Don't Fall for it!

Meadow's Weather/Hurricane Analysis: August 2022 Report Roy Wysnewski

Rainfall & Temperature Data:

Rainfall for month: 7.9 in.
Rainfall year-to-date: 27.7 in.
23 yr. monthly rainfall average: 10.5 in.

Average high temperature: 97.0 F (normal: 92.0 F)

Above normal temperature days: 26 Record high temperature days: 20

Don't fall for it – the notion that hurricane development declines following the September 9th peak hurricane season date. History tells us that this notion may have merit for tropical cyclone development in the Atlantic Ocean, but certainly doesn't apply to the Gulf of Mexico where late September and the month of October is the "busiest "period for tropical storms and hurricanes. Remember Hurricane Ian (Sept. 28th), and Hurricane Michael (Oct. 10th)?

Stay prepared!

Temperature Analysis: Yes, August 2023 was hot. How hot? The Weather Channel just announced that "2023 Is Record Hottest Summer for Over a Dozen Southern Cities, From Texas to Florida." The MCA weather station data shows that the Meadows also experienced the hottest summer (so far) in our ten-year record-keeping history.

In the Meadows, August day-time temperature records were broken on seventeen of the first twenty days with a grand total of twenty for the month. But it wasn't just the temperature that set records. The "heat" (combination of temperature and humidity – the "heat index") eclipsed all records! There were eighteen consecutive days during the first twenty-three days of August when the heat index exceeded 103 degrees F i.e., the threshold number that signals when the heat becomes "dangerous" to one's health – see chart. This experience is something we should remember and prepare for next year, when scientists forecast an even "hotter" summer!

Other August temperature statistics include monthly daytime temperatures averaging five degrees above normal, twenty-six above normal temperature-days, and twenty record high-temperature days.

Rainfall Analysis: Until August 28, only 23 % of normal August rainfall was recorded at the MCA weather station. Then, thanks to hurricane Idalia, we received an additional 5.5 inches. Unfortunately, the total at month's end still fell 78% short of normal August numbers (10.2 inches). Keep in mind that August is our rainiest month. What's troublesome is that combined with June and July's rain shortfalls, the three-month totals (14.8 inches) fell well-short of expectations (27 inches). At this pace, it is unlikely that the 2023 year-ending goal of 52 inches will be met!

Monthly temperature and rainfall data are presented in the graph.

Hurricane Season Analysis: Because of the record high sea temperatures in both the Atlantic Ocean and in the Gulf of Mexico, NOAA increased their Atlantic hurricane season prediction to 'above normal' on August 10th.

And, as though on cue, tropical cyclonic activity increased significantly in August. There were six named storms – four tropical storms (Emily, Gert, Harold, and Jose), and two category 4 hurricanes (Franklin and Idalia).

Due to both the persistent high sea temperatures in both the Atlantic and Gulf, and a highly 'supercharged' greenhouse effect in the atmosphere, being extra vigilant (and prepared) can't be overstressed for the rest of the 2023 hurricane season!

Send comments and questions about this month's report to: roywys9@gmail.com.



