

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Hurricane Outlook

August 25, 1999

Report from FEMA/National Hurricane Center Briefing



The National Hurricane Center, in connection with the FEMA Hurricane Liaison Team and the hurricane risk states, conducted a briefing at 0830 hours, central standard time concerning the current hurricane outlook.

Summary:

Continued intensification of Tropical Storms Dennis, Emily and Cindy are expected over the next several days. Currently, Cindy, located near lat/long 46.3W and 19.6N, is interfering with both Emily and Dennis, creating some problems in forecasting the movement of the other storms.

Dennis is expected to intersect with a low-level trough coming off the East Coast. If this happens, Dennis is expected to track more northward. The central issue is Dennis' forward speed. Essentially, the NHC would like to see Dennis speed up in order to intersect with the trough. If the trough slides past Dennis, the storm could slide back south and have an impact on the east coast of Central and North Florida and northward into Georgia and the Carolinas. The NHC indicated Dennis has the potential to become a major hurricane (Category 3 or higher).

Emily is "clearly a threat" in the 48 – 72 hours to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands over the next 48 – 72 hours. Because of the interference from the trough and from Cindy, NHC forecasters do not have a very accurate track forecast. However, they say there is not a large chance that it will enter the Gulf of Mexico.

Cindy, still about 1,000 miles east of the Leeward Islands, is not expected to have any direct impact on the United States. However, it is having an indirect impact on the other two storms. It is expected to intensify and become a hurricane, but the northwestward track should keep it in the Atlantic.

Watches/Warnings

The NHC does not expect to post any watches or warnings in the next 24 hours. However, Nassau has issued hurricane warnings and watches for the Bahamas.

MEMA EOC

The SEOC is at Level 1, normal operations. Operations staff will continue to track all named storms. No significant threat to Mississippi is expected at this time. However, support to other states under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is possible.

MEMA will continue its participation in FEMA-NHC conferences regarding storm outlooks and will advise if further development is expected.

FEDERAL RESPONSE

FEMA Region IV (Atlanta) has staffed the Regional Operations Center (ROC) at Level III, and has staffed the Emergency Response Team Alpha (ERT-A), in anticipation of supporting East Coast states if necessary.