Severe Weather & Tornado Activity (March 30-31, 2022)

Arkansas

- An estimated 60 homes in Springdale received significant damage Wednesday morning when an EF3 tornado cut a five-mile path through the eastern part of the city.
- The tornado touched down in Johnson at 4:04 a.m. near the Northwest Arkansas Mall and ran for 5.2 miles before lifting at 4:12 a.m. to the east of the Springdale Municipal Airport, according to the National Weather Service in Tulsa, Okla. The tornado had top wind speeds of 143 mph, the service reported.
- The Weather Service crew in Springdale reported the tornado there was 350 yards wide.
- The storm also spawned a second tornado Wednesday, according to the weather service. An EF-1 tornado tore through a rural area of Johnson County about 3½ hours after Springdale was struck, said Willie Gilmore, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in North Little Rock.

Mississippi

- The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is working with counties across the state to assess damage from the severe weather that hit the state on March 30.
- According to MEMA, there have been multiple reports of homes damaged, trees down and power outages due to straight-line winds and possible tornadoes.
- There have been three injuries reported to MEMA as of Thursday, with two of those being in Noxubee County and one being in Holmes County.
- MEMA said they are working on initial damage assessments in 21 counties. So far, counties that have seen the most significant damage include Hinds, Bolivar, Calhoun, Warren and Yazoo.

Alabama

- A line of severe storms moved through central Alabama Wednesday night, spawning five tornadoes and leaving damage behind in several counties.
- The National Weather Service confirmed an EF-1 tornado with max winds of 110 mph touched down just before midnight in Shelby County and stayed on the ground for more than four miles before lifting at 12:06 a.m.
- The NWS also has confirmed EF-2 damage in central Bibb County and Montevallo in southwest Shelby County. The tornado's path stretched for just over 29 miles, beginning in Oakmulgee in Perry County and ending at the University of Montevallo in Shelby County.
- A brief EF-1 tornado was confirmed in Tuscaloosa County near Holt Lock and Dam and the Deerlick Creek Campgrounds. The NWS said that tornado was on the ground for approximately six minutes.
An EF-2 tornado was also on the ground for six miles in Perry County from Hamburg to Radford and EF-1 tornado damage was confirmed in Pickens County near Benevola Road.

**Florida**

- Two people are dead, and two others are hurt after a tornado struck in the Florida Panhandle on Thursday morning, authorities said -- part of a series of storms that have laid waste to buildings around the South since Wednesday.
- A tornado struck Washington County, north of Panama City, sheriff’s spokesperson Kristy Kolmetz said.
- "There's a total destruction of homes in that area," Kolmetz told CNN. The conditions of the two injured people weren't immediately available.
- At least one tornado was reported before sunrise in an eastern portion of Washington County, about a 45-minute drive north-northeast of Panama City, according to the National Weather Service.

**Severe Weather Outlook**

- AccuWeather meteorologists expect April to follow in March's footsteps as the table is set for another round of severe thunderstorms, including possible tornadoes, across the South next week.
- The tornado risk may be accompanied by a heightened flash flood danger.
- A dip in the jet stream across the center of the country early next week is expected to bring a storm from Southern California into the southern Plains.
- "As this feature moves east, it will pull up moisture from the western Gulf of Mexico," said AccuWeather Lead Long-Range Meteorologist Paul Pastelok, emphasizing this will help to provide one of the atmospheric ingredients necessary for severe weather early next week.
- The initial area of concern for severe weather in the first few days of the week will be focused on portions of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana. In these areas, when compared to the recent outbreaks, the hazardous weather may be slower to evolve and spread eastward Sunday night into Monday night.
- As the storm moves eastward, portions of the Southeast and Gulf Coast could all be at risk for severe thunderstorms during Tuesday and even Wednesday of next week, depending on the exact speed of the storm.
- Portions of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and the Florida Panhandle could all face volatile weather these days.
2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season Forecast Update

- The Atlantic hurricane season is two months away, with the official start arriving on June 1, but AccuWeather forecasters released predictions for the coming season this week, noting that there is a high chance for a preseason storm to develop and that another active tropical season is expected.

- AccuWeather’s team of tropical weather forecasters, led by veteran meteorologist and hurricane expert Dan Kottlowski, is once again predicting an above-normal season in terms of tropical activity in the Atlantic, as well as a higher-than-normal chance that a major hurricane could make landfall in the mainland United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S Virgin Islands.

- Specifically, Kottlowski’s team is forecasting 16-20 named storms and six to eight hurricanes. Of those hurricanes, about three to five are forecast to reach major hurricane status, which occurs when a storm reaches Category 3 strength with winds exceeding 111 mph or higher.

- As of March 30, Kottlowski says a weak La Niña is in place, and it is expected to persist through the beginning of the tropical season.

- Kottlowski noted that a shift to a neutral phase could occur during the summer but if La Niña remains in place, or even intensifies, then it’s possible that there could be more than 20 storms, he said.

- The status of La Niña throughout the summer will be closely monitored by meteorologists. If the La Niña phase ends up fading away over the summer or early in the fall, the tropical activity could wind down well before the official end of the season on Nov. 30.

- Tropical depressions or storms have gotten a jump start on the official June 1 start date in the Atlantic for seven consecutive seasons, something that has caused the National Hurricane Center (NHC) to consider moving the season’s start date to May 15.

- Kottlowski said that in addition to the presence of La Niña, above-normal sea-surface temperatures in key tropical development regions will result in a higher-than-normal chance of preseason development for the eighth year in a row.

- Sea-surface temperatures are above normal over much of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean and even off the East Coast of the United States, especially the southeast coast of the United States, and these are critical areas for early season development.

- Waters are currently cooler in the eastern Atlantic and toward the coast of Africa, but meteorologists expect that the waters will be sufficiently warm enough in that part of the basin by the peak of the season in middle to late August.
### Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments

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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Number of Counties for IA Requested</th>
<th>Number of Counties for IA Completed</th>
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<tr>
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### Pending Individual Assistance Declaration Request

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<th>State</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Approved/Denied/Pending</th>
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### WSP USA Inspection Services Active Disasters

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<th>Disaster Type</th>
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<th>Days Since Launch</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
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<td>25 Parishes</td>
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**WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES ACTIVITY**

![Map of United States with active and inactive states]