



Acronym: NHC
Full Name: The National Hurricane Center
Website: www.nhc.noaa.gov
Established: 1967
Location: Miami, United States.

Areas of expertise: Tracking and predicting the behavior of tropical depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes.

Main Partners and collaborations: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Environmental Modeling Center (EMC), National Hurricane Center (NHC), Aircraft Operations Center (AOC), National Environmental Satellite Data Information Service (NESDIS), NASA.

Short Description:

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) is a division of the NOAA National Weather Service and it is also part of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) located at Florida International University in Miami, Florida. The NHC mission is "to save lives, mitigate property loss, and improve economic efficiency by issuing the best watches, warnings, forecasts, and analyses of hazardous tropical weather and by increasing understanding of these hazards."*

Main activities:

In order to accomplish its activities, the Centre is divided in the following six units:

- The Hurricane Specialists Unit (HSU) observes tropical cyclones and areas of disturbed weather within the North Atlantic and eastern North Pacific basins. The unit develops also analyses and forecasts in the form of text advisories and graphical products and provides educational training programs*.
- The Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) analyses and forecasts over the tropical and subtropical eastern North and South Pacific and the North Atlantic basins. TAFB had developed the following products: High Seas, Offshore Waters, Marine Weather Discussion, Tropical Weather Discussion, graphical surface and ocean wave analyses and forecasts and satellite-based rainfall estimates for the international community*.
- The Technical Support Branch (TSB) aims the development of new tools and techniques into operations for tropical weather prediction. TSB produces also a number of statistical and dynamical models used in predicting both tropical cyclone behaviour and associated weather conditions*.
- The Storm Surge Unit generates forecasts of the abnormal rise in sea level accompanying tropical cyclones using the Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) computer model. This Unit also develops storm surge atlases for use by emergency managers in developing evacuation procedures for coastal areas*.
- The Chief, Aerial Reconnaissance Coordination, All Hurricanes (CARCAH) Unit coordinates tropical cyclone operational reconnaissance requirements*.
- The Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT) supports hurricane response operations*.

Contact:

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Source: * The National Hurricane Center (<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutintro.shtml>) - 15.03.2010)