

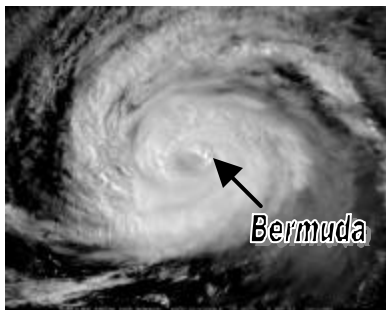
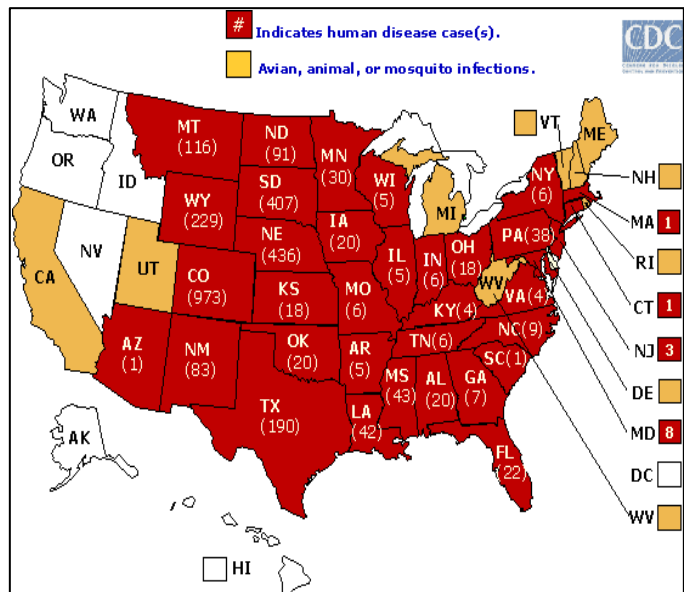
MESO Monthly Newsletter

It has been a month of weather related tragedies, underscoring the need even more for spreading the word on safety.

Four children drowned in Kansas as a result of their minivan being dragged more than a mile in a flash flood on interstate 35 near Emporia. A search resumed Monday for two people missing after a wall of water swept over the Kansas Turnpike. Four children drowned this weekend after their family's minivan was dragged more than a mile as their father tried desperately to pull them to safety. The flooding washed out chunks of the interstate and swept some of the heavy concrete barriers - which weigh between 10,000 and 12,000 pounds - 50 to 60 yards from the roadway, and the abandoned vehicles could be seen strewn about the valley. The total death toll for this flash flood, and another related quick water fatality is 6.

Europe's deadly heat wave is estimated to have claimed close to 10,000 lives in France, and more than 2,000 lives in surrounding countries. The accompanying drought has claimed huge livestock losses as up to 4.5 million chickens died. The wheat harvest is expected to drop by 15 percent compared to last year, and corn production by nearly 28 percent, said France's largest cereal growers' union. Many areas of France have had 20-50% less rain than normal in six months of drought, the government said.

With a national toll of over 3000 identified cases of West Nile Virus, it seems that Colorado is drawing attention to itself by claiming 1252 of those cases, and 22 fatalities (as of 9/9... and adding about 50 cases and 1 fatality per day). This is over twice the number of cases in the state in second place. The problem specifically in Colorado stems from an abnormally wet spring, leaving pools of stagnant water, followed by a very hot and dry summer. These shrinking pools of water would reach temperatures of 115°F+ which caused mosquitoes to go from larvae to flying bloodsuckers in as little as 4 days. Officials were concentrating on larvae control, when the spring population of skeeters was well past the larvae stage. Now many cities in northern Colorado are using fogging trucks to spray for the adults as well. The situation was upgraded to an Epidemic in mid-August, then upgraded again to a Public Health Emergency in late August.



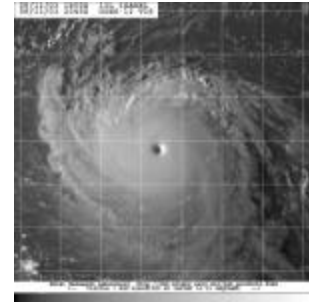
Hurricane Fabian hit Bermuda as a CAT 3 hurricane on Sept 5th, and claimed 4 lives as the storm surge swept across the causeway connecting the airport to the mainland. Full damage reports from this major landfall are not yet in, but they haven't seen its equal in about 50 years.

Those of us that live for the thunderstorm season are already exhibiting symptoms of SDS...Supercell Deprivation Syndrome (<http://texastailchaser.com/SDS/>), but those of us who dream of more tropical diversions are just coming into our season. Being possibly the ONLY storm chase team with its hurricane center based in the high plains of Colorado (it's just so US) our chief tropics guru reported the following on Sept 9th:

Isabel a CAT4 storm, TD14 struggles to organize...

Both Fabian and Henri have become extratropical and no longer have advisories being written for them.

Isabel continues to get better organized and became a CAT 4 hurricane September 9 at 03Z. She already has accumulated 1.25 Intense Hurricane Days and isn't even to 50W yet. As of 15Z, she was located at 19.6N 46.9W and tracking WNW at 12kts. Maximum sustained winds are up to 115kts and the MSLP is down to 948mb. The outflow pattern remains very symmetric, and the eye, although clouded over a bit this morning, is clearing and small.



She's expected to strengthen even further, just shy of CAT5 status, and keep a general west track, ending up a bit north of the Leeward Islands during the weekend. Although way too far out to say with any certainty, a U.S. landfall is not out of the question and people living along the coasts should keep an eye on Isabel in the coming 7-10 days.

TD14 is still near the Cape Verde Islands, but is poorly organized. Intensity estimates as of 15Z were 30kts and 1007mb. Conditions appear favorable for development, so it could become TS Juan today or tomorrow.

You'll find the latest track forecast and satellite imagery of Isabel and TD14 at <http://www.mcwar.org/gallery/tropics/tropics.html>

Brian McNoldy, president and webmaster, reports that MCWAR.ORG had 745Mb downloaded from it, quite a bit lower than recent months, but that always happens as the summer winds down and people's curiosity about severe weather diminishes (also recall the outage we had for several days early in the month due to the domain registration expiring unknowingly). But hopefully our continuing coverage of the tropics as well as articles on tropical and winter weather will keep the bytes flying. We had 2454 unique visitors who viewed or downloaded about 1000 copies of our articles during the month. The most popular were "Atlantic Hurricanes: An Introduction", "U.S. Landfalling Hurricanes: Climatology and Impacts", and "Hail Formation and Effects".

MESO is continuing work on a weather safety CD in PowerPoint format, and geared towards third to fifth graders. Hopefully, it will be available in the not too distant future. Work also continues on the radar meteorology tutorial, a sferics article, and a new project on the North American Monsoon. Educational outreach continues to be our chief motivation, and it has proven to be so very rewarding over the past years. We have done everything from designing disaster simulations for major corporations, to helping kids with their homework. It's a real kick. Teaching children about the weather is far more rewarding than teaching grown-ups because; 1) They listen, and 2) Refer to 1. The enthusiasm with which these kids carry the message of disaster preparedness back home with them is AWESOME. Nancy always gets a big kick out of the phone calls she gets from parents who are perplexed at why their kids don't want them talking on the phone during a thunderstorm. "Wait till you hear what they want to do to the TV and computer..." she retorts.

We are also going to be unveiling a fundraising project that will be mutually advantageous for MESO and our fans. Details will follow in our next newsletter.

The anniversary of September 11, 2001 had come and gone. We at MESO are particularly somber in our memories, as so many in our ranks are involved in fire departments and other areas of emergency services. Let us join together in our thoughts of the past, our faith in the future, and our commitment to stand strong and tall in our pride in the American spirit and heritage. God bless America.

Enjoy the final couple weeks of summer,

Nancy K. Bose, Newsletter Chief Editor
...and the gang at MESO
www.mcwar.org