

Hurricane Season Is Here: What a Developing El Niño Means for Texas

June 1 marked the official start of hurricane season, which runs through November 30. This year, meteorologists are watching a developing El Niño pattern in the Pacific Ocean. El Niño typically increases wind shear across the Atlantic Basin, making it harder for tropical systems to organize and strengthen.

Because of this, forecasters are predicting a greater likelihood of a below-normal hurricane season. However, that doesn't mean the Texas Coast is risk-free.

Sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico remain well above average, providing the fuel storms need to strengthen quickly. Even if fewer storms develop overall, any storm that forms in or enters the Gulf has the potential to rapidly intensify before reaching the coastline.

Looking beyond hurricane season, El Niño often brings a wetter and more active winter pattern to Texas. Increased rainfall can help ease drought conditions, replenish reservoirs, and improve soil moisture. However, it can also lead to periods of heavy rain, localized flooding, and stronger winter storm systems moving across the state.

For Texans, the message is simple: weather risks don't end when hurricane season does. Whether it's tropical storms along the coast or heavy rains during the winter months, preparedness remains important year-round.

Now is the time to review your emergency plans, check your disaster supplies, and stay informed throughout the season.

Don't prepare based on the number of storms forecast. Prepare for the one that could impact your community.