

SUNCOAST OBSERVER

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the National Weather Service Tampa Bay Area, FL

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12.21.2022

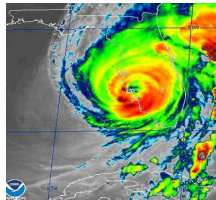
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NWS Tampa Bay visit to WFLA

NWS Tampa Bay Participates in U.S. Coast Guard 2022 Safety Stand Down Meeting



By: Austen Flannery

Meteorologists from NWS Tampa Bay were invited to speak at the 2022 U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Air Station Clearwater safety stand down meeting in Pinellas Park, FL. This annual event is held every December with members from the Air Station to review important safety information. Presenters discussed a variety of safety topics from vehicle safety to boating safety, and even bicycle safety!

The final topic of discussion for the meeting was weather safety. Meteorologists from NWS Tampa Bay discussed day-to-day weather hazards, such as thunderstorms and fog, what causes them, and the dangers they pose. The opportunity was also used to discuss hurricanes and the impacts they can have across the region.

The NWS works with federal, state, and local officials, including the USCG, all across the country to ensure that they are prepared for any weather impacts that may come. The opportunity to interact with partners is always a great experience. It ensures we are all working to build a more Weather-Ready Nation.

NWS Tampa Bay Meteorologists Interact with Florida Forest Service Firefighters

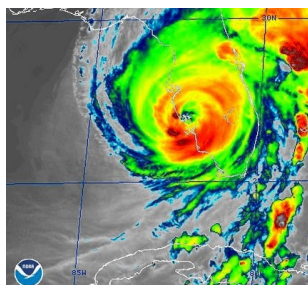


By: Rick Davis

NWS TBW fire weather program meteorologists Rick Davis and Rodney Wynn organized familiarization trips to the Florida Forestry office in Wimauma to interact with fire users. Nearly a dozen NWS personnel visited the field office and met with several firefighters to discuss how weather and forecasts impact wildfires and prescribed burns in Florida. Firefighter and public safety are the most important objectives and many topics were discussed including; fire tools, tactics, and techniques to safely address fire control or suppression. The NWS team was able to learn about and try some of the tools, equipment, and safety techniques of the wildland firefighter while discussing the importance of wind speed and direction, low RH, and dry fuels, especially in the increasing wildland-urban interface areas in Florida. This was the first such interaction in several years and more outreach visits, drills, and exercises are already planned in the coming months to better familiarize NWS and FFS personnel with NWS fire weather products and services while expanding interactions with weather and fire agencies.



Hurricane Ian and the 2022 Hurricane Season Review



By: Austen Flannery and Jen Hubbard

Shortly after 3PM on September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian made landfall near Cayo Costa in Southwest Florida as the 5th strongest storm to ever do so. Impacts to West Central and Southwest Florida were devastating. From 10 to 15 feet of storm surge at the coast, to category 4 winds, to historic river flooding across the interior, the impacts from Ian were felt by nearly everyone across the Florida peninsula.

Meteorologists from NWS Tampa Bay spent the following days and weeks conducting storm assessments, interviewing residents, analyzing data, and collecting photos and videos captured during and after the storm in order to build a historic archive. After more than 2 months of work, NWS Tampa has released to our website the [Hurricane Ian Event Review](#), a comprehensive review of the impacts incurred to West Central and Southwest Florida.

The 2022 Hurricane Season produced 14 named storms in total, with eight of those becoming hurricanes, and two of those intensifying into a major hurricane. Our area experienced not only Ian, but also Nicole, and what would become Alex at the start of the season. This activity is near-normal hurricane activity for the Atlantic basin. What made this season unique was a pause in activity that occurred mid-season, as well as late-season Hurricane Nicole making landfall on November 10th. This season is definitely one that this area will never forget.

NWS Tampa Bay visit to WFLA



By: Keily Delorme and Yidiana Zayas

The Spanish Team from the National Weather Service Office in Tampa Bay, composed of the Meteorologists Keily Delorme and Yidiana Zayas, had the opportunity to visit one of the local media partners, the television station WFLA-TV, NBC that covers the Tampa Bay Area. During their visit on Friday, October 28, 2022 they were able to tour the facilities and meet Chief Meteorologist Jeff Berardelli along with bilingual weather reporter Val Simpson and the rest of the Spanish team.

The purpose of the visit was to meet the bilingual team to further develop our relationships and provide them with training on different topics that included the products that the Weather Forecast Office emits, our forecasting area of responsibility, and some other meteorological concepts. All of that to be able to provide better services to the Spanish-speaking community who reside in the area and to continue transmitting daily weather information to the public in a correct, diverse, and inclusive manner.