

First 2007 U.S. sub-tropical storm forms

by UPI

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Three weeks before the start of the North Atlantic hurricane season, subtropical storm Andrea was named Wednesday off the Florida and Georgia coasts.

The National Weather Service in Jacksonville, Fla., said at 11 a.m., Andrea was 140 miles northeast of Daytona Beach, Fla., moving to the west at 3 mph. Andrea had sustained winds near 45 mph, and no strengthening was forecast in the next 24 hours.

Tropical storm watches were posted from Altamaha Sound in Georgia south to Flagler Beach, Fla.

"This is expected to be primarily a marine event and land areas along the most significant impacts will be gusty winds and surf along the immediate beaches," forecasters said.

Subtropical storms differ from tropical storms in that they lack a well defined center, or "eye," and the strongest winds can be far from the center.

The traditional hurricane seasons runs for six months beginning June 1.

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