WASHINGTON – The Atlantic hurricane season starts today, and there is no better time to get ready than now. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages residents and businesses across the nation to prepare by understanding their risk, planning together for the entire family, and downloading the FEMA App.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center seasonal outlook for 2017, released last week, states that the Atlantic could see an above-normal hurricane season this year. The full seasonal forecast is linked at [http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZzA9MDAwMC9QcGxhY2U=](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZzA9MDAwMC9QcGxhY2U=)

Both hurricanes and tropical systems have the potential to cause serious damage to coastal and inland areas. They are also capable of creating secondary events, such as floods and landslides. Residents and business owners should take this seriously and prepare accordingly.