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Forecasters expect two more hurricanes this year

- Story Highlights
- Latest forecast calls for 4 named storms in October-November
- Expert William Gray expects two hurricanes in that period, one of them major
- New forecast a downgrade from previous one, which called for 5 named storms
- September had 8 named storms, tying the record, but most of them were weak

FORT COLLINS, Colorado (AP) -- Hurricane expert William Gray slightly downgraded his forecast Tuesday, calling for four named storms in October and November, including two hurricanes, one of them major.

Gray's team at Colorado State University had predicted five named storms in their earlier forecast for the two months.

"We expect October-November to be very active," said Phil Klotzbach, lead author of the hurricane forecast.

In April, Gray had predicted a "very active" 2007 season, with 17 named storms, including nine [hurricanes](#), with five of them major hurricanes.

As of October 1, a total of 13 named storms had developed, including four hurricanes. Two of the hurricanes were major.

Gray's team revises the forecast throughout the hurricane season, which lasts from June through November.

"August had somewhat above-average activity -- about 130 percent of average -- while September had about average activity -- about 92 percent of average," Klotzbach said.

Eight named storms formed in September in the Atlantic basin, tying a record set in 2002 for the most in that month.

But measured by the combined strength and duration of those storms, this September was actually the least active in the Atlantic since 1997, the National Hurricane Center said. That is because most of the September storms were weak and short-lived.

[Gray](#) has been forecasting hurricanes for more than two decades, and his predictions are watched closely by emergency responders and others in coastal areas.

In 2006, his team forecast nine hurricanes, five of them major. Instead, there were just five hurricanes, two of them major.

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