

**HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR  
TROPICANA CASINO RESORT  
ATLANTIC CITY  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 1999**

**AGENDA**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
8:30am-9:00am	Coffee	TPR. I Nick Massa, NJSP- South Region
9:00am-9:25am	Opening Remarks	Lt. Louis Mascioli, NJSP-South Region John Conklin, VP Tropicana Frank Mazzone, DH, Atlantic County Public Safety
9:25am-9:45am	Emergency Communication Preparedness	Michael Ross, Bell Atlantic
9:45am-10:45am	Intro to Hurricanes NJ's History 1999 Predictions	Jim Eberwine, National Weather Service, Mt. Holly, NJ
10:45am-11:00am	<b>BREAK</b>	
11:00am-11:20am	Atlantic County's Reverse Lane Strategy	SFC Dan Morocco, NJSP- Incident Management
11:20am-11:40am	Hurricane Evacuation Resource Listing/Windows Hurrevac	Mike Augustyniak, NJOEM-OPB
11:40am-12:00pm	Coastal Area Preparations and Evacuations	Allyn Seel, Atlantic City OEM
12:00pm-1:00pm	<b>LUNCH</b>	
1:00pm-1:20pm	Inland Area Preparations	Vince Jones, Atlantic County OEM
1:20pm-1:40pm	Personal Preparedness	American Red Cross, Atlantic County Chapter
1:40pm-2:00pm	Role of VOAD	Henry Wise, Chairman, Atlantic County VOAD
2:00pm	Closing Remarks, Questions	All Speakers



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News | Thursday, June 24, 1999

## Area officials prepare for bad hurricane season

- Federal forecasts call for above-average tropical storm and hurricane activity, including 'a strong likelihood' of three hurricanes with winds in excess of 110 mph, during the season.

By **JACK KASKEY**

Staff Writer, 272-7213

Jim Eberwine knows that southern New Jersey residents are complacent when it comes to hurricanes.

After all, a hurricane hasn't hit our shores directly since 1903.

But that's exactly why we need to be prepared, said the 27-year veteran of the National Weather Service.

We're overdue.

Speaking Wednesday to a ballroom filled with emergency management workers and volunteers from around the region, Eberwine explained that a Category 1 hurricane -- packing 74 to 95 mph winds -- should hit us every 30 years.

A Category 2 hurricane, with 96 to 110 mph winds, should land every 80 years, he said.

Add to that predictions that we have just entered what is expected to be a particularly busy hurricane season, with most of the storm activity expected to occur in August, September and October.

Emergency managers who were gathered Wednesday in the Royal Swan Ballroom at the Tropicana Casino and Resort are well aware of the forecasts.

But Eberwine said the biggest challenge is educating the public to the havoc caused by hurricanes, even when they don't strike land.

"There is a tremendous amount of complacency in the Northeast," Eberwine said. "There is more fascination than fear of hurricanes."

This year, southern New Jersey residents may want to pay a little more attention to the dangers.

On June 16, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, predicted above-average tropical storm and hurricane activity this year, including "a strong likelihood" of three hurricanes with winds in excess of 110 mph.

An average year would see only one or two major hurricanes, according to the forecast, the first ever for the federal agency.

Professor William Gray, who heads a team of researchers at Colorado State University, is more detailed in his predictions for the Atlantic basin.

Gray is forecasting a total of nine hurricanes, while a typical year has 5.8, including four major hurricanes, rather than the typical 2.2.

The probability for one or more major hurricanes to hit land somewhere along the East Coast is 54 percent, Gray reports. The East Coast typically has a 31 percent chance of a hurricane landfall.

The basis of these forecasts are continuing La Nina conditions in the Pacific.

La Nina is creating cooler than average sea-surface conditions in the tropical Pacific combined with heavier than normal rainfall across Indonesia and a near absence of rain across the equatorial Pacific.

Those factors, forecasters say, will stir up more than our share of bad weather over the next few months.

Hurricanes normally don't come near the New Jersey shore because we are shielded from most direct hits by Cape Hatteras, N.C., Eberwine said.

But hurricanes that miss the Carolinas and don't strike land can still kill with their massive storm surges, Eberwine said. Storm surges can capsize boats and flood evacuation routes off the barrier islands.

Hurricane Gloria in 1985 never got closer than 30 miles from Long Beach Island, but it created massive flooding with a storm surge of 5.7 feet above normal.

And Hurricane Felix in 1995 was 225 miles from the coast, but it drowned boaters who capsized in 13-foot waves and swimmers who got caught in rip tides, Eberwine said.

Coastal populations are growing in Cape May, Atlantic and Ocean counties, and virtually none of the residents have ever experienced a hurricane landfall, he said.

But a hurricane is bound to strike, eventually. And when it does, Eberwine said, it will wreak havoc in the lives of a lot more people and damage far more property than the last hurricane to land on our shores 93 years ago.

CQ: Jim Eberwine, William Gray

Want to know more? Visit these Web sites:

-- Hurricane forecasts at:

**[hurricanes.noaa.gov](http://hurricanes.noaa.gov)**

-- and at:

**[tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/](http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/)**

**[forecasts/index.html](http://forecasts/index.html)**

-- Hurricane preparedness tips at:

**[www.fema.gov/library.hurricaf.](http://www.fema.gov/library/hurricaf)**

**[html](#)**

-- Local weather forecasts at  
**[www.nws.noaa.gov/er/phi](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/er/phi)**

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