

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHARLESTON SC
700 AM EDT WED MAY 27 2015

...NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK CONTINUES...

HURRICANES AND OTHER TROPICAL CYCLONES HAVE NUMEROUS THREATS ASSOCIATED WITH THEM...INCLUDING STORM SURGE...HIGH WINDS...FLOODING RAINFALL...TORNADOES...RIP CURRENTS...HIGH SURF AND BEACH EROSION. TODAY WE WILL DISCUSS HIGH WINDS AND TORNADOES. TODAY WE WILL DISCUSS FLOODING RAINFALL AS WELL AS SURF ZONE IMPACTS SUCH AS RIP CURRENTS...HIGH SURF AND BEACH EROSION.

FLOODING RAINFALL...

WIDESPREAD TORRENTIAL RAINS...OFTEN EXCEEDING 6 INCHES...OFTEN ACCOMPANY TROPICAL CYCLONES. RAINFALL AMOUNTS DEPEND ON THE SPEED AND SIZE OF THE STORM AS WELL AS LOCAL GEOGRAPHY. MORE RECENTLY...FRESHWATER FLOODING FROM RAINFALL HAS ACCOUNTED FOR THE MOST DEATHS FROM TROPICAL SYSTEMS. TROPICAL STORM ALBERTO IN 1994 DRIFTED OVER THE SOUTHEAST STATES AND PRODUCED MORE THAN 21 INCHES OF RAIN IN AMERICUS GEORGIA WHERE 33 PEOPLE DROWNED. IN 2005...TROPICAL STORM TAMMY PRODUCED BETWEEN 10 AND 15 INCHES OF RAIN AND WIDESPREAD FLOODING ACROSS PORTIONS OF SOUTHEAST GEORGIA. TROPICAL CYCLONE REMNANTS CAN PRODUCE EXCESSIVE RAINFALL WELL REMOVED FROM THE COAST. DURING AN 8 HOUR PERIOD IN AUGUST 1969, THE REMNANTS OF HURRICANE CAMILLE PRODUCED UNOFFICIAL RAINFALL AMOUNTS EXCEEDING 40 INCHES AND INCREDIBLE...DEADLY FLASH FLOODING IN THE MOUNTAINS OF WESTERN VIRGINIA.

RIP CURRENTS/HIGH SURF/BEACH EROSION...

TROPICAL CYCLONES...EVEN THOSE THAT REMAIN WELL OFFSHORE...CAN PRODUCE HIGH...POWERFUL SURF WHICH IS DANGEROUS TO ANYONE THAT VENTURES INTO THE WATER. THE HIGH SURF CAN CAUSE EXTENSIVE BEACH EROSION AND STRONG...FREQUENT RIP CURRENTS. RIP CURRENTS ARE NARROW CHANNELS OF WATER WHICH FLOW QUICKLY AWAY FROM LAND AND CAN BE DEADLY...ESPECIALLY FOR INEXPERIENCED SWIMMERS. HIGH SURF PRODUCED BY TROPICAL STORM TAMMY IN 2005 CREATED EXTENSIVE BEACH EROSION ALONG THE SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA COASTS...AND SEVERAL HOMES WERE DESTROYED AT EDISTO BEACH. IN 2010...HURRICANE EARL IN CREATED SURF EXCEEDING 10 FEET HIGH EVEN THOUGH THE STORM REMAINED WELL OFFSHORE. IN 2011...HURRICANE IRENE PASSED WELL OFFSHORE BUT STILL PRODUCED HIGH SURF AND BEACH EROSION WHICH DESTROYED FOLLY BEACH COUNTY PARK ON THE CHARLESTON COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA COAST.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HURRICANES VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES...

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER...WWW.HURRICANES.GOV

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHARLESTON...WWW.WEATHER.GOV/CHS/TROPICAL
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