



May 2015 Issue – 52<sup>nd</sup> Edition

*Hurricane Season is Right Around the Corner* by Sara Seaman

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 with the developing El Niño weather pattern driving the season's forecast.

Everyone here at Wallops certainly hope those models are correct, but the models are predictions, not facts. Wallops Emergency Management treats every weather 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 to the area. And all 3 types of weather events exposes Wallops and its surrounding areas to potential severe wind flooding, and storm surge damages any time of the year.

As a member of the Wallops Flight Facility community, here are a few things YOU can do to prepare for any type of severe weather emergency:



**If you are at Wallops:**

- ⇒ Before any severe weather watches are issued, ensure you know what Wallops expects of you in a severe weather event. Refer to the WFF Hurricane/Nor'easter Preparedness Plan, located at <http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code803/docs/eoc/plans/2014%20SIGNED%20Final%20WFF%20Hurricane-Nor'easter%20Preparedness%20Plan.pdf> for specifics. If you are a manager of your entity's COOP, become familiar with its implementation process.
- ⇒ The WFF Office of Communications will issue storm information via emails and ECHO notifications to all WFF personnel. Ensure your contact information in ECHO is current at <https://echo.wff.nasa.gov/>.
- ⇒ You may be contacted about the storm's effect on you – especially post-storm – via NASA's Emergency Notification System (ENS). Ensure your contact information in ENS is current at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/ops/nasaonly/ENSinformation.html#update>.
- ⇒ After the storm, Wallops will be checked out thoroughly for damages and hazards before personnel are allowed back on site. If you do see hazards present upon your return to WFF, call the HELP desk (X4357) to report. *(cont. on Page 2)*



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## Hurricane Season is Right Around the Corner (con't)

### If you are at home:

- ⇒ Before any storm warnings are issued, ensure you and your family have a plan for safely riding out the storm's effects – whether it be in your home or an inland evacuation location. Go to <http://www.vaemergency.gov/ReadyVirginia> or use [the Ready Virginia mobile app](#) to assist you in your family emergency preparedness planning efforts. Take extra care in planning for those in your family with special needs.
- ⇒ Let your young family members help with planning – it makes the process less scary for them. And don't forget to plan for your pets – they are part of your family too!
- ⇒ Listen to your LOCAL TV and radio stations for up to the minute storm developments that may impact you.
- ⇒ Many dangers may lie hidden after the storm has past. Be extremely cautious when walking or driving after the storm. A few hazards to be on the alert for: downed live electrical wires, floodwaters that are deeper and/or flowing faster than you realize, displaced critters (snakes, mice, rats and other wildlife), disoriented, lost and/or frightened pets (normally friendly cats and dogs may bite you), and food that may have spoiled from lack of correct storage temperatures.

### *Safety Banners* by Rob Sacks

The Contractor Safety Committee, over the past year, have been talking about ways to heighten Safety here at Wallops instead of just for the two times at the Safety Awareness Campaign. What we came up with is to place banners at both the main gate and the island gates to make Safety stay in everyone's mind on a daily basis. Each banner is eye catching as well as promotes what we feel is and should be on everyone's minds here at Wallops on a monthly basis. First banner going up in June.

What we came up with is as follows:

- January "Gear up for Safety"
- February "Slip, Trip, or Fall"
- March "Know the Capacity of Equipment"
- April "In Noise? In Danger!"
- May "Heat Can Hurt You"
- June "Emergency Preparedness"
- July "A Confined Space..."
- August "Lock Out, Tag Out"
- September "Watch for Warnings, Drive Safely"
- October "Get Fired Up"
- November "Keep Safety in Sight for Holiday"
- December "Beware of Electricity..."



### *Safety Notes:*

The Safety Office is planning to provide an Operational Safety Specialist (OSS) Training Course the week of June 1st. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Bonnie Maxfield at [bonita.b.maxfield@nasa.gov](mailto:bonita.b.maxfield@nasa.gov) or x. 1756.

## It's not too Late!

It's not too late to sign-up for annual RCRA Hazardous Waste (HW) and Integrated Contingency Plan (ICP) training. The HW refresher is required annually for anyone who handles HW. The ICP refresher is required annually for all personnel who handle hazardous materials, hazardous waste, or petroleum products. To register contact Marianne Simko x2127 or at [Marianne.F.Simko@nasa.gov](mailto:Marianne.F.Simko@nasa.gov). All classes will be held in the Building E104 Chincoteague room. Choose one of the following class times:



Tuesday May 26 1:00 pm to 3:00, Wednesday May 27, 9:00 am to 11:00 am, Wednesday May 27, 1:00 pm to 3:00, Thursday May 28, 9:00 am to 11:00 am, or Thursday May 28, 2:00 pm to 4:00.

## What should You do?



A puddle of oil, antifreeze, lubricant, or a sheen on a roadway or parking lot could be a result of a leaking piece of equipment or vehicle. However, even a small oil puddle has the potential to impact local waters if washed into a storm drain during a rain event.

If you see a puddle of oil or sheen, here's some things you can do:



1. First, call the Wallops Fire Department at 911 or 757-824-1333.
2. Then, if you have spill materials in your work area and it is safe to do so, place sorbent booms around any nearby storm drains.



## Sounds of Spring

The high pitched call similar to that of a young chicken, but much louder, is one of the first frog calls of spring. Spring peepers are tan or dark brown with a dark cross that roughly forms an X on their dorsa. They have a body length less than 1 inch, emerging at night to feed on ants, flies, and spiders.

