



Hurricane season is June 1 - November 30.

At Wallops, while the calendar says we are nearing the peak of the hurricane season, our plans say emergency response personnel have prepared for what nature may bring us. So what can YOU do to assist emergency response at Wallops with achieving effective hurricane/nor'easter planning?

Act Now. If you see things outside your workplace that could become airborne in high winds, make your supervisor/department head aware of the hazard. Supervisors/department heads should contact their building FOMs with potential hazard issues.

Prepare Now. Read the 2013 WFF Hurricane/Nor'easter Preparedness Plan available at the WFF Safety Office's Emergency Planning page at <http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code803/plans.php>. It contains information that directly affects the entire Wallops community.

Assure that your contact information in NASA's ENS (Emergency Notification System) is current. Wallops uses ENS for emergency notifications and inquiries as to your safety status after an emergency in our area occurs. If you are Civil Service, please update your information in Employee Express <https://www.employeeexpress.gov>. If you are Non-Civil Service (e.g., a contractor), enter your information into the User Self-Service (USS) tools, part of the Identity Management and Account Exchange (IdMAX) <https://idmax.nasa.gov>.

You also need to prepare your household for potential storms. Start now before there is any news of a storm brewing.

Plan Now. Go to the WFF Safety Office's Emergency Preparedness page at <http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code803/prepare.php>. You'll find helpful information on hurricane preparedness, evacuation routes, storm surge and flooding hazard information.

Ask Now. If you are new to the Eastern Shore, ask your neighbors or co-workers that have lived in your area for some time how storms affect the areas surrounding your home. Even if your home is not in a flood zone, the roads leading to your home may flood during wind/rain events, leaving you stranded if you do not evacuate before the storm.

Delmarva's Nor'easter season is June 1 - May 31.

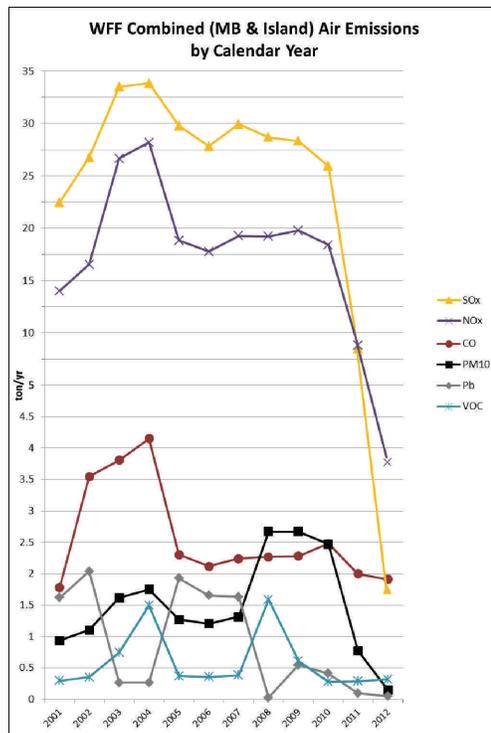
Read the Above Information Now. Because of its unique geography, the Delmarva Peninsula is at great risk for flooding, storm surge and high wind damage during a hurricane, nor'easter or even a tropical storm. Plan now to respond to a nor'easter or tropical storm much as you would for a hurricane approaching the Eastern Shore.



Breathe Easy at WFF

Air Quality: WFF has two State Operating Permits for its Air Program. One aspect of these permits that is important to people who live near or work at WFF is the control of air pollutant emissions.

Environmental Office personnel calculate emissions regularly to ensure that missions and day-to-day operations do not result in hazardous levels of air pollution. In fact, in the past three years, some air pollution levels have dropped dramatically, as much as 90+ percent! These reductions are due in large part to a shift to propane for heating. However, many substances and equipment have the potential to impact our emissions.



That's where you come in. If you know of new chemicals or equipment like generators and boilers, please let us know! Sharing this information helps us maintain and improve the quality of the air you breathe. To report new chemicals or equipment, please call Owen Hooks at extension 1941.

Ask the Inspector



Dear Sherlock,
I saw the term "VOC" on a can of paint the other day, and later on a tube of glue. What is a VOC and what's with all the labels?

Signed,
Hacken N. Coffin

Dear Hacken,
It may seem like a lot of fuss over something you can't see but, rest assured, all of those labels provide an important warning.

Volatile Organic Compounds, or VOCs, are gases that are released from chemicals like paints, thinners, adhesives, fuels, citrus or pine oil cleaners, nail polish remover, and even some home furnishings! Depending on exposure levels, which tend to be higher indoors, VOCs can cause a number of health effects ranging from eye, nose, and throat irritation, to headaches and nausea, to liver, kidney, and central nervous system damage.

OSHA regulates VOC limits in the workplace and products containing VOCs are required to have labels acknowledging this fact. It is important to know when you are working with products containing VOCs so that you can take proper steps to limit exposure and use proper protective equipment.

For more information regarding VOCs, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html>.

Air Quality at Home: Air Filter Maintenance

More than likely, your home HVAC unit has a filter to capture air-borne dust, pet dander, and other particles. However, many filters only provide protection for HVAC equipment and aren't efficient at removing most smaller particles that pose health risks, including bacteria, allergens, and mold spores. Moreover, filters must be replaced regularly or cleaned to maintain their efficiency.

When was the last time you replaced your filter? Is it efficient enough to maintain healthy air in your home while allowing your HVAC unit to function properly?

For more information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pdfs/aircleaners.pdf>.

