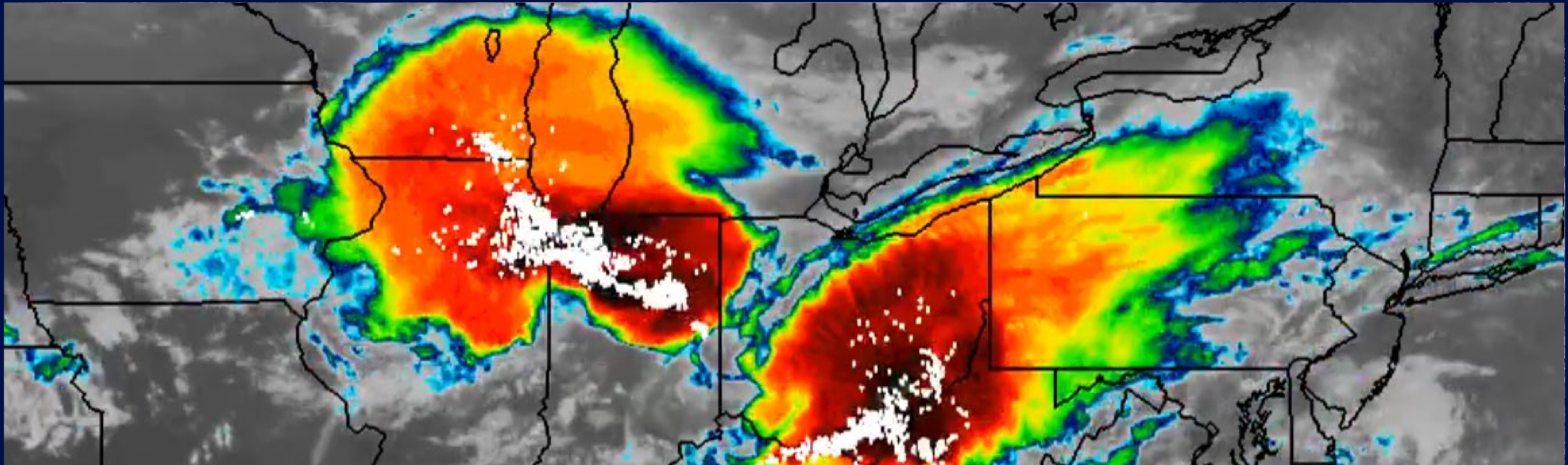
GUY CARPENTER
A MARSH BUSINESS

August 12, 2026

Active early August global cat activity

North America Peril Advisory



Key headlines

Serial wind events cause significant Midwest damage

The Midwest experienced multiple rounds of severe thunderstorm activity from August 9-11, 2026, driven by a slow-moving cold front affecting Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, and surrounding states. The strongest wind gust of 97 mph was recorded in Sugar Grove, IL, a suburb of Chicago. Multiple states reported damaging winds (60-80+ mph gusts), large hail (up to 3.5 inches), isolated tornadoes, and heavy rainfall (2-3 inches per hour with multi-day totals potentially exceeding 9 inches). Given the severity of winds in the Chicago, Indianapolis, and Columbus, OH metropolitan areas, insured losses are likely to be measured in the billions of dollars.

Structures destroyed in Western Canada wildfires

Nearly 400 structures are believed to be destroyed in British Columbia after the recent fire activity in the western part of the country. While nearly 250,000 hectares have burned in the province, this comprises less than 10% of all acreage burned in 2026. The Northwest Territories, Ontario, and Quebec have seen significantly higher acreage impacted.

M7.4 Colombia earthquake

A 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia on Monday, August 11, 2026, with its epicenter near San José del Palmar, resulting in at least 181 deaths and initial assessment of at least 150 buildings toppled. This is the second major earthquake to strike the continent in 2026, on the heels of the June Venezuela event.

Typhoon Dolphin makes 4th China landfall of 2026

The fourth and strongest typhoon to strike China this year, Dolphin's maximum winds at landfall were 95 mph, just shy of Category 2 status. Heavy rainfall has caused agricultural damages in China, the Philippines, and Taiwan. More than one million people were evacuated from the coastline.

Atlantic percolating, Hawaii to be impacted this weekend

The deep tropics are starting to see signs of tropical disturbances developing into several named storms. Cristobal and Dolly are the next named storms after Arthur and Bertha were short lived tropical storms in the Gulf of Mexico. At this point, wind shear associated with the strong El Niño looks to limit any strong intensification. Hawaii looks to experience tropical storm force winds with a strengthen disturbance roughly 1,000 miles to the southeast.

Elevated Europe wildfire risk declines late August

While trailing the record acreage enveloped by wildfire from 2025, enhanced threat of additional fires continues across southern Europe for the next week. North of the southern Europe heat dome, severe weather, inclusive of hailstorms, has been reported across central and eastern Europe. In the second half of August, a significant shift in the jet stream looks to bring more temperate temperatures and potential rainfall to western Europe, reducing wildfire potential.

Derecho impacts Chicago, IL metropolitan region

- Reported maximum windspeeds in the southern part of the Chicago, IL metropolitan region registered above 90 mph, with a maximum wind gust of 97 mph in Sugar Grove, IL.
- Social media reports indicate widespread damage across the region, extending east into Indiana.
- Further east, several bouts of straight-line wind events across Ohio have transpired the last 72 hours; Columbus, OH recorded a peak wind gust of 82 mph yesterday.
- Three confirmed tornadoes have been reported in Illinois, and more field surveys continue. With over 200 confirmed tornadoes in 2026, Illinois joins Texas as the second state on record to ever record this level of tornado activity in a year. The Texas record is 245 tornadoes, occurring in 2015.

Insured losses from the last several days of severe weather in the Midwest US will register in the billions of dollars (USD).

Source: NASA / NOAA

Top ten US severe convective storm events

Events since 1995

Inflation adjusted top ten largest US severe convective storm insured losses		
Year	**Secondary header**	**Insured loss (USD billions)**
2011	Tuscaloosa, AL tornado outbreak	14.1
2011	Joplin, MO tornado outbreak	12.9
2020	Iowa / Illinois derecho	10.4
2003	Oklahoma City, OK tornado outbreak	8.9
2025	Missouri hail & tornado	7.9
2010	Phoenix, AZ hail	6.4
2001	Missouri hail	5.8
2024	Widespread US hail & tornado outbreak, Texas largest loss	5.3
2016	San Antonio, TX hailstorm	5.2
2014	Central US hail and wind event in May	5.1

Source: Guy Carpenter

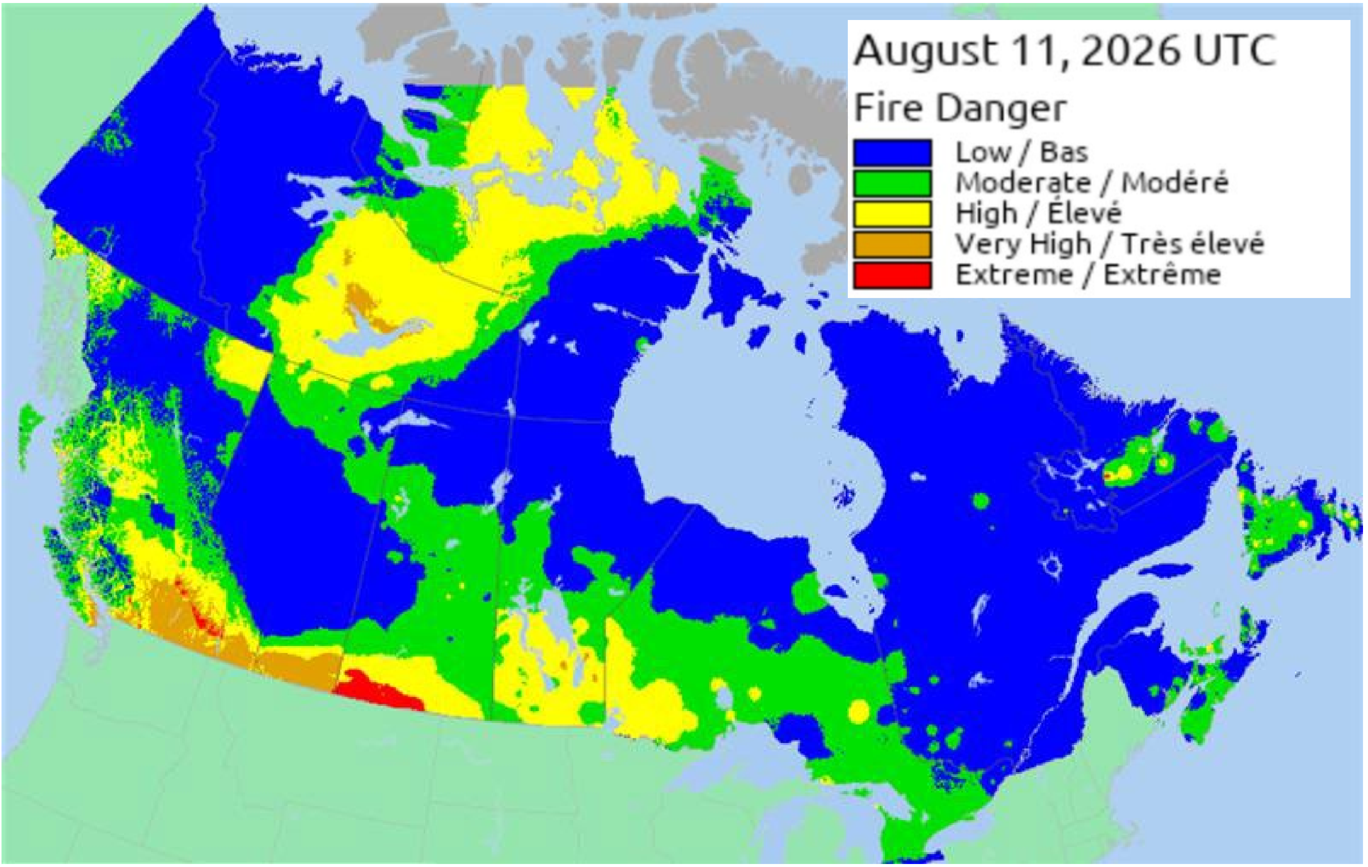
Commentary

Loss perspective

- Widespread 90 mph+ wind reports occurred in Chicagoland, with radar estimates suggesting multiple localized gusts well over 100 mph
- Chicago, IL is the third most populated city in the United States
- With losses expected to be in the billions of dollars, the chart to the left depicts the top ten largest events from an insured loss perspective, adjusted for inflation
- It is plausible given initial reports of damage that the last several days of severe weather activity could breach the top ten list
- More severe weather activity is expected through Friday

Elevated fire danger and significant British Columbia losses

- Fire danger remains elevated across western Canada, with areas of high to extreme danger concentrated in southern British Columbia (B.C.) and portions of the Prairies
- B.C. currently experiences the most acute impacts, with a provincial state of emergency being declared on August 8 and the fast-moving Bald Range wildfire resulting in the evacuations of more than 200,000 people around Summerland and Peachland
- Losses from the Bald Range fire are still being assessed, while structure loss was significant earlier this month near Okanagan Lake (230 homes lost) and Clinton (120 properties)
- 2026 has been an above average year of fire activity with 4.1 million hectares burned, over a million more than the 25-year average of 3 million hectares

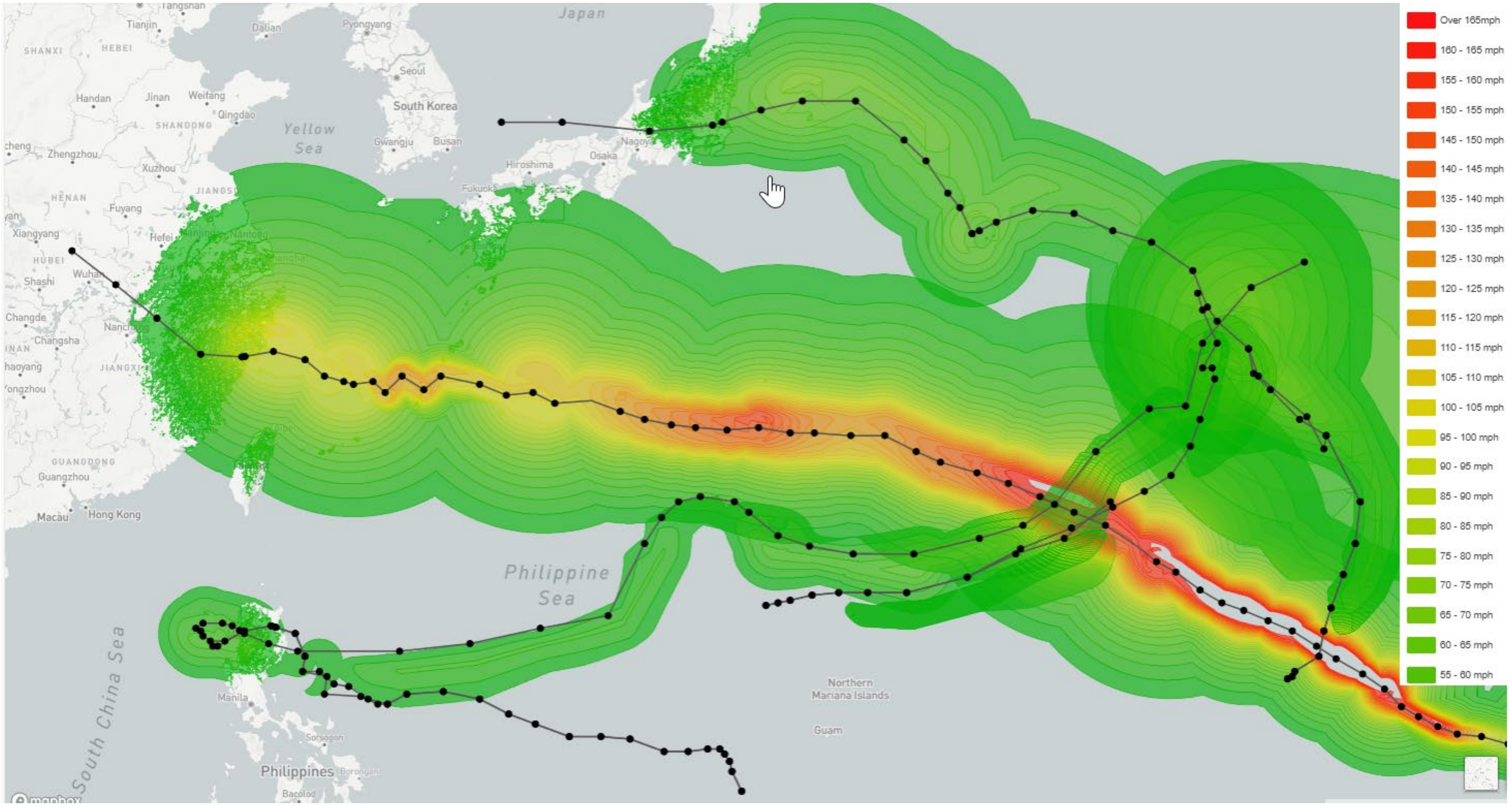


Extreme drought across British Columbia was a precursor to recent fire activity.

Source Canada Wildland Fire Information System:

Typhoon Dolphin makes landfall in China

Map represents last seven days of West Pacific typhoon activity



With the strengthening El Niño event in the Pacific, conditions remain conducive for above average West Pacific activity for the rest of the season.

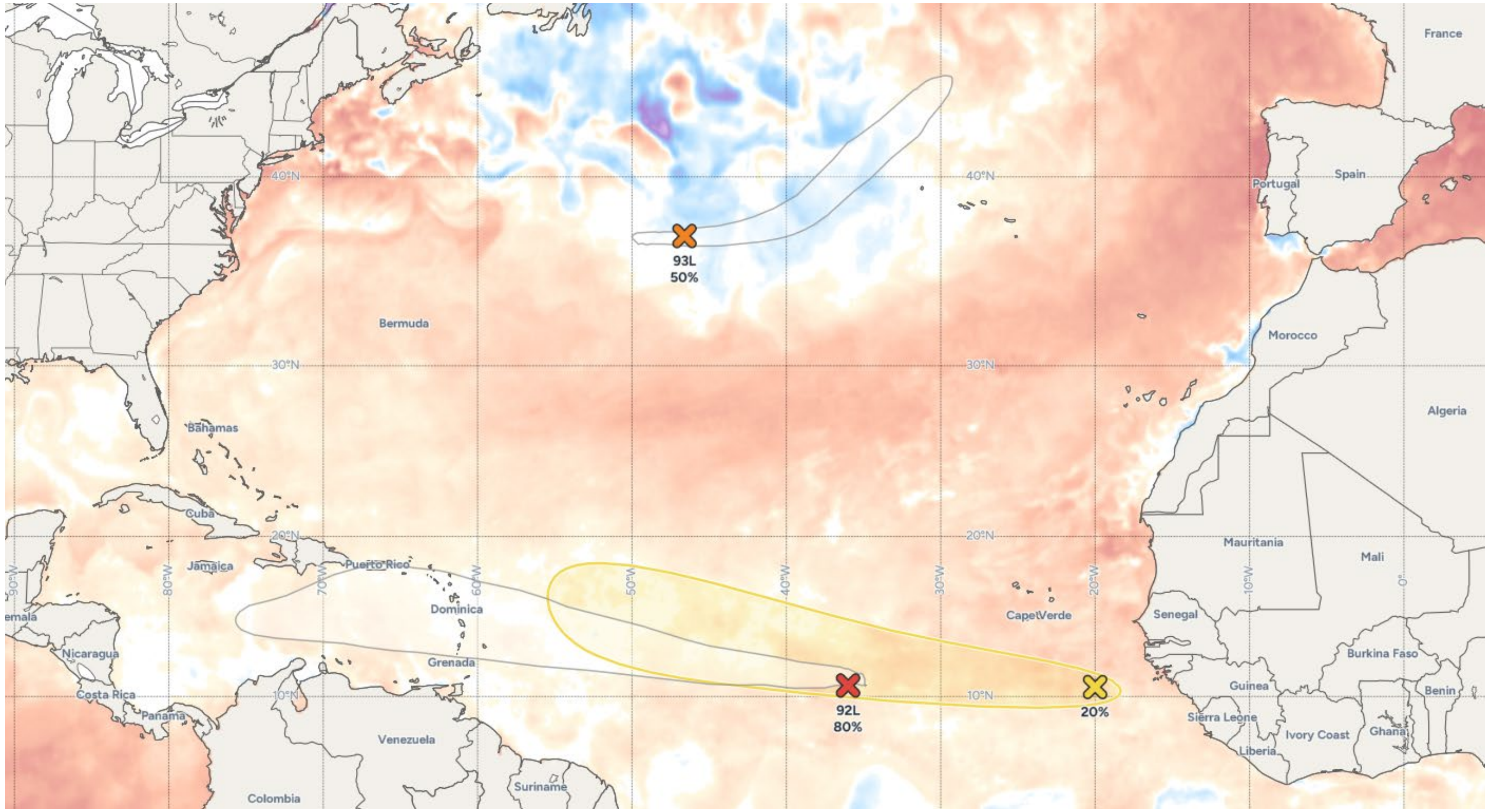
Commentary

- Dolphin became the 5th category 5 tropical cyclone of 2026, putting this year ahead of the pace from the all-time record of 12 category 5 events in 1997 (also a strong El Niño year)
- Dolphin was a named storm for over 14 days, tying for the 6th longest lasting storm in the West Pacific since records began in 1951; the storm tracked over 6,800 kilometers
- 900,000 people were evacuated from coastal province of Wenzhou while another 400,000 people evacuated from Shanghai
- Over 360,000 households lost power
- With four names storms over the past week in the Western Pacific, above average activity looks to persist on account of the strong El Niño along with above average sea surface temperatures across most of the region

Source: Guy Carpenter, Kinetic Analysis Corporation

Atlantic percolating, strong impacts unlikely

The strong El Niño continues to reduce prospects of Atlantic activity



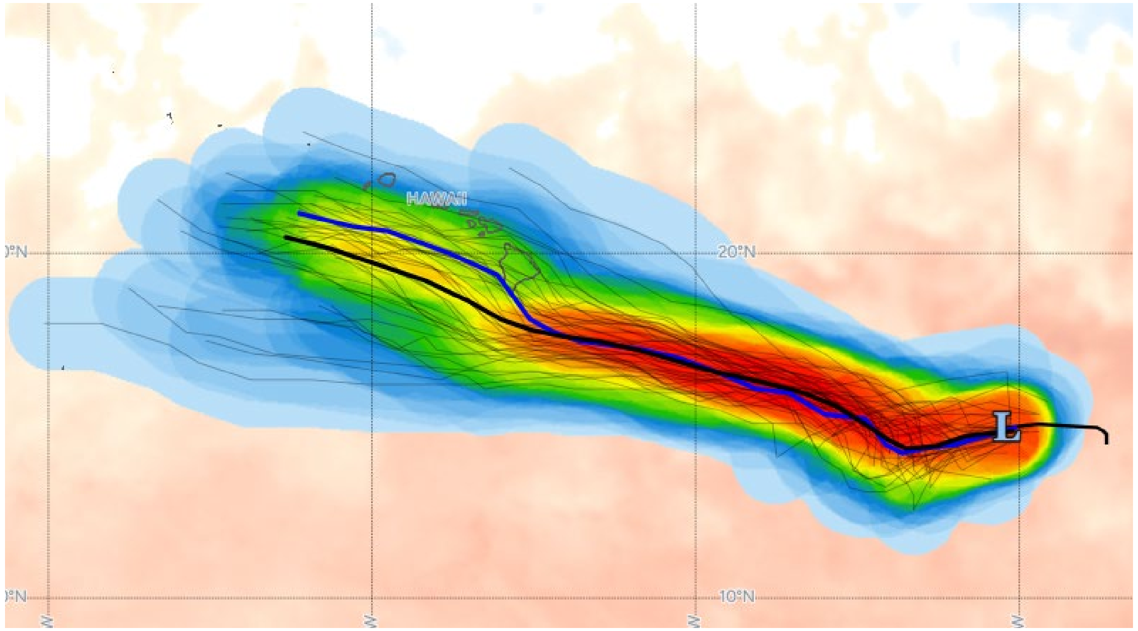
While several disturbances have prospects of becoming named storms, there is no indication of these disturbances becoming strong hurricanes over the middle part of August.

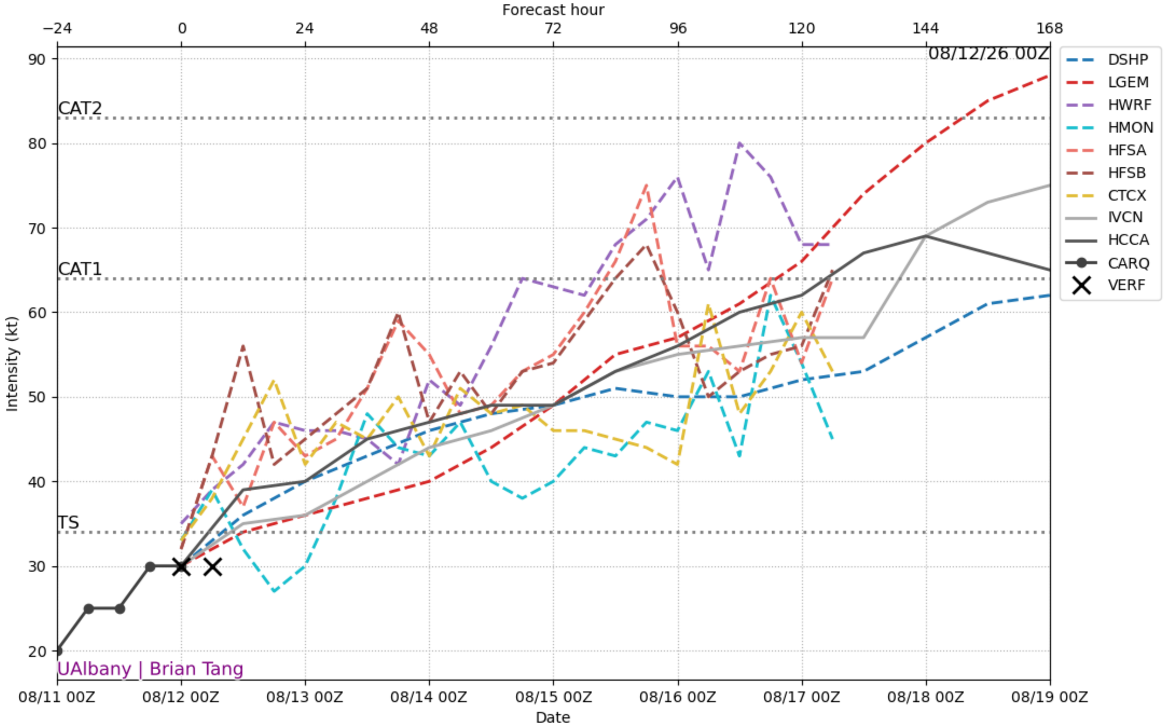
Commentary

- The deep Atlantic tropics are starting to see signs of tropical disturbances developing into several named storms
- Cristobal and Dolly are the next named storms after Arthur and Bertha were short lived tropical storms in the Gulf of Mexico
- At this point, wind shear associated with the strong El Niño looks to limit any strong intensification, even with storms tracking towards the Caribbean
- Seasonal forecasting entities continue to indicate the 2026 Atlantic season will feature below average basin activity
- However, above average sea surface temperatures, particularly near the coastline of the Eastern Seaboard, continue to warrant monitoring for development close to shore

Source: Polar Weather

Hawaii likely to see tropical storm winds this weekend





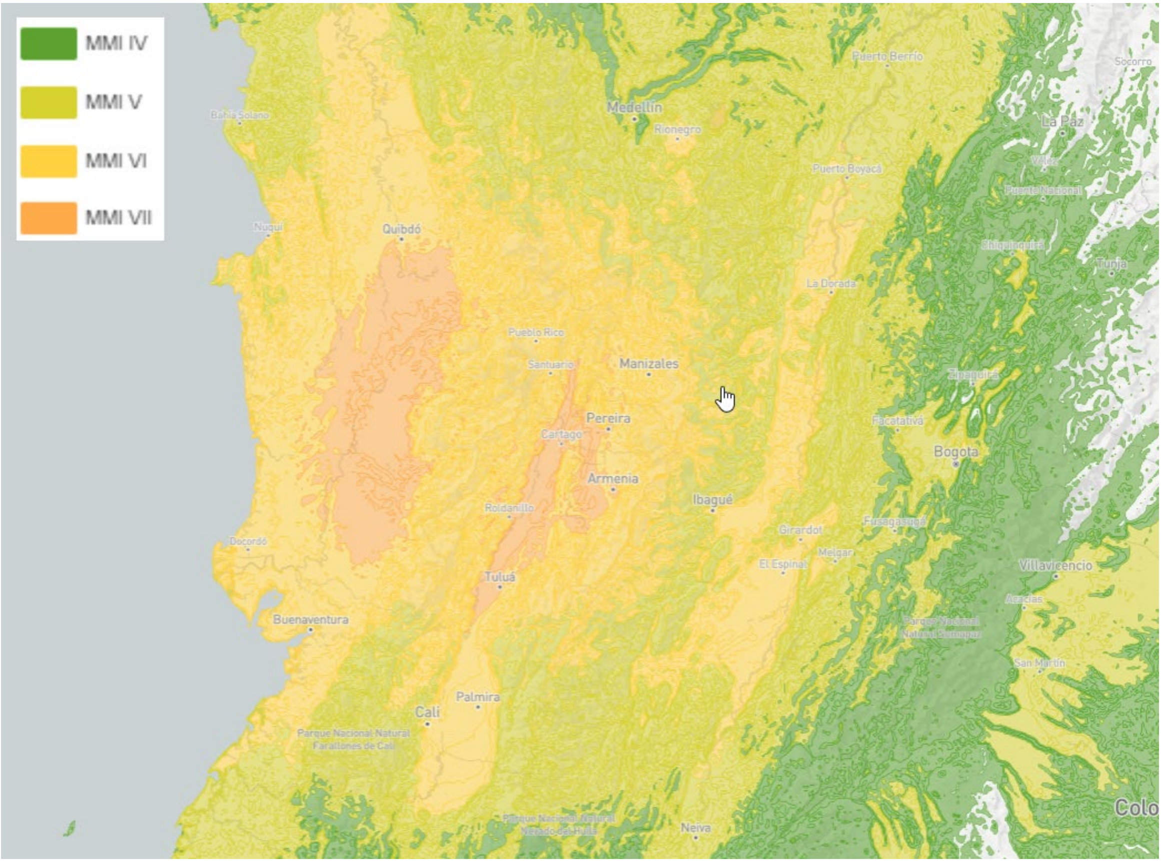
- A disturbance roughly 1,000 miles south-southeast of Hawaii looks to develop into a named storm in the next several days.
- Model guidance suggests the storm will likely impact Hawaii over the weekend given weather model track forecasts.
- Intensity will slowly increase, with high-end tropical storm force winds anticipated for the island of Hawaii this weekend. Heavy rainfall will also transpire, particularly for south facing portions of the state.

Source: Polar Weather, University at Albany / Dr. Brian Tang

M7.4 Colombia earthquake

- A magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck western Colombia on August 10, 2026, at 7:34 AM local time with an epicenter near San José del Palmar in the Chocó Department, approximately 250 miles west of Bogotá at a depth of 107 km. The earthquake resulted in at least 181 deaths and caused widespread damage to infrastructure including 6 airport suspensions and an initial report of over 150 buildings toppled.

- Colombia has experienced at least 14 magnitude 7.0+ earthquakes in recorded history, including:
  - 1875 Cúcuta (7.5)
  - 1906 Ecuador-Colombia offshore (8.8)
  - 1958 offshore (7.8)
  - 1970 Amazonas (8.0)
  - 1979 Tumaco (8.1)
  - 1991 Chocó (7.2)
  - 1992 Murindó (7.2)
  - 2004 Bajo Baudó (7.2)
  - 2012 La Vega (7.3)
  - 2016 Ecuador-Colombia (7.8)



Colombia is one of the most seismically active regions of the South American continent.

Source Guy Carpenter, USGS

2026 South America earthquake comparison

South America earthquake comparison: June 24 Venezuela / August 11 Colombia		
Metric	**Venezuela**	**Colombia**
Magnitude	7.2 and 7.5 (two consecutive quakes)	7.4 (single)
Fatalities	Over 6,000	At least 250
Buildings damaged	~59,000	Not yet determined
Epicenter	San Felipe, outside Caracas	250 miles west of Bogotá
Injured	At least 16,700	Ongoing assessment
People affected	Up to 6.8 million	Not specified
Infrastructure impact	Widespread devastation, damaged healthcare system, power outages	Toppled numerous buildings
Depth	10 km	107 km

While the June Venezuela event is largely an economic loss event, insurance penetration in Colombia for earthquake is higher, likely resulting in an insured loss event for the Latin America marketplace.

Commentary

Market perspective

- Colombia insurance policies offer comprehensive coverage options, often affording the option to include earthquake coverage for additional premium
- While coverage is available in Colombia, it is common to see deductibles range between 5% and 20% for earthquake coverage
- While the Venezuela event was more severe, insurance take-up rates for earthquake coverage is limited; many insurance companies explicitly exclude coverage in the country
- The Venezuela earthquake has exacerbated humanitarian issues prevalent before the temblor

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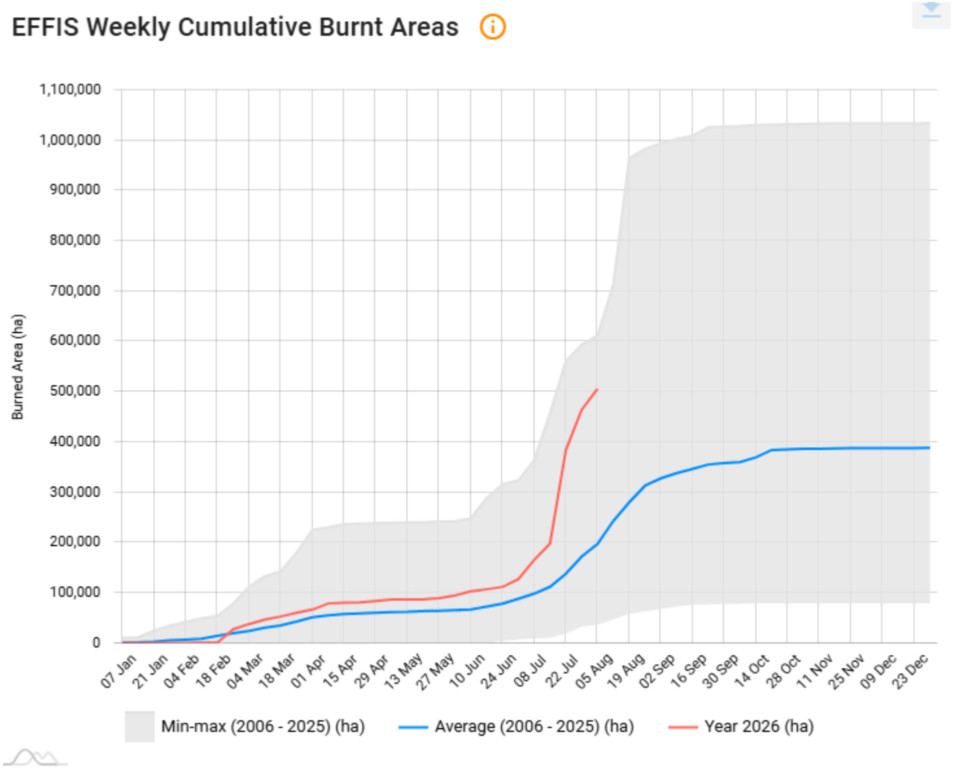
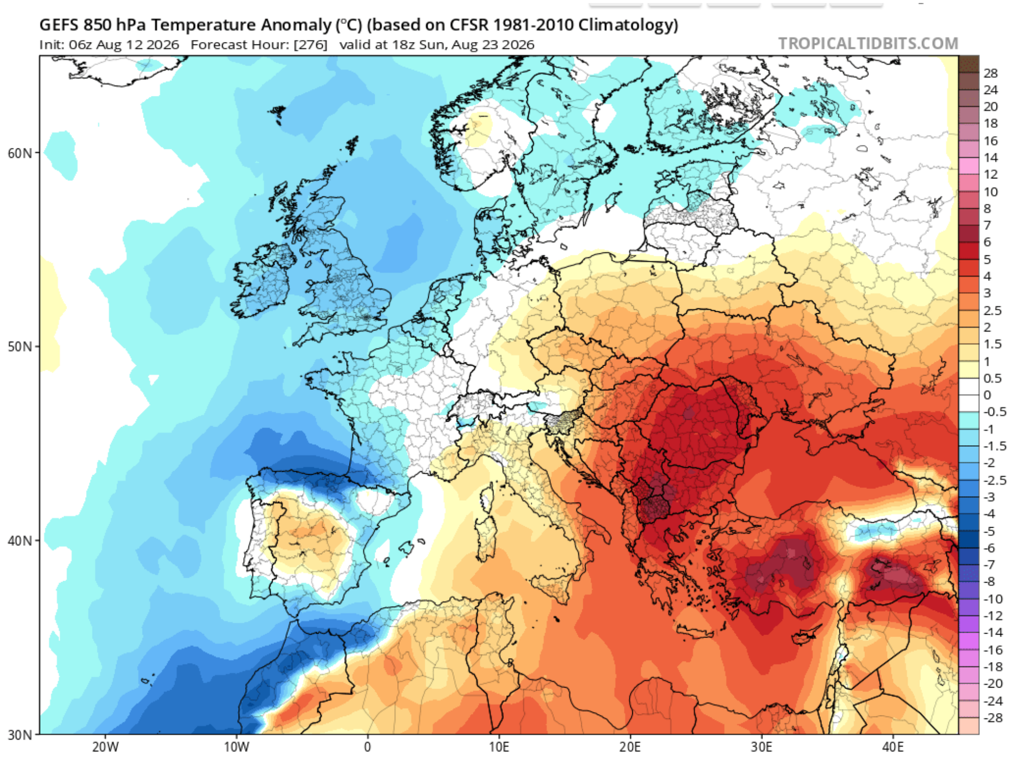
Europe wildfire update





- Damage to structures and implications for insured losses are largely unchanged from the Guy Carpenter Cat Resource post issued in late July
- The ongoing heatwave across Western Europe looks to finally break after the weekend, with cooler than average temperatures transpiring in the latter portions of August, as exhibited in the ten-day forecast in the map above.

Source: Europe Forest Fires Information System, Tropical Tidbits

Important links

- [European Forest Fire Information System]
- Canadian Wildland Fire Information System
- National Hurricane Center
- July Cat Resource Center Report on Southern Europe Wildfires

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We are leaders in risk, strategy and people. One company, with four global businesses, united by a shared purpose to build the confidence to thrive through the power of perspective.