

Name that Hurricane

Since 1953, the National Hurricane Center has compiled lists of hurricane names for Atlantic tropical storms. This list of names is now maintained and updated by the World Meteorological Organization. Scientists began naming hurricanes to avoid confusion when two or more tropical storms occurred at the same time.

The National Hurricane Center used only women's names until 1979. Now the lists alternate between male and female names. Names are designated for six years, and are rotated, so that the names for 2003 will be used again in 2009. When a hurricane is very severe, its name is "retired" and a new name is picked. Some of the most recent retired names are Allen, Andrew, Camille, Gilbert and Hugo.

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Alex	Arlene	Alberto	Andrea	Arthur	Ana
Bonnie	Bret	Beryl	Barry	Bertha	Bill
Charley	Cindy	Chris	Chantal	Christobal	Claudette
Danielle	Dennis	Debby	Dean	Dolly	Danny
Earl	Emily	Ernesto	Erin	Edouard	Erika
Frances	Franklin	Florence	Felix	Fay	Fabian
Gaston	Gert	Gordon	Gabrielle	Gustav	Grace
Hermine	Harvey	Helene	Humberto	Hanna	Henri
Ivan	Irene	Isaac	Ingrid	Isidore	Isabel
Jeanne	Jose	Joyce	Jerry	Josephine	Juan
Karl	Katrina	Kirk	Karen	Kyle	Kate
Lisa	Lee	Leslie	Lorenzo	Lili	Larry
Matthew	Maria	Michael	Melissa	Marco	Mindy
Nicole	Nate	Nadine	Noel	Nana	Nicholas
Otto	Ophelia	Oscar	Olga	Omar	Odette
Paula	Philippe	Patty	Pablo	Paloma	Peter
Richard	Rita	Rafael	Rebekah	Rene	Rose
Shary	Stan	Sandy	Sebastien	Sally	Sam
Tomas	Tammy	Tony	Tanya	Teddy	Teresa
Virginie	Vince	Valerie	Van	Vicky	Victor
Walter	Wilma	William	Wendy	Wilfred	Wanda