

# SUNCOAST OBSERVER

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the National Weather Service Tampa Bay Area, FL

[www.weather.gov/tampa](http://www.weather.gov/tampa)

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## Top stories in this newsletter



NWS Participated In and Provided Training For Florida Emergency Management Academy



First of Three Integrated Warning Team Meetings Takes Place in Southwest Florida



NWS Tampa Bay Talks with Hundreds of 5th Graders in February



Volunteer Rainfall Observers Wanted

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## NWS Participated In and Provided Training for Florida Emergency Management Academy

By: Dan Noah



Andrew McKaughan, Meteorologist at NWS Tampa Bay, was a student at the 2019 FEPA Intermediate Emergency Management Academy. This course was a 6 day, 12 hours a day intensive Emergency Management professional development experience and included course work and EOC experiences related to the principles of Emergency Management. Andrew played the part of the Logistics Chief in the mock EOC during multiple events that included a terrorist attack and a train derailment with a dangerous chemical plume headed toward the county fair and assisted living facilities. Students also developed daily Incident Action Plans and practiced land navigation in the forest.

Ben Nelson, Meteorologist at NWS Jacksonville, FL, and Dan Noah, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at NWS Tampa Bay, teamed up to provide the FEMA G-272 Warning Coordination course to the students. The course was updated with interactive polling questions and tailored toward Florida. G-272 is intended to facilitate strong working relationships between Emergency Management, the Media, and the NWS and explains the interlocking sets of activities that work together to form an effective community warning system.

## First of Three Integrated Warning Team Meetings Takes Place in Southwest Florida

By: Tyler Fleming



On March 15, several meteorologists from NWS Tampa Bay and NWS Miami forecast offices met with more than a dozen core partners at the Lee County Emergency Operations Center in Fort Myers for the 2019 Southwest Florida Integrated Warning Team Meeting. The Integrated Warning Team is comprised of representatives from the National Weather Service, emergency management, and broadcast media, and meets annually to discuss ways to improve the warning process and help build a Weather Ready Nation.

Topics discussed at the 2019 meeting included a summary of the 2018 hurricane season, recent additions to the tropical program, how the NWS conducts damage surveys, a new high surf advisory criteria at NWS Miami, a change in tide gauge datums, and night time Issuance of watches and warnings.

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## NWS Tampa Bay Talks with Hundreds of 5<sup>th</sup> Graders in February

By: Jennifer Hubbard



NWS Tampa Bay meteorologist Jennifer Hubbard talked with the entire 5th grade classes of two elementary schools in Manatee County in early February. The nearly 300 students enthusiastically participated in topics ranging from weather instrumentation and meteorology basics, to the various types of severe weather, and weather safety. The talks coincided with the weather unit in their science curriculum, and helped to bring a greater understanding to the topic.

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## Volunteer Rainfall Observers Wanted

By: Jennifer Hubbard



The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network is having a volunteer drive during the month of March. Due to the variability of precipitation, amounts measured can be quite different only a block or two away. These community volunteer observers help to fill in the gaps from official observations and create a clearer picture of where it did and did not rain. This data is then ingested into NWS systems to assist in river forecasts and flood warnings. To find out more information, and to sign up, please visit [cocorahs.org](http://cocorahs.org)