

One Year After Hurricane Milton: A Quiet Season Is No Excuse for Complacency

As the calendar marks one year since Hurricane Milton tore through the Gulf Coast, communities across Florida and the Southeast are reflecting on the storm's impact—and the lessons it left behind. Though the 2025 hurricane season has been notably quieter than last year's barrage of storms, emergency officials and weather experts warn that now is not the time to let our guard down.

Remembering Milton's Wake

Hurricane Milton made landfall on October 9, 2024, as a Category 3 storm, bringing destructive winds, torrential rain, and widespread flooding. Our region saw homes damaged, power grids crippled, and families displaced. Recovery efforts stretched for months, and for many, the emotional toll still lingers.

A Quieter Season—But Not a Safer One

This year's hurricane season has been relatively mild, with fewer named storms and no major landfalls in Florida so far. But experts caution that hurricane activity can spike unexpectedly, and it only takes one storm to cause devastation. The Atlantic remains warm, and conditions can shift rapidly in late-season months like October and November.

Why Preparation Still Matters

- **Storms don't follow calendars:** Milton struck late in the season, proving that danger doesn't end after Labor Day.
- **Preparedness saves lives:** Having evacuation plans, stocked emergency kits, and updated insurance can make all the difference.

Complacency is costly

A quiet season can lull communities into false security, leaving them vulnerable when the next storm hits.

What You Can Do Now

- Review your family's emergency plan and evacuation routes.
- Check your home's flood insurance and coverage details.

- Restock supplies: water, non-perishables, flashlights, batteries, and medications.
- Sign up for local alerts and weather updates.

A Time to Reflect—and Act

The anniversary of Hurricane Milton is more than a date on the calendar. It's a reminder of nature's power and our responsibility to stay ready. Whether this season ends quietly or not, preparation remains our strongest defense.

Disaster Recovery Resource Survey

This survey collects information about the resources your Post can provide to support disaster recovery efforts. We are requesting each Post complete this survey. The survey can be found at: <https://forms.gle/JqgsD6nxexPuwa838>

About 25% off all tropical activity occurs after October 1st.

In October, the main developmental region shifts from the eastern and central Atlantic to the Caribbean and the Gulf. This is due to two reasons, early season cold fronts often stall in the Gulf which can spawn tropical activity and general low pressure (Central American Gyre) typically develops in the western Caribbean. Any storms that form in October are more likely to impact the west coast of Florida due a change in steering currents as we move through fall. So, despite the fact there have been no landfalling hurricanes in the United States through September (first time since 2015), the season is far from done. We will keep an eye on potential development in the Caribbean/Gulf during the middle of October. (Source Fox 13 Paul Dellegatto)

