Meteorological Department of St. Maarten
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Weather & Climate

NOVEMBER 2013 IN REVIEW

In the month of November, only **one** storm formed. Tropical Storm **Melissa** formed in the Central Atlantic on the 18th. This brought to a total of thirteen (13) named storms, two (2) of which became hurricanes for the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season. November 30th signaled the official end of a very quiet 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

Rainfall: For the month of November 124.9mm (5in.) of rainfall was recorded. This amount was within the normal range for November. There were 13 rainy days (> 1.0mm). The day with the highest 24-hour rainfall was the 1st with 41.3mm (1.6in.) and this was as a result of the interaction of an upper level trough with a surface trough over the local area. There were 4 days with heavy rainfall (>10.0mm) and 3 days with thunderstorms for the month.

Winds: Mainly gentle to moderate winds were experienced throughout the month of November. The maximum wind gust was recorded on the 27th and 28th as 32kt. (37mph). The windiest days were the 26th ,27th and 28th with an average wind speed of 12kts/14mph and over.

Sea Conditions: Generally, sea conditions were slight to moderate. However during the last week of November a small craft advisory had to be issued due to northerly swells invading local waters.

Temperatures: **Average Daily Temperature**: 27.4°C or 81°F; **Minimum Temperature:** 23.5°C or 74°F (November 3rd & 30th) **Maximum Temperature:** 31.1°C or 88°F (November 11th). This month, there was a lot of variation in the temperatures recorded. The minimum temperature was above normal, the maximum temperature was slightly below normal while the average daily temperature was within the normal range.

Tropical Storm; Melissa formed in November.

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

Based on rainfall records at the Princess Juliana International Airport, the normal rainfall total for December, ranges from 76.1 mm to 109.7mm (3-7in.). The driest December on record was in 1997 (14.7mm/0.6in) and the wettest December was in 1992. December has a normal daily temperature of about 26.3°C/ 79°F while the maximum temperature could reach near 31.0°C/ 88°F. In the month of December, the sun continues to rise later and begin to set later. There is an average of about 8 hours of sunshine daily in December however, there could be a maximum of about 10 hours per day.

The Tropical Atlantic Hurricane Season ended November 30th.

Seasonal Rainfall Review/ Outlook

Rainfall for the past 3-months (September, October, November) was below normal; 276.0mm/ 10.9inches was recorded. Normal rainfall for these three months ranges from 343.9mm to 493.8mm or 14-19 inches. This is the third consecutive 3-month season with below normal rainfall.

Seasonal Outlook

According to the Precipitation Outlook for the Caribbean, for the next three (3) months of December-January-February rainfall for the Northeastern Caribbean including St. Maarten is predicted as follows:

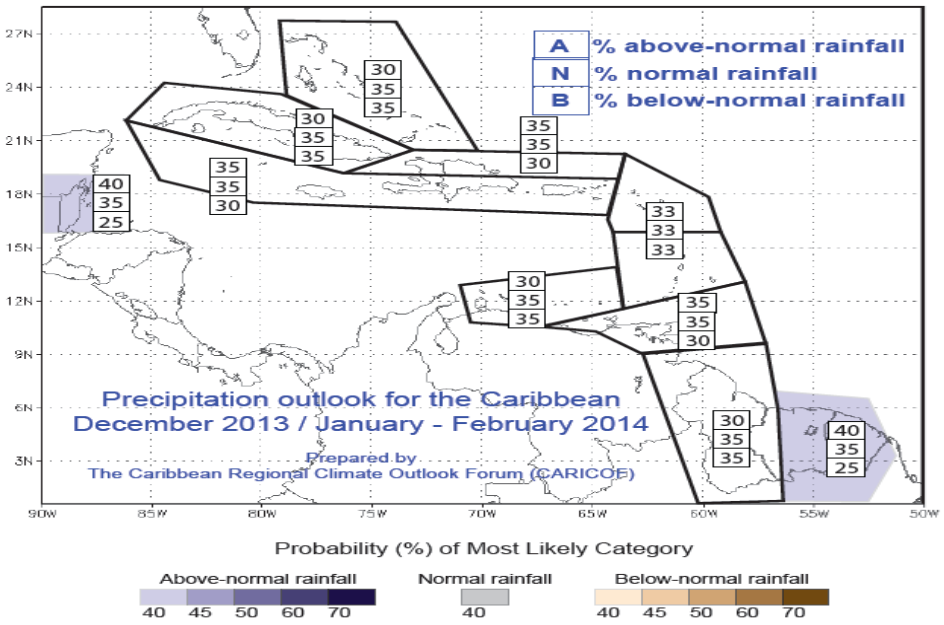
33% Chance of being **Above Normal** (**greater than** 260.0mm/10inches).

33% Chance of being **Near-Normal** **172.0**mm-260.0mm (7-10 inches).

33% Chance of being **Below Normal** (less than 172.0mm/ 7 inches).

The Dry Season begins to move -in, during the month of December .

This means, that rainfall for the next three (3) months is hardly predictable at this time. In December the dry season begins to move in with occasional heavy rainfall and January to February with alternations of sunny and showery days mostly without heavy rainfall. **Temperature** for this season is predicted to be **above normal.**



Learn A Weather Instrument!

Barometers are used to measure the current air pressure at a particular location in "inches of mercury" or in millibars" (mb).

Air pressure is the force exerted on you by the weight of tiny particles of air (air molecules). Although air molecules are invisible, they still have weight and take up space. Since there's a lot of "empty" space between air molecules, air can be compressed to fit in a smaller volume.

Air pressure can tell us about what kind of weather to expect. If a high pressure system is on its way, often you can expect fair skies.

If a low pressure system is coming, then look for unsettled weather example storms or rain.

Barometer

This newsletter is produced by the Meteorological Department of St. Maarten. We would appreciate your comments and feedback. Kindly drop us a line at forecastersxm@gmail.com or fax at (1 721) 545 2998 or call us at (1 721) 545 2024/ 545 4226.