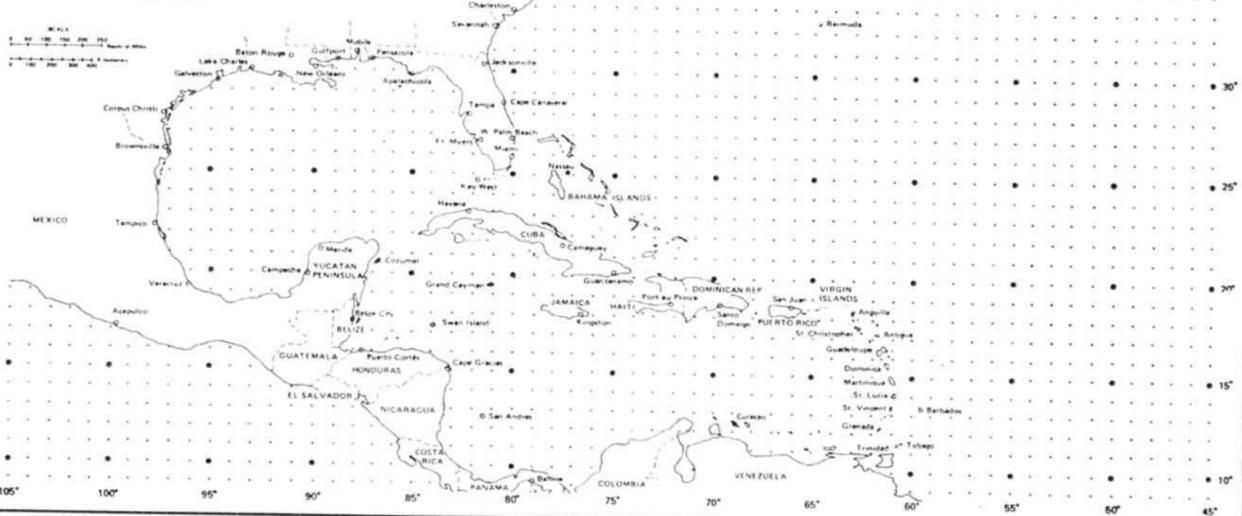


HURRICANE TRACKING CHART

REMEMBER: hurricanes are large powerful storms that can suddenly change direction. Check frequently on the storm's progress until all Watches and Warnings for your area from the National Weather Service are canceled.

- HURRICANE WATCH:** hurricanes may threaten within 36 hours
- Be prepared to take action if a warning is issued by the National Weather Service.
 - Keep informed of the storm's progress.
- HURRICANE WARNING:** hurricanes expected to strike within 24 hours
- Leave beachfront and low-lying areas.
 - Leave mobile homes for more substantial shelter.
 - Stay in your home if it is sturdy, on high ground, and not near the beach, but if you are asked to leave by authorities, Go!
 - Stay tuned to radio, NOAA Weather Radio, or television for hurricane advisories and safety information.



PLOTTING A STORM: Hurricane center positions are given by latitude and longitude. For example, if the storm's center is located near 41.5 degrees North and 63.0 degrees West, on the chart you would read North to 41.5 degrees and then West to 63.0 degrees and then mark the point. National Weather Service advisories are issued at midnight, 6 a.m., noon and 6 p.m., but at more frequent intervals as the storm approaches the coast.

A HURRICANE'S NO PARTY

Officials Tighten Control At Shelters

BY TERRY POPE

Riding out a hurricane is no party. That's why coolers will not be allowed inside hurricane evacuation shelters should a storm threaten the Brunswick County coast.

Past mistakes have made Red Cross shelters safer for those who flee there from the path of a storm. Local emergency officials learn from each experience.

A fight that broke out at the Shallotte Middle School shelter three years ago involved the use of alcohol. Persons had packed the liquor bottles and six packs before leaving home for the shelters.

One way to prevent it from happening again is to prohibit coolers from the shelters, said Cecil Logan, Brunswick County Emergency Management coordinator.

"All items brought in will be subject to search," said Logan. "That's the best way to eliminate that problem."

Officials had thought shelters could be more self-supporting for at least 24 hours if evacuees were allowed to bring their own ice coolers. He said the intent was to allow milk, soft drinks and juice inside.

"You learn from mistakes," he added. "It won't happen again."

In the event of a hurricane, shelters will open at West Brunswick High School on N.C. 130 west of Shallotte, Shallotte Middle School on N.C. 179 and at Union Primary School south of Shallotte. Those shelters serve evacuees leaving beach homes in the South Brunswick Islands and unsafe mobile homes.

South Brunswick High School at Boiling Spring Lakes and North Brunswick High School in Leland will also open as Red Cross shelters to serve persons leaving beach homes on Oak Island and unsafe mobile homes. Leland Middle School will remain a backup shelter.

Logan said all mobile homes, regardless of size or type of foundation, are unsafe during a hurricane.

The Cape Fear Chapter of the American Red Cross expanded last year to include Brunswick and Pender County coverage. Enough local volunteers have been trained to set up local shelters on the spot, said Logan.

"We won't have to wait 12 or 24 hours to have a Red Cross shelter now," he said.

Department of Social Services employees and volunteer nurses have been trained in Red Cross shel-

ter management, he said. Logan and Southport's Ralph Parker have been appointed to the chapter's board of directors.

The county's new 911 communications center at the government complex in Bolivia will also house the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) should a storm approach.

"The way this county is growing, it was just time we had something larger to operate in," said Logan.

When Hurricane Hugo struck the South Carolina coast in 1989, an evacuation shelter in McClellanville flooded, sending residents fleeing to higher ground in the midst of the storm.

Following that incident, officials along the East Coast were notified to check the flood levels of all designated shelters.

"All of our schools meet the required elevation levels," said Logan. "The routes to Shallotte Middle might flood during the storm, but not the shelter itself."

Logan said the county maintains a resource list of where supplies and equipment can be obtained should a storm hit. Last year, his department

purchased hand-held police scanners for each shelter so attendants there can keep up with activity on the outside and relay that information to evacuees.

People become restless when they can't see or find out what's happening during a storm, said Logan.

"As long as people know what's happening outside, they will be easier to work with," said Logan. "It's hard to keep them in place, otherwise."

Hurricane Diana in 1984 taught the county the need for generators at each shelter. Portable units capable of producing 4,000-watts each, enough power to run lights and a television, were purchased for each shelter.

The school system has prewired each gymnasium that serves as a shelter for portable generators, so they can be easily plugged in and ready to start work immediately. "I feel that Brunswick County is as well-prepared for storms as any county in North Carolina," said Logan. "We have equipment that most counties do not have."

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Andrew Leads '92 'Worst Guest' List

The first named storm of 1992 will be called Andrew, but you may wonder why that name rather than Amos, Arlene or Ana.

The National Hurricane Center near Miami, Fla., keeps a constant watch on oceanic storm-breeding areas for tropical disturbances which may herald formation of a hurricane. If a disturbance intensifies into a tropical storm—with rotary circulation and wind speeds above 39 mph—the Center will give the storm a name from one of six lists that are rotated and reused.

The six name lists for Atlantic storms have an international flavor and are agreed upon during meetings of the World Meteorological Organization. Because of a shortage of names beginning with these letters, Q, U, X, Y and Z aren't used.

Why are the storms named named? Experience shows that the use of short, distinctive given names in written as well as in spoken communications is quicker, and less subject to error than the older more cumbersome latitude-longitude identification methods.

So, what are the names of the "worst guests" that might come calling in 1992? Here's the list:

- | | | |
|----------|--------|----------|
| Andrew | Hermín | Otto |
| Bonnie | Ivan | Paula |
| Charley | Jeanne | Richard |
| Danielle | Karl | Shary |
| Earl | Lisa | Tomas |
| Frances | Mitch | Virginie |
| Georges | Nicole | Walter |

Forecasters Predict Busy Hurricane Season Locally

Forecasters say it will be a busy hurricane season for the East Coast, but local officials are not so sure.

Weather experts predict a cycle of more frequent and stronger storms in the Atlantic Ocean this year, resulting in a more active season than usual for the North Carolina coast.

Robert Sheets, director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, predicts a cycle of increasing activity for the season that begins Monday, June 1. Already, one tropical disturbance was spotted in the Atlantic on May 20.

Experts believe two decades of less frequent and less severe Atlantic storms may be ending. Research has linked the amount of rainfall in western Africa to the severity of hurricanes on the East Coast.

The local prediction is for fewer but stronger storms in 1992, according to Cecil Logan, Brunswick County's Emergency Management coordinator. Logan oversees local evacuations when hurricanes approach.

"What we will have is maybe a higher category storm than in the past," said Logan.

The National Weather Service categorizes hurricanes by intensity on a scale from 1 to 5 with a category 5 being the strongest storm packing winds of more than 156 mph and a storm surge of 19 feet or more.

An average hurricane season, from June to November, has six hurricanes, three of which become major storms packing winds from 111 mph to 130 mph. Also, 10 tropical storms are usually named in the Atlantic during a typical season. Historically, Brunswick County's peak hurricane season is in September.

Weather experts based predictions for a busy storm season on the lack of heavy rain in Africa and warmer than normal water in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, a weather effect known as El Niño. Predictions for the East Coast mainly focus on the West African rainfall, and this year that area is having a drought.

After attending the National Hurricane Conference in Norfolk, Va., in April, Logan had a prediction of his own for Brunswick County—fewer but stronger storms of greater intensity.

"I hope I'm 100 percent wrong," he added.

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