

SUNCOAST OBSERVER

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

www.weather.gov/tampa

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Keeping Our Communities StormReady Despite Restrictions

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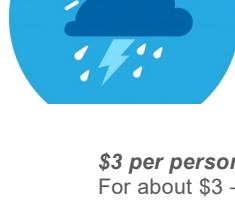


By: Nicole Carlisle

Each year, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) holds a multi-day conference centered on decision support services for mariners. This conference is usually held in-person, but was conducted virtually this year with safety in mind. In addition to the forecasters and hurricane specialists from NHC, attendees included members of the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch, the Ocean Prediction Center, the U.S. Coast Guard, and several representatives from the private sector. Also joining and presenting this year was NWS Tampa's very own marine program leader, Senior Meteorologist Nicole Carlisle.

Nicole started by presenting background information on the National Weather Service and those offices that produce marine weather forecasts. She then discussed some of the specialized forecasts that our office has developed for our local partners, including the Marine Channels Forecast for Tampa Bay, Beach Hazards Statements for harmful algal blooms along the coast, and an annual hurricane exercise for Port Tampa Bay. She also touched on some of the briefings, both routine and non-routine, that we regularly provide. The rest of the workshop featured a variety of both internal and external speakers as well as almost a full day of breakout sessions. The workshop concluded with a leadership panel question and answer session. Overall, the workshop was very well-received and we look forward to participating next year.

Facts About Your NWS



By: Dan Noah

Here are a few interesting fast facts about your National Weather Service!

6.3 billion observations per day

Each day, NWS collects about 6.3 billion observations. The weather service annually issues approximately 1.5 million forecasts and 50,000 warnings.

\$3 per person

For about \$3 — the cost of your favorite specialty coffee drink — NWS provides each person in the U.S. with timely and accurate basic weather, water, and climate forecasts and information, as well as life-saving watches and warnings when severe weather strikes for an entire year.

122 Weather Forecast Offices

With nearly 4,900 employees in 122 weather forecast offices, 13 river forecast centers, 9 national centers, and other support offices around the country, NWS provides a national infrastructure to gather and process data worldwide.

290,000 SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotters

SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters across the nation and around 2,600 spotters in west central and southwest Florida. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

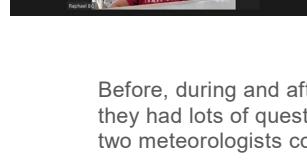
About NOAA National Weather Service

Each year, the United States averages some 10,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,300 tornadoes and 2 Atlantic hurricanes, as well as widespread droughts and wildfires. Weather, water and climate events, cause an average of approximately 650 deaths and \$15 billion in damage per year and are responsible for some 90 percent of all presidentially-declared disasters. About one-third of the U.S. economy — some \$3 trillion — is sensitive to weather and climate. National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.

NWS Tampa Bay Continues Virtual School Talks



By: Keily Delerme



The Virtual Outreach Team at WFO Tampa Bay provides virtual presentations to schools in and outside of our area at least once a month. This month's presentation was requested by Miss Morales from Covenant Academy located in Pinellas County, and was given by Keily Delerme, one of the meteorologists at the Tampa Bay office. Miss Morales requested a basic weather talk that included some facts about severe weather since this is the subject that she is currently covering with her second graders. We covered from basic instrumentation, to thunderstorm formation, to hurricane structure, and even climate records.

Before, during and after the presentation, her students showed so much enthusiasm and engagement. As any second grader, they had lots of questions and some were even interested in the pathway to become a meteorologist. Maybe we'll have one or two meteorologists come out of that class, and if that is the case, there is a bright future ahead of us!

Keeping Our Communities StormReady Despite Restrictions



By: Jen Hubbard

StormReady is a community preparedness program that helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property--before, during and after an extreme weather event. StormReady helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs.

StormReady communities include counties, Indian nations, universities and colleges, military bases, commercial enterprises, and other groups. Officials of these communities work with the National Weather Service to develop plans to handle all types of extreme weather, from tornadoes to winter storms, and establish systems to monitor and alert the public within their community when severe weather threatens.

A team here at NWS Tampa Bay have been able to convert these meetings and trainings required for certification into virtual formats, with 24 communities getting recertified in 2021.