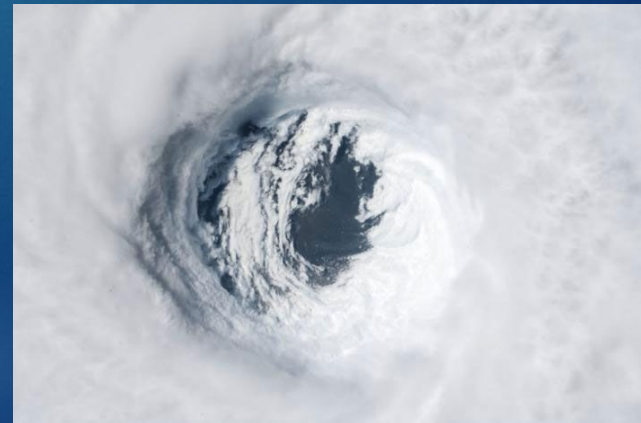




# WHY IN USA PEOPLE GIVE NAMES TO HURRICANES?

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- ▶ Ever wonder how hurricanes get their names? And why do hurricanes have names at all? Meteorologists long ago learned that naming tropical storms and hurricanes helps people remember the storms, communicate about them more effectively, and so stay safer if and when a particular storm strikes a coast. These experts assign names to hurricanes according to a formal list of names that is approved before the start of each hurricane season. The U.S. National Hurricane Center started this practice in the early 1950s. Now, the World Meteorological Organization ([WMO](#)) generates and maintains the [list of hurricane names](#).



- ▶ Until well into the 20th century, newspapers and forecasters in the United States devised names for storms that referenced their time period, geographic location or intensity; hence, the Great Hurricane of 1722, the Galveston Storm of 1900, the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935 and the Big Blow of 1913. Meanwhile, hurricanes in the tempestuous West Indies were named for the Catholic saint's days on which they made landfall.



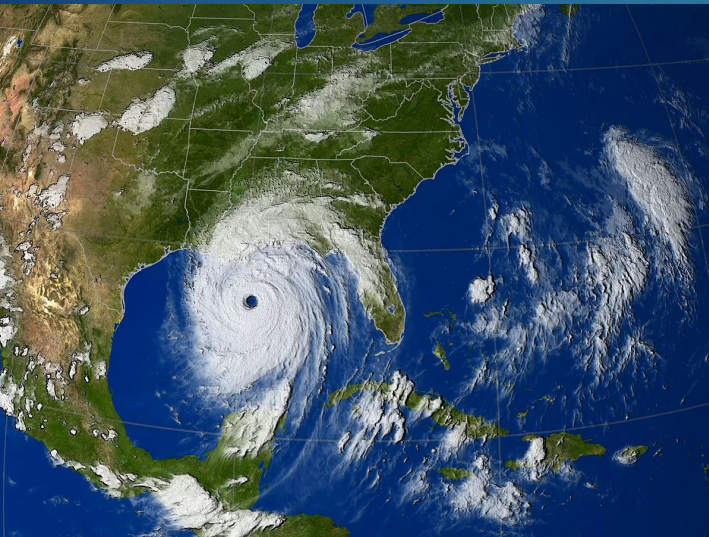


- ▶ In 1945 the newly formed National Weather Bureau—later the National Weather Service—introduced a system based on the military phonetic alphabet, but by 1953 the options had been exhausted. The next year, the bureau embraced forecasters' informal practice of giving hurricanes women's names. Because America led the world in weather tracking technology at the time, many other countries adopted the new nomenclature. In 1945 the newly formed National Weather Bureau—later the National Weather Service—introduced a system based on the military phonetic alphabet, but by 1953 the options had been exhausted. The next year, the bureau embraced forecasters' informal practice of giving hurricanes women's names. Because America led the world in weather tracking technology at the time, many other countries adopted the new nomenclature.

### Military Alphabet

A - Alpha	N - November
B - Bravo	O - Oscar
C - Charlie	P - Papa
D - Delta	Q - Quebec
E - Echo	R - Romeo
F - Foxtrot	S - Sierra
G - Golf	T - Tango
H - Hotel	U - Uniform
I - India	V - Victor
J - Juliet	W- Whiskey
K - Kilo	X - X-ray
L - Lima	Y - Yankee
M - Mike	Z - Zulu

- ▶ In 1979, the National Weather Service and the World Meteorological Association finally switched to an alternating inventory of both men's and women's names. (Bolton's senator-based plan was rejected, however, as was her proposal to replace the word "hurricane"—which she thought sounded too close to "her-icane"—with "him-icane.") In recent years, the lists of names, which are predetermined and rotate every six years, have been further diversified to reflect the many regions where tropical cyclones strike. Names of devastating storms with major loss of life and economic impact, such as Katrina in 2005 and Andrew in 1992, are permanently retired.







▶ THAT'S ALL!!!

