Safety & Environmental Newsletter

August 2011 Issue

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

With Hurricane Irene in the Atlantic threatening the Eastern seaboard, now is a good time to brush up on Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) hurricane condition levels and what they may mean to you. Let's review hurricane categories and the wind speeds and expected damage that is associated with each category. Below are the National Hurricane Center categories of storms, wind speed associated with each category, expected damage and storm surge associated with each storm category.

STORM TYPE	WINDS (MPH)	(KT)	STORM SURGE	DAMAGE
Category 1	74 - 95	64-82	4 - 5 feet	Minimal
Category 2	96 - 110	83-95	6 - 8 feet	Moderate
Category 3	111 - 130	96-113	9 - 12 feet	Extensive
Category 4	131 - 155	114-134	13 - 19 feet	Extreme
Category 5	>155	>135	>19 feet	Catastrophic

If a hurricane such as Irene threatens WFF, the facility will take a hurricane alert posture associated with the predicted time of arrival of storm conditions with 50 knot or greater winds. WFF Public Affairs Office will keep employees posted as to what hurricane condition WFF is in. Employees can also go to the following website: http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code803/eocmain.html to review plans and condition levels at WFF. When the storm is within 120 hours of expected arrival, WFF will issue its first condition level for the pending storm at Hurricane Condition V. This kicks off a whole series of events of planning and preparations for the pending storm arrival. Employees should also start their own emergency preparedness planning to include what you and your family should do should as the storm continues to approach. Below are the time lines and condition levels for WFF hurricane condition levels:

Condition V - 120 hours Review of Plans/long lead item

Condition IV - 72 hours Start Preparations

Condition III - 48 hours Active Preparation

Condition II - 24 hours Active Preparation

Condition I - 12 hours Final Actions/Ride out

Remember to keep alert, informed, and ready should a storm approach. The following are websites to help you prepare:
http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code803/eocmain.html (Wallops Emergency Operations Center)
http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/ (National Hurricane Center) http://www.vaemergency.com/ (VA Emergency Center)

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The EFR is coming! The EFR is coming!

Environmental Functional Review: September 19-23, 2011

Wallops Beach Clean-up is International Coastal Cleanup Day!
September 17th 9:00 a.m.
Email Marianne.F.Simko@nasa.gov

2011 Environmental Management System High Priorities at Wallops Flight Facility:

1) Protected Areas and Protected Species
2) Environmental Planning
3) Energy Management/Sustainability

Wallops Boiler Plant Decentralization Almost Complete

By: Environmental Intern Olivia Massey

This month, the D-8 boiler plant operators at WFF will shut the steam boilers down for the last time. This will mark the end of an era of big steam production at Wallops that began in the 1940s. The old boiler plant used No. 6 fuel oil, which emits many air pollutants, including: Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Sulfur Dioxide, Nitrous Oxides and Particulates. Its replacement, Liquefied Petroleum (LP) gas can be seen as a welcome change. The building specific LP gas fired boilers and heaters are more efficient and will not lose energy like the steam pipes connected to the central plant; thereby helping to control increasing heat energy costs at WFF.

Significant reductions are expected. Decentralization of the WFF boiler plant will reduce Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions by 70-95%. The Wallops Boiler Plant closure should not only be seen as the end of an era, but also the opening of a new, environmentally friendly door to a cleaner world.

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