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Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2016 9:06 AM
To: Harris, Laura; Detoro, Fred; Weigle, Trevor J.
Cc: Melissa Velez-Morales
Subject: FW: FEMA Region II Hurricane Tip #8
Attachments: FEMA Region II Hurricane Tip #8.jpg

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Subject: FEMA Region II Hurricane Tip #8

FEMA Region II Hu

The peak of the hurricane season – why now?

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FEMA Region II Hurricane Tip #8

The peak of the hurricane season – why now?

Although the Atlantic hurricane season officially began on June 1st, we're now entering the "season within the season" - a roughly eight-week period that is often the most active and dangerous time for tropical cyclone activity.

Why does this peak period of activity begin so deep into summer? There certainly is no lack of disturbances throughout the entire six-month hurricane season. Tropical waves are coming off of the coast of Africa roughly every three days, and the very early and late parts of the year provide additional types of potential seedlings. What's different, though, is the environment that these potential tropical cyclones tend to encounter. Both dynamics (wind factors) and thermodynamics (temperature and moisture) play a role.

Wind shear, which can tear disturbances apart before they strengthen, is strong in May, but gradually fades through June and July, reaching a minimum by mid to late August. This minimum in the shear combines with favorable thermodynamics – ocean temperatures in the deep tropics that increase with each day of summer sun, warmer air temperatures, and increasing atmospheric moisture. When the dynamics and thermodynamics are in sync, as they often are from mid-August through early October, disturbances like African tropical waves can easily strengthen. The statistical peak day of the hurricane season – the day you are most likely to find a tropical cyclone somewhere in the Atlantic basin – is September 10th.