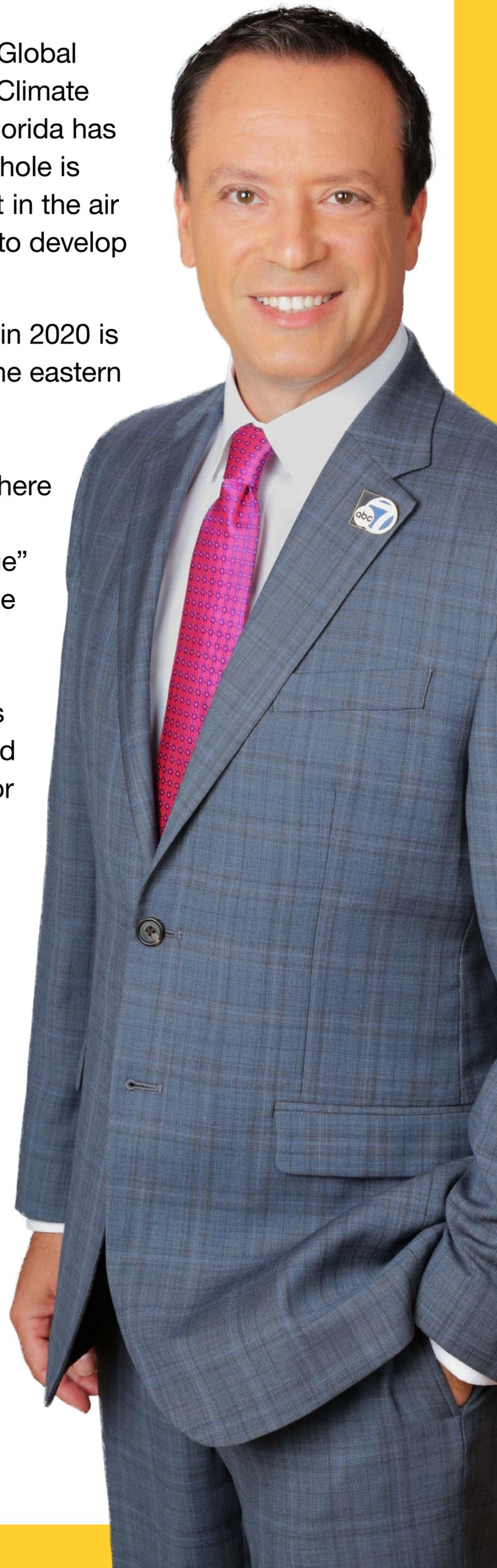
Just about every forecast entity, including NOAA and Colorado State university, predicts that 2020 will be an active hurricane season. We knocked two names off the 2020 list even before the season officially got underway June 1! Public perception is, “You say it’s going to be more active every year.” And that statement is true. Since 2005, the year I started at ABC7, we’ve had 4 hurricane seasons that were BELOW average. The other 11 have been ABOVE average. And that 2005 season had TWENTY-EIGHT named storms!

The main reason is Climate Change, specifically Global Warming. According to our research partners at Climate Central, the average temperature in Southwest Florida has risen 1.6° F since 1970. The United States as a whole is 2.4° F warmer than it was in 1970. This extra heat in the air and water allows tropical storms and hurricanes to develop more easily.

Another factor in the high storm count predicted in 2020 is La Niña. It’s a phenomenon where the water of the eastern Pacific Ocean, near the equator, are cooler than average. (But I just said the Earth was warmer! Remember, it’s the average of the extremes, so there will be pockets of cooler air and water. They are the exception, however.) This “cooler than average” Pacific water causes broad Low Pressure over the western & central United States. It also causes broad High Pressure over the eastern U.S. and much of the Atlantic Basin, where tropical storms form. This ridge of High Pressure brings light wind to the Atlantic Basin, which makes it quite east for storms to grow vertically and strengthen.

This is my 16th Hurricane Season at ABC7 and as Chief Meteorologist of the Forecast Team, it’s my job to ensure all of us deliver clear, easy to understand and accurate forecasts so you can make the necessary decisions & preparations to keep you, your family and your property safe if a storm strikes Southwest Florida again.

Stay updated on weather conditions with the ABC7 Forecast, certified the most accurate forecast in Southwest Florida seven years in a row by WeatheRate, an independent research company. For the fifth consecutive year, ABC7 is ranked the most accurate in the entire state of Florida! When weather threatens, be sure to check the ABC7 Forecast on WZVN-TV, [abc-7.com](https://www.abc7.com) and the [ABC7 WX app](#).



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HURRICANE TERMS

WATCH?

- Issued 48 hours in advance
- Prepare your home
- Review your evacuation plan in case a warning is issued
- Pay extra attention to the forecast
- Follow instructions from local officials

WARNING!

- Issued 36 hours in advance
- Complete final storm preparations immediately and evacuate, if directed by local officials
- Tune to ABC7 for continuous coverage



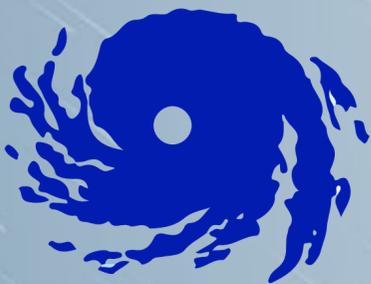
TROPICAL DEPRESSION

An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined, closed surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of less than 39 mph. It has no eye and does not typically have the organization of the spiral shape of more powerful storms. However, it is already a low-pressure system, hence the name depression.



TROPICAL STORM

An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface of circulation and maximum sustained winds between 39 mph and 74 mph. At this point, the distinctive cyclonic shape starts to develop, although an eye is not usually present.



HURRICANE

A system with sustained winds of at least 74 mph. A cyclone of this intensity tends to develop an eye, an area of relative calm (and lowest atmospheric pressure) at the center of circulation. The eye is often visible in satellite images as a small circular cloud-free spot. Surrounding the eye is the eyewall, an area about 9.9 mi to 50 mi wide in which the strongest thunderstorms and winds circulate around the storm's center.



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PLAN MORE

TIMELINE



ASAP

Hurricane season starts June 1st, but the earlier you can prepare, the better.

- Prepare your hurricane kit
- **Know your hazard zone & evacuation route.**
- Check supplies from previous seasons to make sure nothing has expired.
- Establish a plan with your family for staying home or **evacuating.**



48 HOURS

Prepare your home

- Secure the outside of your home, including lawn furniture and other loose items. Board up or shutter windows to prevent shattering. Secure and wedge sliding doors to prevent them from lifting from their tracks
- Check your survival kit. Make sure all items are present and in working order.
- Review your evacuation plan in case a warning is issued
- Pay extra attention to the forecast
- Follow instructions from local officials
- Fuel motor vehicles and obtain a supply of cash. Banks and ATMs may not be open after the storm.



36 HOURS

Unless you have been advised to evacuate, stay home. It is a better place to ride out a storm than stuck in traffic, or in a crowded public shelter. Complete final storm preparations immediately and evacuate, if directed by local officials. And tune in to ABC7 for Your Most Accurate coverage.

STAYING HOME

- Be sure your home and your family is prepared and supplied.
- Board up or brace garage and porch doors
- Bring in **pets**
- Fill bathtubs and containers with fresh water
- Run refrigerator at maximum and do not open unless necessary
- Unplug small appliances
- Turn off propane tanks and utilities if told to do so by authorities

If you live in a mobile home, manufactured home, recreational vehicle or low lying area prone to flooding, you may need to evacuate.

EVACUATING

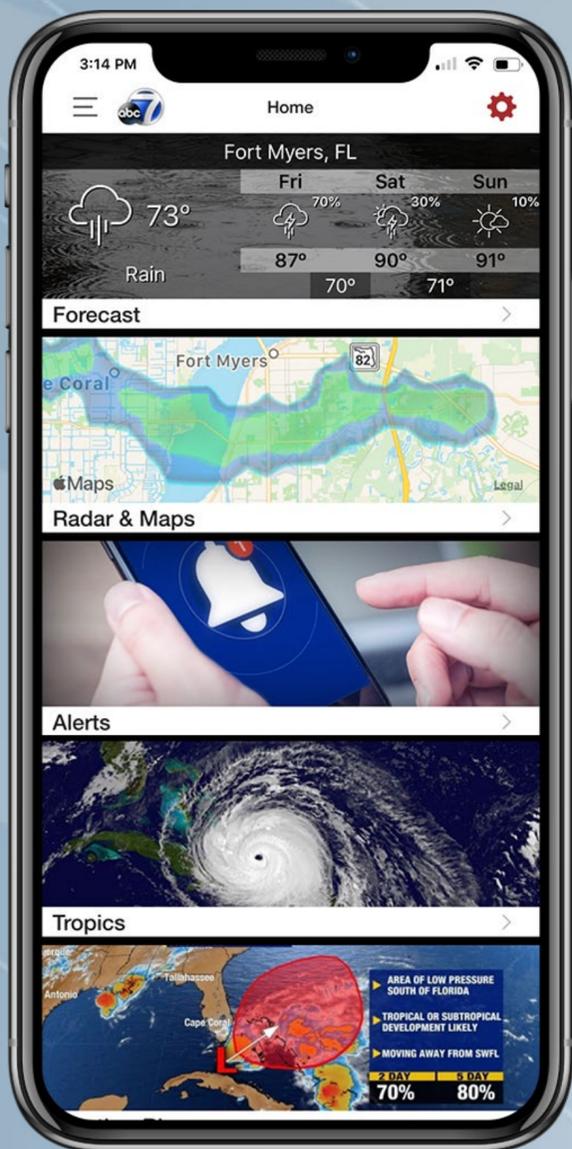
Florida law states that you **MUST** go when told to evacuate. Here are some options:

- A friend or relative's home in a safer area
- A safer location outside of Southwest Florida
- A designated public shelter
Shelters will not allow alcohol, firearms, or animals (other than service animals)
- Notify family and friends of your evacuation plans
- Take a survival kit of essential items
- Turn off the utilities and seal your home as tightly as possible
- Pack small valuables and shelter items listed on safety checklist
- Secure your home and take recommended evacuation routes to the nearest designated shelter or safe area
- Do not leave your **pets** behind!

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CONNECT MORE

ABC7 WX APP



- Get lightning alerts when a strike is within a specified range of your location, as well as when it's gone.
- Customize the severe weather alerts from the National Weather Service and SWFL's Most Accurate Forecasters at ABC7 for your location, as well as others you choose.
- ABC7 Real-Time Radar, Hour-By-Hour Forecasts & Boating Tools are constantly updated!



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GET MORE

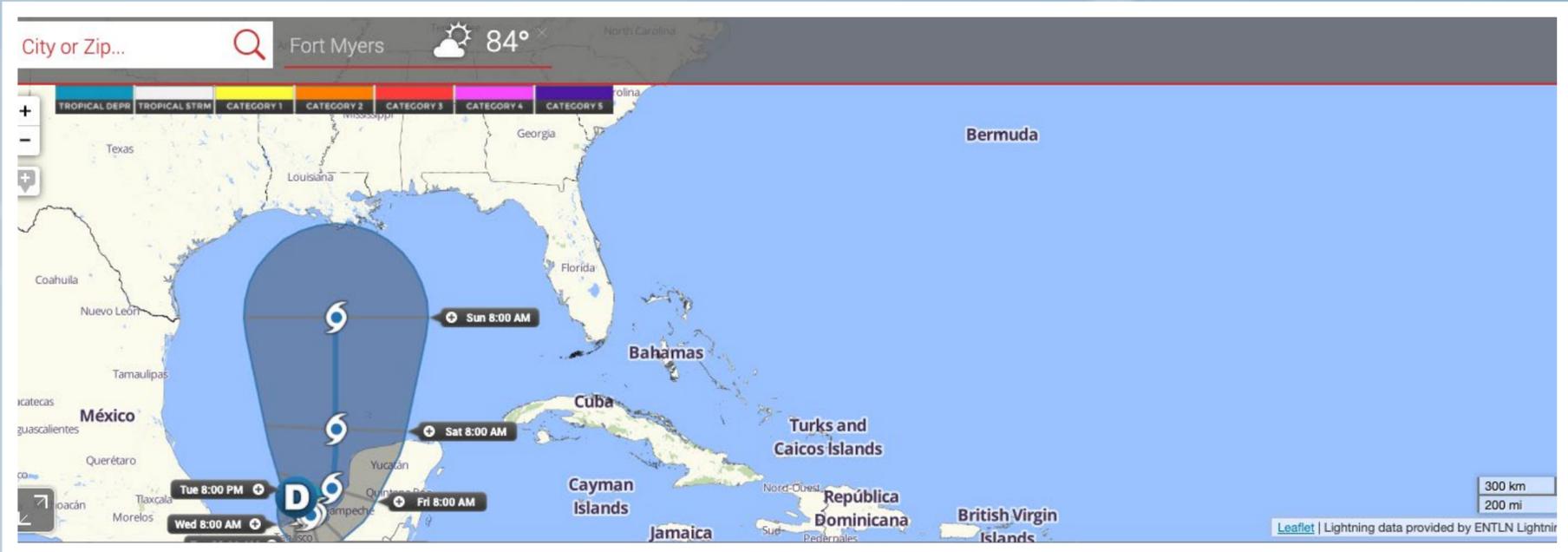
INFORMATION

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

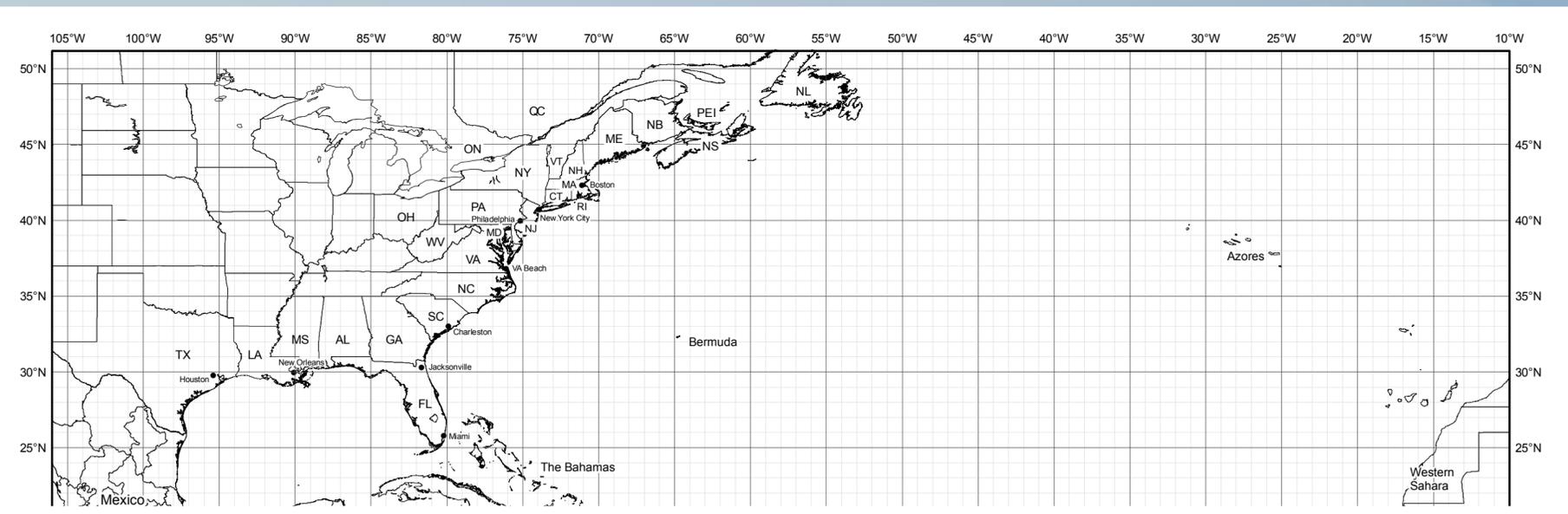
COUNTY	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	AMERICAN RED CROSS
Charlotte	(941) 833-4000	(941) 629-4345
Collier	(239) 252-3600	(239) 596-6868
Desoto	(863) 993-4831	(863) 494-2348
Glades	(863) 946-6020	(239) 278-3401
Hendry	(863) 674-5400	(239) 278-3401
Lee	(239) 533-0622	(239) 278-3401

Dial 211 for information and referral

Interactive Hurricane Tracker



Printable Hurricane Tracker





RAMJACK[®]

YOUR LOCAL

FOUNDATION AND
SEAWALL REPAIR

EXPERTS ✓



Foundation Repair

Signs of foundation problems

- Stair-step cracks in your brick walls
- Doors & windows sticking
- Leaning chimney
- Growing cracks in your sheetrock walls
- Gaps between your cabinets & ceiling



Save Your Seawall

Signs that your seawall is failing

- Dips or potholes in your yard near the seawall
- Cracks in the cement seawall cap (top)
- Exposed and rusting rebar in the cement
- Leaning seawalls

**SCHEDULE YOUR FREE
EVALUATION TODAY!**

RamJackSeawallRepair.com

855-888-JACK (5225)

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