



## HURRICANE SEASON IS NOW!!

The annual Wallops emergency preparedness exercise was held on June 25. Representatives from entities having responsibilities outlined within the WFF Hurricane/Nor'easter Preparedness Plan discussed the plan's effectiveness and WFF's ability to mitigate impacts from severe weather events. Agencies represented included staff from NASA, WEMA, USCG, MARS, Orbital and NOAA. Issues raised during the exercise will be compiled into an After Action Report and mitigated as applicable to ensure that Wallops is ready for anything Mother Nature may throw our way.

Every year, forecasters predict how many tropical storms and hurricanes will impact the U.S. coastline during hurricane season, which runs June 1 through Nov. 30. This year, models have indicated a below average season because of a likely El Niño and unusual cooling of the tropical and sub-tropical Atlantic.

Everyone here at Wallops certainly hope those models are correct, but the models are predictions, not facts. Wallops Emergency Management treats every season the same – as an opportunity to improve our response and recovery capabilities and prepare our facility for whatever Mother Nature may bring. It only takes one hurricane, nor'easter or tropical storm to cause major damage and loss of life. After getting to know Sandy, Irene and Isabel during the past 11 years, Wallops is all too familiar with what can happen when severe weather comes our way.



Listed below are a few resources that can help keep you and your family safe. Check them out!

- ⇒ 7 great, very short, but informative videos about hurricanes, storm surge, preparedness tips & more can be found at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fq\\_1PwKuRPG&index=1&list=PL63A9138A2047B1A4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fq_1PwKuRPG&index=1&list=PL63A9138A2047B1A4)
- ⇒ The Ready Virginia mobile app, created by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management is an interactive tool that makes it easier than ever to be prepared for emergencies. The free app for iPhone® and Android™ devices provides emergency planning and guidance and other robust features not previously available in any mobile application.

**Alerts:** Real time weather and hazard alerts for your location

**Plan:** Make your emergency plan and share it with your friends

**Local:** GPS enabled evacuation routes, flood risk updates, stream gauge rates, and disaster history

**Checklist:** Essential emergency supplies to have in your kit

**Threats:** Push notifications, disaster news, and social media updates to keep you safe

- ⇒ NEW for 2014! Storm surge potential will now be added to forecasts from the National Hurricane Center. Storm surge is important for everyone living on the Delmarva. Why? Because it's an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tides. And wave heights are not included in storm surge predictions! Details about storm surge and how it can affect you, go to: [http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/news/20140320\\_pa\\_2014seasonChanges.pdf](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/news/20140320_pa_2014seasonChanges.pdf)

# Safety & Environmental Newsletter

July 2014 Issue



## Nest News



**Piping Plovers:** There are five broods of piping plover chicks remaining on Wallops Island. Plovers chicks and adults are foraging on the Wallops beach.

The plover families on the recreational beach are frequenting the point where recreational vehicles access the recreational beach. Please watch for young plovers resting in tire ruts.



The chicks should fledge around mid-July and start migrating with their parents to wintering grounds along the coast from North Carolina to Florida, the Gulf coast, and in the Bahamas and West Indies.



**American Oystercatchers:** Wallops Island recreational beach hosted two American oystercatcher nests this season. Both brood of checks have fledged and left the Island.

**Red Knots:** On wing-spans of 20 inches, some knots fly more than 9,300 miles from south to north every spring and repeat the trip in reverse every autumn, making this bird one of the longest-distance



migrants in the animal kingdom. Every year, groups between 4 to 200+ individual migrating red knots stop to rest and feed on Wallops Island.

Questions? Contact Lauren Chance at extension 1179.

## Cardboard Recycling 101:



Step 1  
Flatten or fold



Step 2  
Place cardboard in or behind the white recycling box



Please do not leave boxes in the hallways marked "Trash." For more information, contact Wayne Redmond at extension 1191

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Hits Inbox



The Annual Drinking Water Quality Report or "Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)" was emailed to all Wallops users on June 24, 2014. The CCR is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act and our Virginia Department of Health Drinking Water Permit. The report includes WFF's drinking water sources and the most recent drinking water quality monitoring data.

For more information, contact Owen Hooks at extension 1941.