

2026 Hurricane Season Readiness Briefing

June 2026



DEPARTMENT OF
**EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS,
PREPAREDNESS
AND RESPONSE**

Hurricane Season 2026 - Outlook

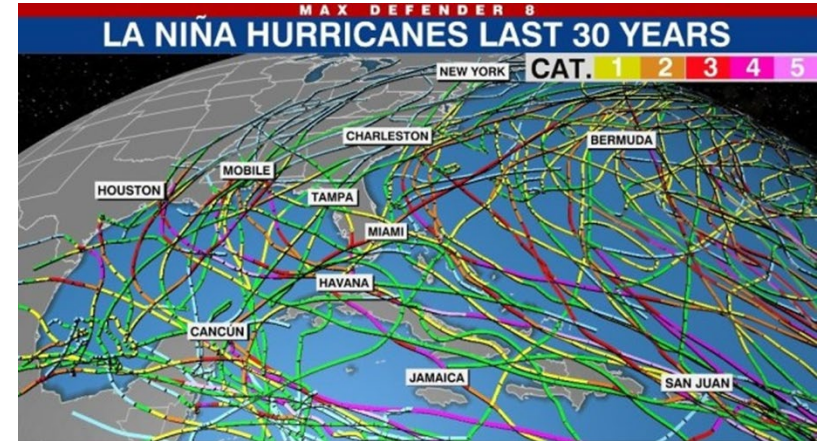
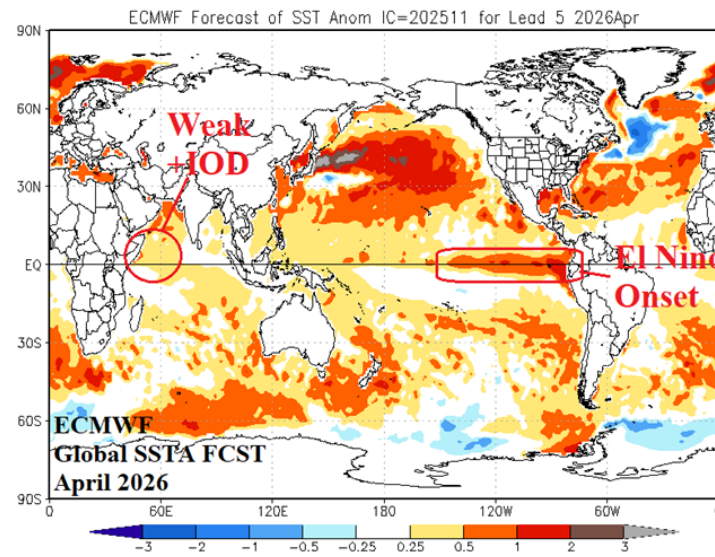


For the Atlantic hurricane region, the outlooks indicate a 55% chance of a below-normal season, a 35% chance of a near-normal season, and a 10% chance of an above-normal season. For the East and Central Pacific Hurricane season, the outlooks indicate a 70% chance of above-normal activity, with a 20% chance for near-normal levels, and a 10% chance for below-normal levels.

These outlooks are for the overall seasonal activity. They are not a hurricane landfall forecast.

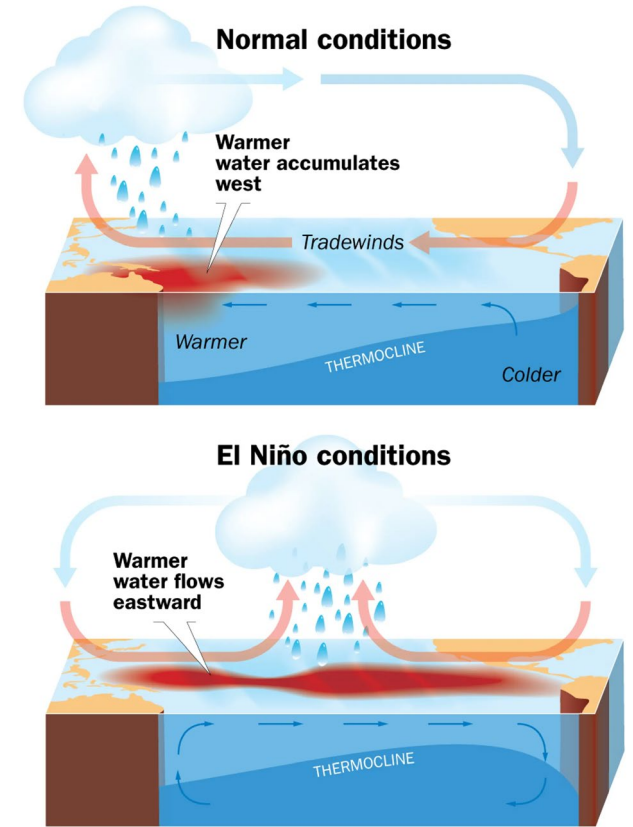
“El Niño” vs. “La Niña”

Most models are calling for a strong “El Niño” setting up for this Summer through the Fall, which historically spawns less hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin... BUT



El Niño is normally associated with

- Increased heat
- Increased drought
- Heavy precipitation and flooding because of atmosphere “loading”
- Uncertain winter conditions (normally wet, but not necessarily frozen precipitation)



2025 Hurricane Season Summary

- 13 Named Storms
- 5 Hurricanes (>74 MPH)
- 3 Category 5 hurricanes (>157 MPH)

Storm Name	Active Dates	Location of Impact
Tropical Storm Barry	28 June	Near Alvarado, Veracruz, Mexico
Tropical Storm Chantal	4 July	Near Litchfield Beach, SC
Hurricane Erin (Cat 5)	11-22 August	Never made landfall, but killed 9
Hurricane Melissa (Cat 5)	21 October- 31 October	Haiti, Jamaica, DR, Cuba. 95 killed. Melissa was one of the top 3 strongest storms in history attaining sustained winds of 190 MPH with 892 mbar of pressure

Flooding versus Wind damage potential in the City of Richmond (FEMA data)

The complication is scale:

- Flood damage is usually highly concentrated in Richmond proper.
- Wind damage is geographically widespread across Central Virginia.

<u>Metric</u>	<u>Flooding</u>	<u>Wind</u>
FEMA IA/PA payouts	Strong	Moderate
Insurance claims	Strong	Strong
Property loss	Very strong	Weak
Infrastructure damage	Strong	Strong
Debris management costs	Moderate- High	Very strong
Utility outages	Moderate- High	Very strong
Long-term displacement	Strong	Moderate
Frequency	Frequent	Frequent
Catastrophic potential	High	High

Specific Characterization for the City of Richmond (FEMA data last 30 years)

In the aggregate, **flooding is the MOST impactful natural hazard** in terms of long-term City disruption.

Category	Flooding	Wind
Direct building losses	Very High	Moderate
Infrastructure damage	High	High
Utility outages	Moderate	Very High
Debris management	Moderate	Extremely High
Business interruption	Very High	Moderate
Frequency	Moderate	High
Catastrophic potential	Extremely High	High
Insurance/NFIP claims	Very High	Moderate

Bottom line: A Hurricanes' Real Killer is Water

86% of direct hurricane or tropical storm fatalities in the US since 2013 are attributed to water impacts (rainfall flooding, flash floods, storm surge and rip currents)

Hurricane Isabel: produced peak storm surge of approximately 9 feet in Richmond

Hurricane Juan: caused the James to crest at 30.76 feet



How We Prepare City Departments

- OEM is currently finalizing a comprehensive re-write of the City's **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)**
- The City has also opened a new **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** designed around FEMA, State, and local best practices to streamline decision-making, resource request and delivery processes, and leadership visibility during emergency events.
- Expanded and more targeted **Emergency Management training** is being offered by the OEM Training Manager.
- **Emergency Management Liaisons (EMLs)** serve as designated departmental representatives and primary points of contact with OEM during planning, response, and recovery operations.
- OEM works closely with **External stakeholders**, key agencies and organizations outside of City government to ensure timely coordination of resources, support, and information sharing during emergency incidents.

How We Prepare City Departments (cont.)

- **WebEOC**, the City's system of record for emergency management operations, serves as the centralized platform for coordinating plans, resources, and communications before, during, and after emergencies.
- **Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP)** ensure that City departments can continue critical functions during physical, cyber, or personnel disruptions
- **After Action Reports (AARs)** ensure there is a continuous improvement loop that incorporates lessons learned (i.e. what went poorly, and well) into current plans and procedures for future events.
- **Shelter Operations Plans** pre-identify shelter locations, verify equipment and supply requirements, coordinate staffing, and conduct readiness assessments to ensure shelters can be opened quickly, safely, and effectively during and after a storm or other emergency event, if needed.

How We Prepare Our Residents

- We train and engage our **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** to support public outreach, preparedness education, and basic response efforts during disasters.
- We collaborate with **Civic Associations** to share preparedness information, coordinate neighborhood-level communication, and support community resilience before and during hurricane season.
- We partner with **Council Districts** to share important updates, listen to neighborhood concerns, and help coordinate local support during hurricane season.
- The Office of Emergency Management provides hurricane preparedness and disaster preparedness talks and presentations to community groups and organizations to help residents stay informed and ready. Since the beginning of the year, we have presented in Districts 3, 7 and 8 district meetings as well as 12 community walks/community engagement events.
- **WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH RICHMONDERS! PLEASE INVITE US TO YOUR EVENTS!**

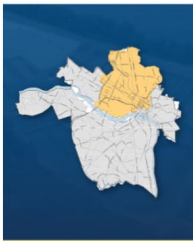


Public Communication During Emergency Events

- Our **department Public Information Officer (PIO) coordinates messaging** to provide clear, consistent updates and work closely with the Office of Strategic Communications to support press and social media during events.
- **Multi-channel outreach:** city website, emergency alerts (Richmond Ready), social media, local media, community groups.
- **Frequent real-time updates** with safety info and resources
- **Two-way communication** via hotlines, social media, etc. to address public concerns.

How We Communicate Publicly During an Event

MAY 27
City of Richmond Issues Boil Water Advisory for Customers in Some City Neighborhoods
 All city residents are encouraged to help conserve water.



Below is a checklist for safe water use during this time:

- Do not drink tap water during this boil water alert.
- Do not drink from water fountains in parks, public or private buildings that receive water from the City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities.
- Do not use ice made from water today. Discard the ice and replace the ice machine water as traps.
- Do not use tap water to make drinks, juices, or fountain soft drinks.
- Do not wash your dishes using tap water - use bottled water or use paper plates.
- Do not wash your fresh and vegetables with tap water - use bottled or bottled water.
- Do not brush your teeth with tap water - use toothbrush or bottled water.
- Do not cook with tap water, unless your food will be boiled vigorously for three minutes.

Temporary water conservation tips:

- Eliminate or shorten shower times.
- Avoid unnecessary toilet flushes.
- Avoid washing clothes for as long as possible.
- Postpone washing dishes if possible.
- Check off faucets, shower heads and under cabinets for drips.

Please share this information with everyone in your household, local friends and family, and others who may have not received this advisory directly. For more information on boil water advisories, visit the Virginia Department of Health Boil Water FAQ page (<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/boil-water/faq>) or contact your local health department. For more information on food safety, visit the Virginia Department of Health Boil Water FAQ page (<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/boil-water/faq>) or contact your local health department. For more information on food safety, visit the Richmond and Henrico Health Districts' guidance page (<https://www.richmondva.gov/boil-water>) for more tips.



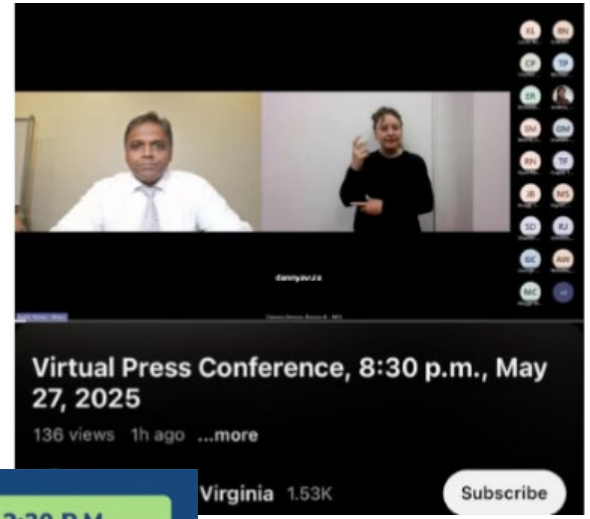
Always be notified.

TEXT

RVAREADY to 888-777

RICHMOND READY

Emergency Alert System



27 de mayo
La Ciudad de Richmond emite un aviso de hervir el agua para algunos vecindarios de la ciudad
 Se alienta a los habitantes de todos los vecindarios a conservar el agua.



Consejos para la conservación temporal del agua:

- Elimine o acorte los tiempos de ducha.
- Evite las descargas innecesarias de los inodoros.
- Evite lavar la ropa durante el mayor tiempo posible.
- Postergue el lavado de los platos si es posible.
- Revise todos los grifos, cabezales de ducha y escape de los gabinetes en caso de goteos.

Comparta esta información con todos los miembros de su hogar, amigos y familiares locales, y otros cercanos.

Para obtener más información sobre los avisos de hervir el agua, visite el sitio web del Departamento de Salud de Virginia donde encontrará una guía con las preguntas frecuentes sobre hervir el agua, puede tener la información en español en este enlace. Guía de asesoramiento sobre hervir el agua - Agua potable.

Los establecimientos o negocios de servicios de alimentos que se ven afectados deben visitar la página de orientación (<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov>) de los Distritos de Salud de Richmond y Henrico para informarse de los próximos pasos, o hacer clic en este enlace para información en español: <https://vdh.es.virginia.gov/richmond-chylemberg-y-suldford-par-food-facilities-under-a-boil-water-advisory>.

Conservation Options

- Limit number and duration of showers.
- Don't wash sidewalks and driveways.
- Flush toilets only when needed. "If it's yellow, let it mellow" or use the shower.
- Don't use water to wash your car.
- Do not use dishwashers or washing machines until further notice.
- Do not use pressure washers until further notice.

MAY 27
City of Richmond expands Boil Water Advisory to include Southside residents.
 All city residents are encouraged to help conserve water.



MAY 29 - 2:30 P.M.

CITY OF RICHMOND
 ESTABLISHED 1737

BOIL WATER ADVISORY LIFTED
 Se levanta el aviso de hervir el agua

Richmond Ready Alerts

Sign up for alerts!

RICHMOND READY

Emergency Alert System

rva.gov/richmondreadyalerts

- Receive notifications about significant weather events, critical incidents, emergencies, and more. ✓
- Richmond Ready alerts you of police, fire, and public health emergencies anywhere in Richmond. ✓
- At home, work, in your car, Richmond Ready can alert you no matter where you are on multiple devices ✓

MEMBER OF
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

SCAN ME



SIGN UP FOR ALERTS ¹

RICHMOND READY

Emergency Alert System

rva.gov/richmondreadyalerts

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Emergency Alert System

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¡PREPÁRATE, RICHMOND!

Sistema de Alertas de Emergencia

ayuda a nuestro gobierno municipal a transmitir comunicaciones rápidamente a los habitantes durante un incidente.




RICHMOND READY

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Helps our City to send rapid communications to residents during an incident.




RICHMOND READY

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Helps our City to send rapid communications to residents during an incident.




Does Richmond Ready alert you?

- Receive notifications about **significant weather events, critical incidents, emergencies, and more.** ✓
- Richmond Ready alerts you of **police, fire, and public health emergencies** anywhere in Richmond. ✓
- At home, work, in your car.** Richmond Ready can alert you no matter where you are on multiple devices. ✓

Get information when you need it and how you want it, visit rva.gov/richmondreadyalerts and register today!

SCAN ME



About Richmond Ready Alerts

- **What is Richmond Ready Alerts?** Richmond Ready Alerts are a critical messaging system designed to keep those who live, work, and visit in Richmond informed about hazards or threats that could impact their safety.
- **What type of events would prompt an alert?** Public Health Alert Severe Weather, Unexpected Street Closures, Utility or Water Service Outages, Missing Persons in Immediate Danger, Emergency Evacuations, Crime-Related Active Threats.
- **Is Richmond Ready Alerts the same as Wireless Emergency Alerts?** No, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) are part of FEMA's IPAWS system and allow the City of Richmond to quickly deliver life-saving messages to mobile devices in and around impacted areas during emergencies; follow-up updates are sent through Richmond Ready Alerts to subscribed residents
- **SIGN UP FOR RICHMOND READY:**
 - Text **RVAREADY** to **888-777**
 - Go to <https://rva.gov/richmondreadyalerts>

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE



Questions?

