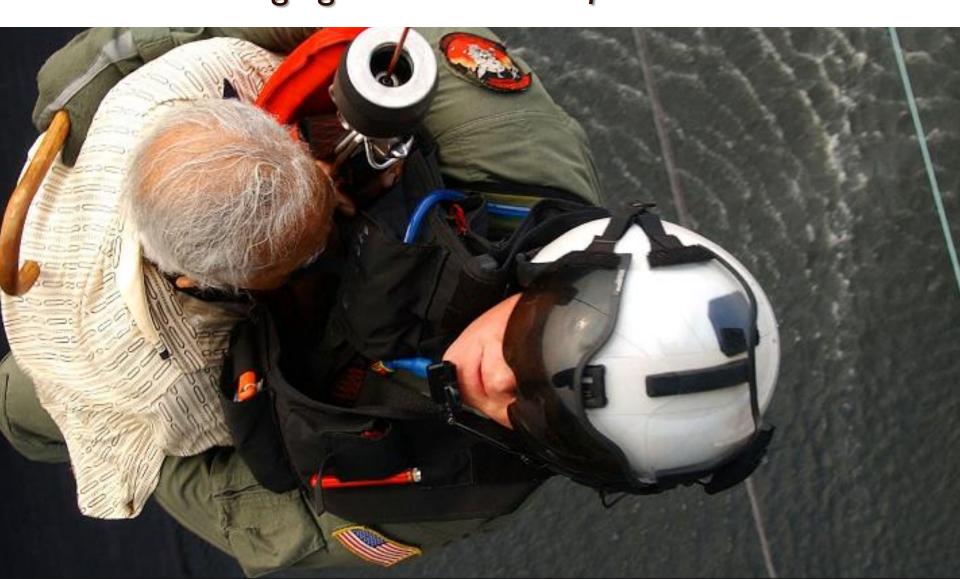
## Effective Messaging: Changing the Outcome of the Event





ANDRE

... OVER

25 YEARS AGO

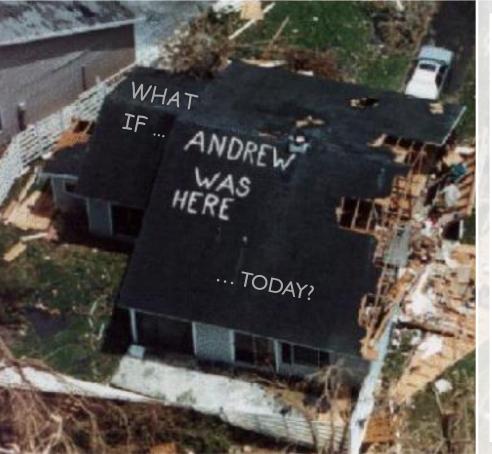


#### Communicating Hurricane Threats & Impacts

David Sharp Science & Operations Officer NOAA/National Weather Service Melbourne, FL

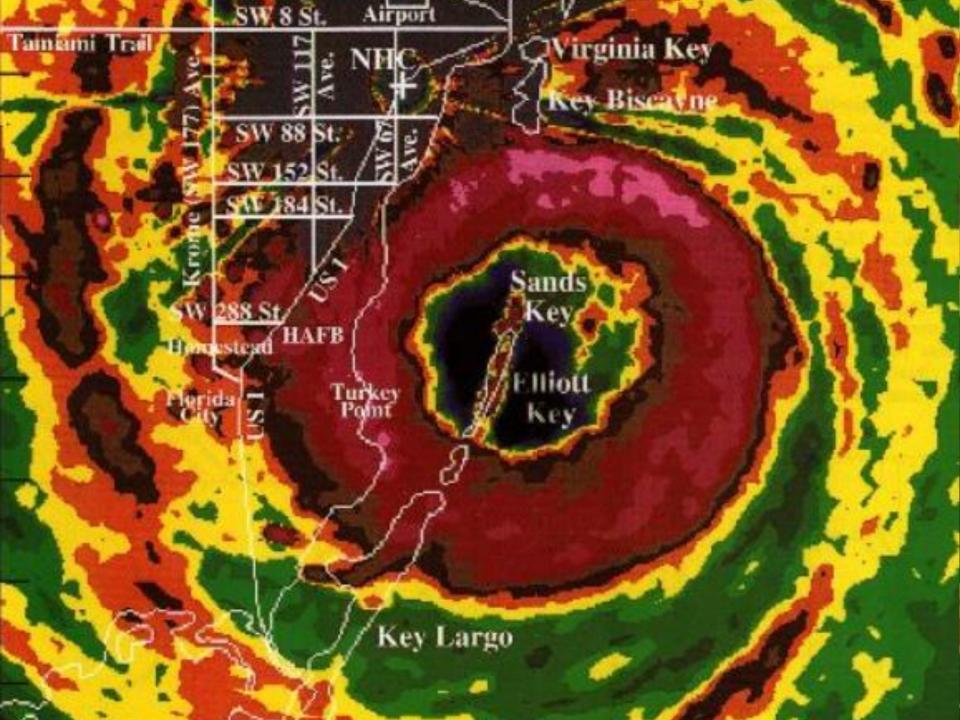








"When the Physical Science intersects the Social Science"



**Faniuni** Teil



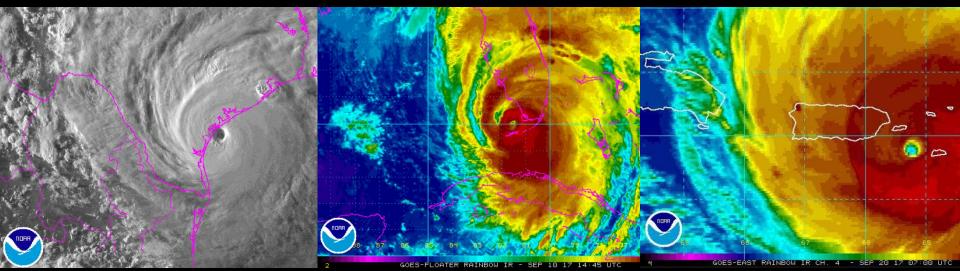




QUESTION: If you could go back in time to about 12-18 hours before Hurricane Andrew's landfall and take with you the knowledge of the wind impacts about to be realized, what main message would you have for the people of Homestead, FL?

- \*\* "The probability of hurricane force winds is increasing for Homestead."
- "A hurricane warning remains in effect for South Florida, which includes the town of Homestead."
- \*\* "Act now to protect your life! This is an extremely dangerous and potentially catastrophic wind situation for Homestead."

#### Now, consider the 2017 season ....



#### Hurricane Harvey

### Hurricane Irma

#### Hurricane Maria





#### 2016-17 Hurricane Seasons: Over 325 deaths in U.S.

Hurricane Matthew (2016)

Hurricane Maria (2017)



#### 2016-17 Hurricane Seasons: Over \$270 Billion in Losses

Hurricane Matthew (2016)

Hurricane Maria (2017)



## It's All About Impacts



#### "The Impact Footprint"

### • Hurricane Hazards:

- High Wind
- Storm Surge & Tide
- Flooding Rain
- Pounding Surf/Dangerous Seas
- Tornadoes & Waterspouts





## Messaging Types

#### Community Decision-making

- Emergency Managers
- Community plans
- Potential impacts relative to established weather/water thresholds and triggers

#### Personal Decision-making

- Public; Individuals/Families; Small Businesses
- Personal plans
- Potential impacts relative to local watches/warnings; any orders issued from local officials

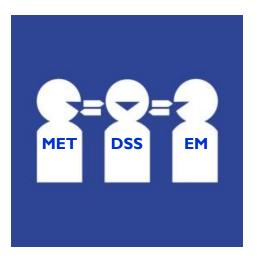
Limited sophistication with some safety instruction included





## **Making Things Simple**

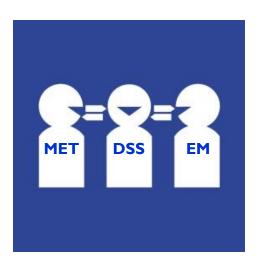
- **FACT:** The majority of our customers are not meteorologists, hydrologists, or oceanographers.
  - Some are weather-wise; most are other-wise
- We must learn to speak the language of the customer.



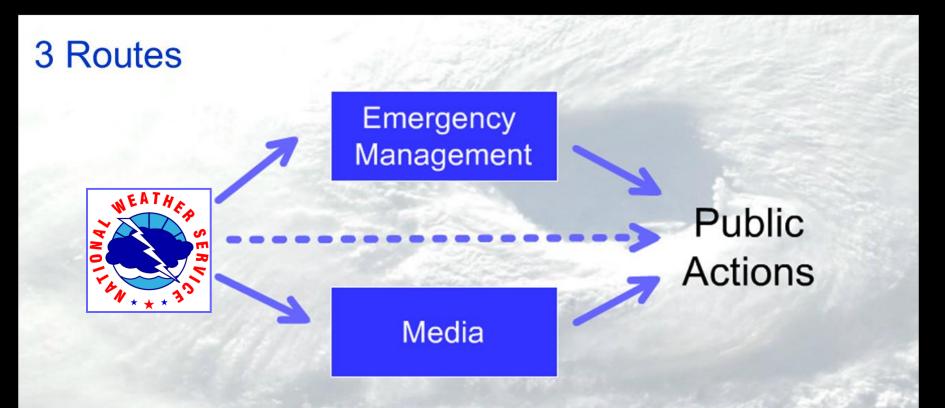


## **Making Things Simple**

- Our science-based hurricane information must be:
  - Distilled ... made succinct; focused
  - Translated ... put in customer-speak
  - Interpreted ... maintain meaning



Communication of Weather-related Hurricane Emergency Information



From Social and Behavior Influences on Weather-Driven Decisions (Galluppi et al. 2013)

## **Public Safety Messaging**

#### 1. <u>Coordinate</u> Public Safety Messages

in conjunction with emergency management partners

#### 2. <u>Communicate</u> Public Safety Messages

in conjunction with media partners

An integrated approach

## Public Messaging THINKING AND FEELING

"Act now to protect your life! This is an extremely dangerous and potentially catastrophic wind situation for Homestead."

ThinKers Focus first on the use of things Feelers focus first on the meaning of things

### **Societal Vulnerability to Hurricanes**

#### **Exposure:**

Population at Risk

Property at Risk

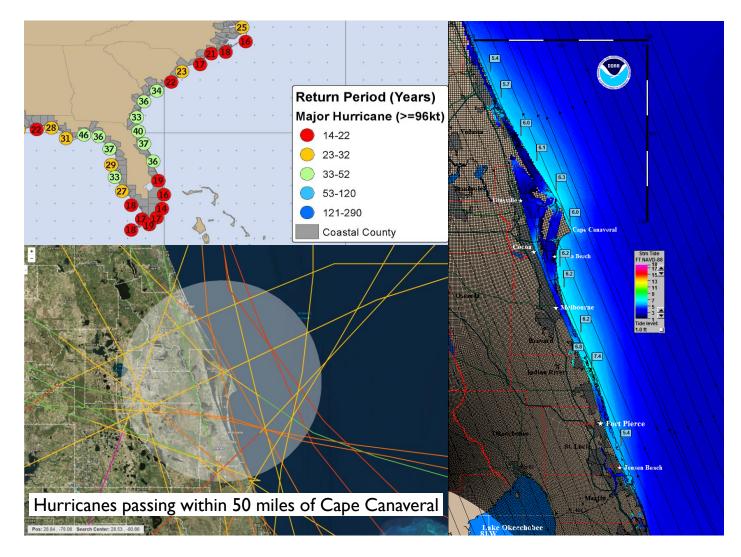
#### **Community Preparedness**

#### **Incidence:**

Frequency

Intensity



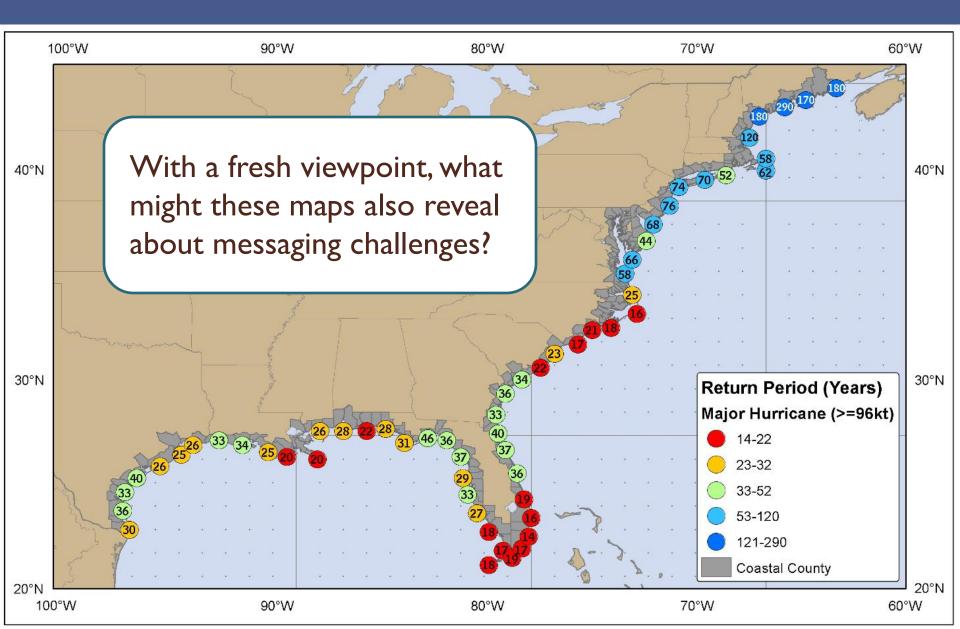


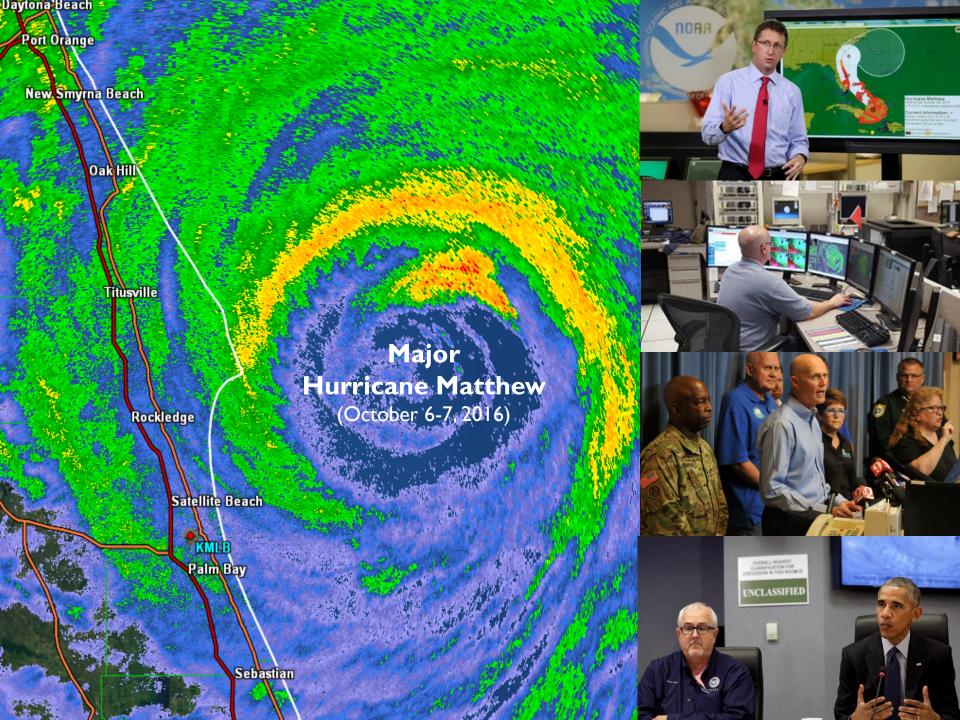
#### Know the Local Risk & Vulnerability for the Situation

- Local Demographics
- Local Infrastructure
- Local Sensitivities

- Changes since Last Season
- Changes since Last Event
- Changes Planned or in Progress

### **Return Frequencies**





It is important to maintain a full appreciation of the precarious nature of low probability (or frequency) *vs.* high impact events.

In the absence of effective messaging, the risk can be grossly misperceived ... until it's too late!







- A Danger of the Information Age we can now yield an overwhelming volume of weather/water data and information.
  - But, are we simply adding to the *information fire hose*?





## The Nature of Information



- Providing increasingly more information of ambiguous utility is not helpful.
- This neither helps community decision-makers nor serves the public!
  - "Drowning in Information"
  - "Information Overload & Paralysis"
  - "Over-Anxiety & Hurricane Fatigue "



### **Mental Noise Model**

- Stress affects information processing
- Impact of stress on attention (Covello)
  - High stress conditions: people lose 80 – 90% of what they hear
  - Scientific facts account for less than 5%
- Effect of emotion on information seeking (Turner, et al, 2006)
  - Greater emotion = less information retention





## The Nature of Information



- Information Management Age we must move beyond the information age and onward to the information management & decision support age.
  - Sharing **targeted**, **actionable**, and **timely** information
  - Remaining a *trusted* source



Finding ways...

"To help get the right people... to do the right things... at the right time." 1202



## Why Should I Listen To You?

#### For community decision-making ...



Craig Fugate, FEMA Director (retired)

- I <u>need</u> to listen to someone who is credible.
  - Credibility = Expertise + Trust
- I <u>want</u> to listen to someone who understands.
  - Understanding = Empathy + Trust

"Things really start clicking when these are found in a common source."

## The Common Operating Picture

**Common Operating Picture (COP)** ... a single depiction of current and relevant operational information that is mutually shared by more than one command or critical decision-making entity during an emergency.

#### Remember:

- Inconsistencies found within weather information cause hesitation;
- Recurring inconsistencies lead to doubt;
- Systemic inconsistencies cannot be tolerated.





### Cause vs. Effect

#### • The CAUSE of a thing

 Meteorologists like to speak about analyzed and forecast conditions (e.g., the magnitude and likelihood of occurrence).



#### Cause: The Raindrop



### Cause vs. Effect



#### • The **EFFECT** of a thing

 Customers like to speak about the resulting impacts, and what should be done to lessen the ill-effects.

Effect: The Ripple on the Pond



## **Tropical Cyclone Winds**



## To help with Messaging the Hurricane Forecast

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale	
Category I Hurricane	Some Damage
Category 2 Hurricane	Extensive Damage
Category 3 Hurricane	Devastating Damage
Category 4 Hurricane	Catastrophic Damage
Category 5 Hurricane	Catastrophic Damage
ι	Ι
Cause	vs. Effect



## **Tropical Cyclone Winds**



#### To help with Community Preparedness Messaging

Hurricane Threats & Impacts Wind Scale	
Threat of <b>Tropical Storm Winds</b> of 39-57 mph	Limited Impacts Possible
Threat of <b>Strong Tropical Storm Winds</b> of 58-73 mph	Significant Impacts Possible
Threat of <b>Hurricane Winds</b> of 74-110 mph	Extensive Impacts Possible
Threat of <b>Major Hurricane Winds</b> of >110 mph	Devastating to Catastrophic Impacts Possible
Threat v	s. Potential Impacts



# What is the one thing everyone wants but we cannot provide?

## ... a perfect forecast !!!





### What should be our intent?





"Our mutual intent is to change the outcome of the event!"

## "Effective Communication"

Decision Support Messaging



...WHAT...WHERE...WHEN...HOW MUCH...HOW LONG...HOW SURE...

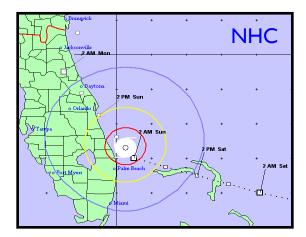
Public Safety Messaging



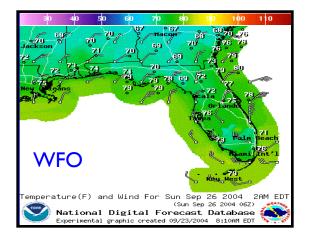
....WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT IT....

### We ...

- Are comfortable with conveying our latest forecast
- But still struggle with conveying forecast uncertainty
  - Rules of Thumb (subjective; empirical)
  - Error Cone (track errors only)

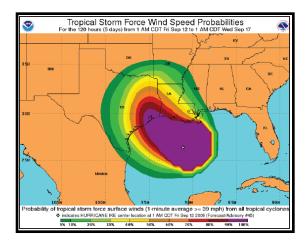




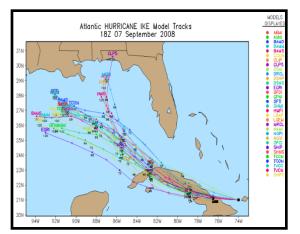


### We ...

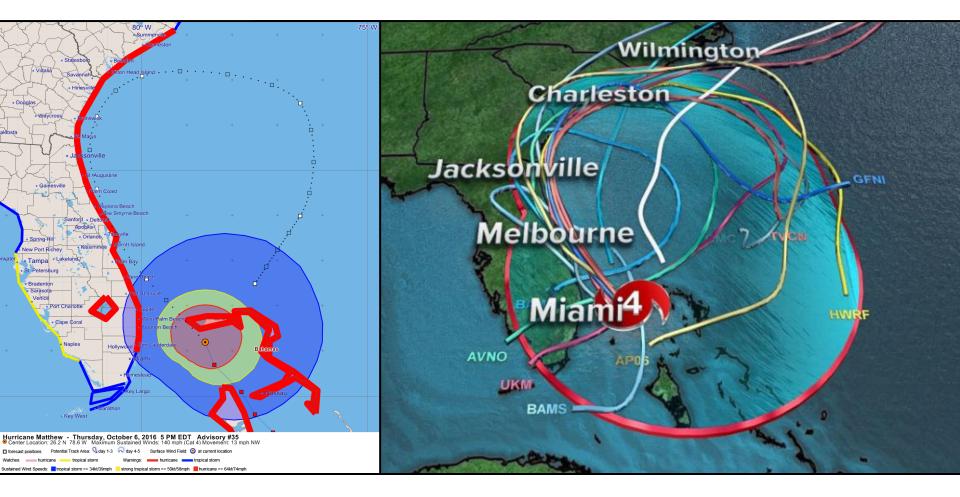
- Are comfortable with conveying our latest forecast
- But still struggle with conveying forecast uncertainty
  - Rules of Thumb (subjective; empirical)
  - Error Cone (track errors only); Spaghetti Plots (for confidence)
  - Wind Speed Probabilities (for critical thresholds)







### Spaghetti Plots (as seen on TV)



## What's the main message? Helping? ... or ... Hurting?

### **Scenario Types for Decision Support**



**Latest Forecast** 

**Most Likely Scenario** 

**Most Likely Alternate Scenario** 

**Reasonable Worst Case Scenario** 

**Reasonable Best Case Scenario** 



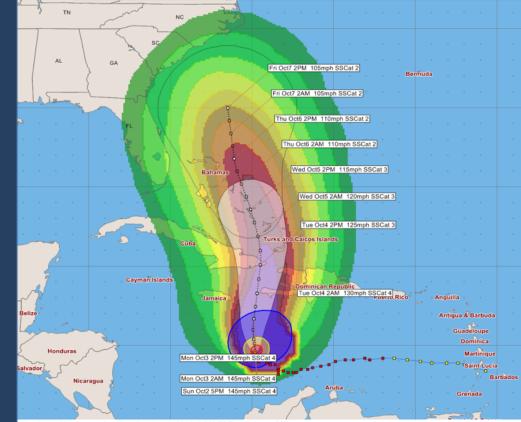
#### **Situation Overview**

East Central Florida & Adjacent Coastal Waters

#### According to the latest forecast...

- A most likely scenario still keeps Matthew to the east of the Florida Peninsula.
  - Offering significant marine and coastal/beach concerns to ECFL
- An alternate scenario could bring Matthew closer to ECFL.
  - Increasing the concern for potential wind impacts for land locations

Key: It is possible for a major hurricane to be in our vicinity by mid-late week. The probability for tropical storm force winds at Fort Pierce, FL is 24%. That's about a 1 in 4 chance. The trend has been slightly increasing over earlier forecast cycles.



Hurricane Matthew - Sunday, October 2, 2016 5 PM EDT Advisory #19 Center Location: 14.6 N 74.8 W Maximum Sustained Winds: 145 mph (Cat 4) Movement: 5 mph NW □ forecast positions Potential Track Area: \duty 1.3 A day 45 Surface Wind Field: \duty at current location □ dividend Wind Speeds: □ tropical storm => 34x99mb → strong topical storm => 54x97mph → Formations => 64x77mph Probability of tropical storm force surface winds (1-minute average >= 34kt/39mph) from all tropical cyclones for the 120 hours (5 days) from 2PM EDT Sun 10/2/2016 to 2PM EDT Fri 10/7/2016 5% 19% 29% 39% 40% 50% 40% 50% 69% 99% 99% 100%



http://www.weather.gov/melbourne

facebook.com/NWSMelbourne



October 2, 2016



#### **Situation Overview**

tral Florida & Adjacent Coastal Waters The probability for the Diana Fluid 2406. The

The probability for tropical storm force winds at Fort Pierce, FL is 24%. That's about a 1 in 4 chance. The trend

### Public Safety Message:

It is possible for a major hurricane to be in our vicinity by mid-late week.

Stay informed of the latest forecast. Review your hurricane emergency plan and check your seasonal supplies.

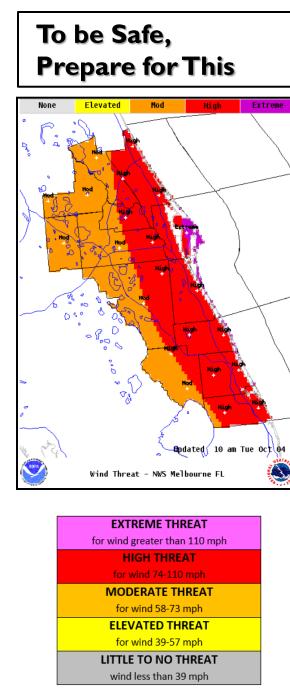


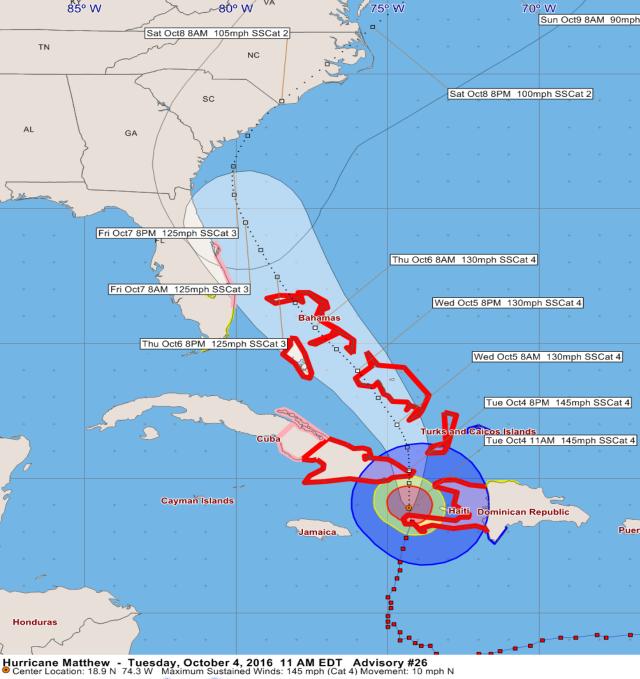
Melbourne weather forecast office tp://www.weather.gov/melbourn@

facebook.com/NWSMelbourne

)@NWSMelbour

October 2, 2016

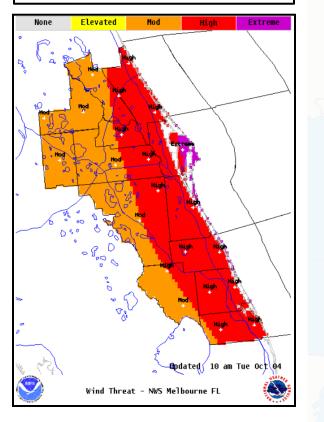




forecast positions	Potential Track Area: 🤇 day 1-3	😡 day 4-5	Surface Wind Field: 🧿 at current location
Watches: hurr	icane tropical storm	Warnings:	hurricane tropical storm

Sustained Wind Speeds: tropical storm >= 34kt/39mph istrong tropical storm >= 50kt/58mph intricane >= 64kt/74mph

#### To be Safe, Prepare for This



EXTREME THREAT for wind greater than 110 mph HIGH THREAT for wind 74-110 mph MODERATE THREAT for wind 58-73 mph ELEVATED THREAT for wind 39-57 mph LITTLE TO NO THREAT wind less than 39 mph

#### Public Safety Message: (Wind)

The threat to our area from Hurricane Matthew has increased. A hurricane watch is now in effect.

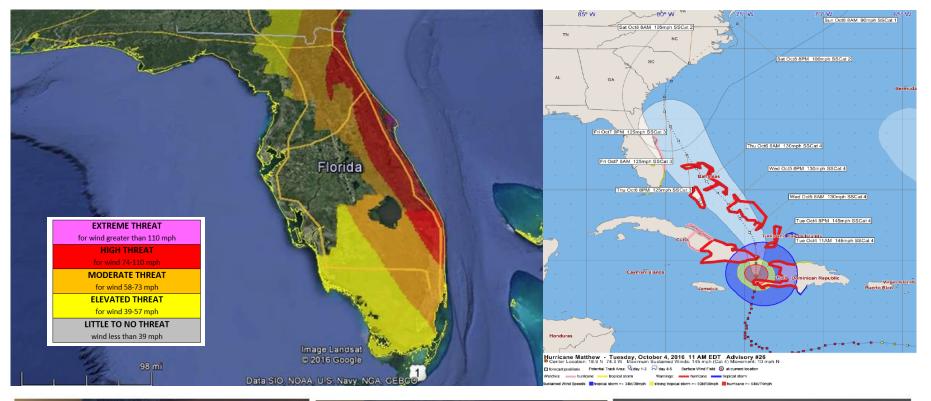
People located in coastal counties should prepare for the threat of hurricane force winds while those on barrier islands should make ready for possible extreme winds. Listen for evacuation orders, and heed them if issued.

Hon

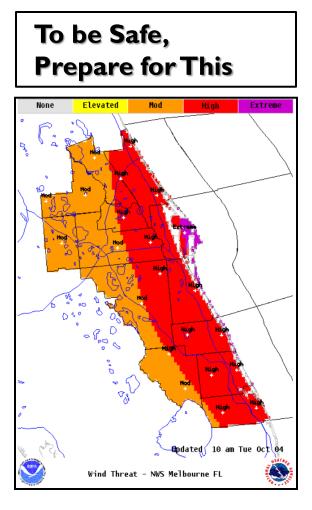
urricane Mat

sitions Potential Track Area: Aday 1-3 Aday 4-5 Surface Wind Field: at current location hurricane tropical storm Warnings: hurricane tropical storm 1 Speeds: Tropical storm >= 34kl/39mph Strong tropical storm >= 50kl/58mph hurricane >= 64kl/74

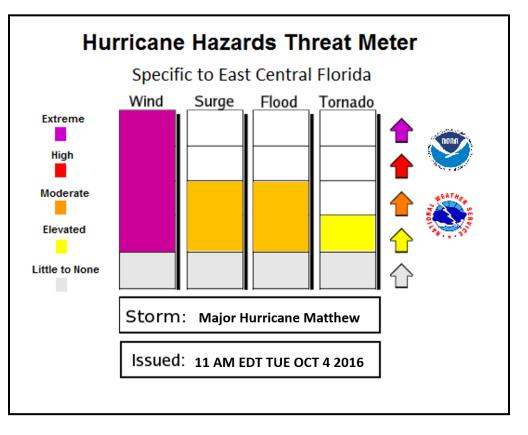
### Wind Threat Mosaic (HTI)











# Effective communication during evolving situations



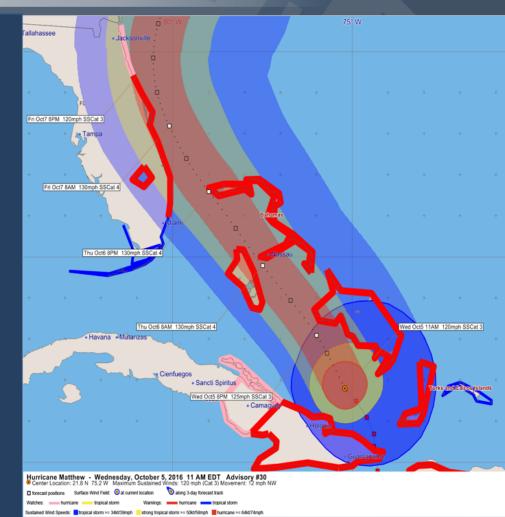
### **Situation Overview**

East Central Florida & Adjacent Coastal Waters

- This is a very serious situation! Major Hurricane Matthew is headed for ECFL!
- Hurricane Warnings are now in effect for all ECFL counties, except for Lake County where a Tropical Storm Warning is now in effect.
- Hurricane Warnings will soon be in effect for all adjacent waters over the marine area.

Key: Rare and historic hurricane event in the making.

Wind and surge impacts to coastal counties could be devastating.



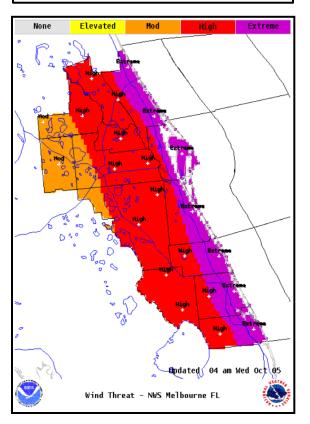


http://www.weather.gov/melbourne facebook.com/NWSMelbourne 🏾 🏹 @NWS

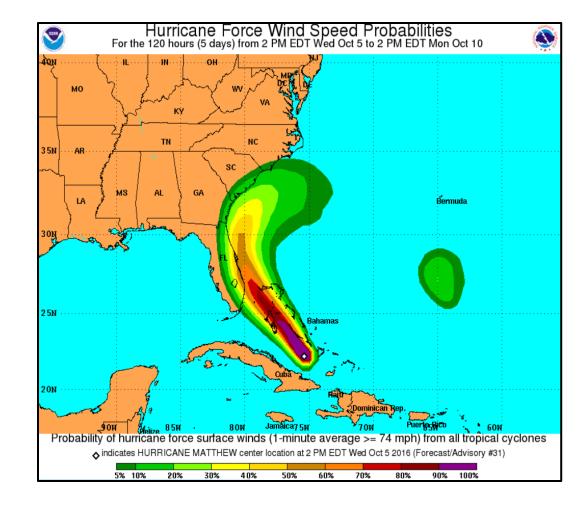
@NWSMelbourne

October 5, 2016

#### To be Safe, Prepare for This



EXTREME THREAT				
for wind greater than 110 mph				
HIGH THREAT				
for wind 74-110 mph				
MODERATE THREAT				
for wind 58-73 mph				
ELEVATED THREAT				
for wind 39-57 mph				
LITTLE TO NO THREAT				
wind less than 39 mph				

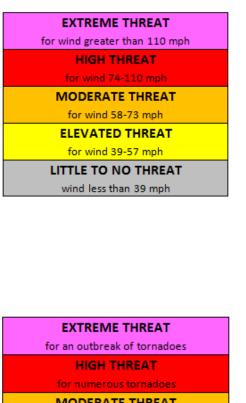


#### Extreme Wind Threat

- Most locations along the ECFL coast have a similar chance to receive hurricane force winds
- The best chance for major hurricane force winds is east of I-95, especially for the barrier islands and Cape Canaveral

## **Threat Assessments x 4**

Wind



ND ATMOSPH

NOAA

CPARTMENT OF CC

NATIONAL

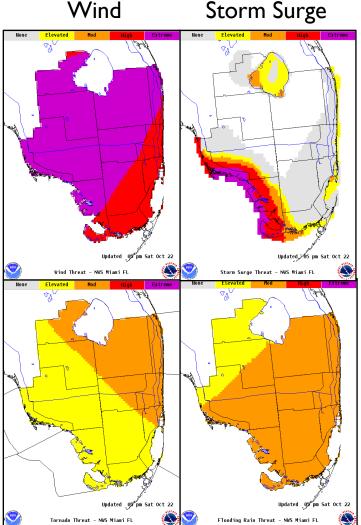
MODERATE THREAT for scattered tornadoes

ELEVATED THREAT

for isolated tornadoes

LITTLE TO NO THREAT

tornadoes not anticipated



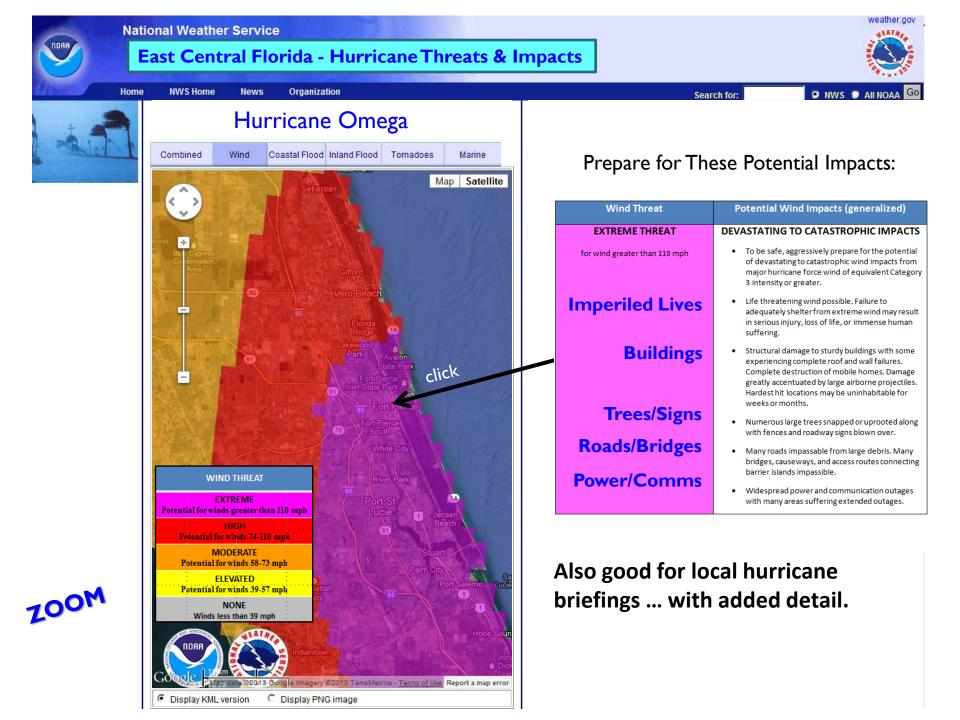
Tornadoes

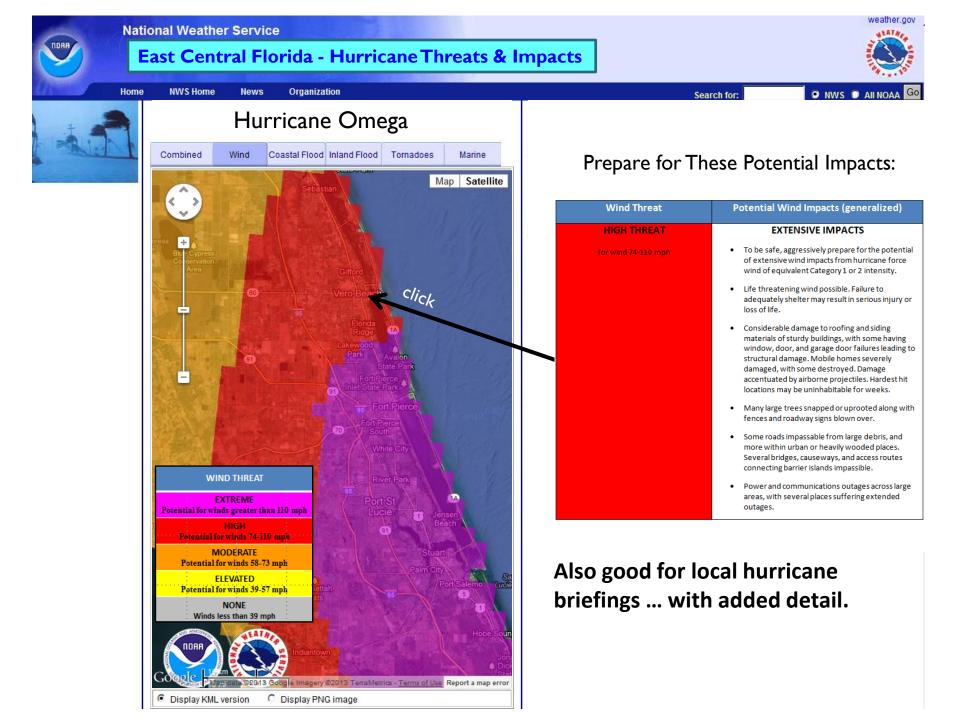


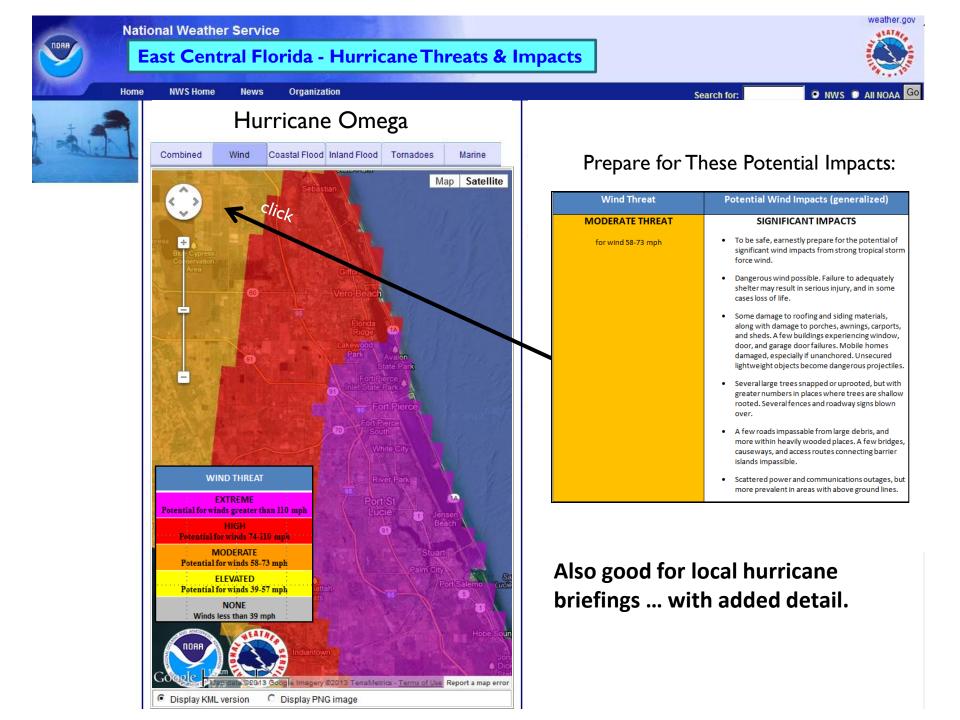




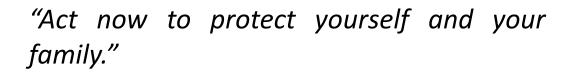








## **Messaging "Blurbs"**



*"There is grave concern for dangerous and life-threatening winds."* 

*"Enact your Emergency Plan for the chance of hurricane winds."* 

*"Failure to act may result in injury or loss of life. Now is the time to take action."* 

*"Prepare for the potential of extensive impacts from Hurricane Alpha."* 



## **Instructional Safety Messages**



"Preparations should be brought to completion before the onset of tropical storm force winds."

"Move to more substantial shelter if you are vulnerable to high winds."

"Secure all loose outdoor objects."

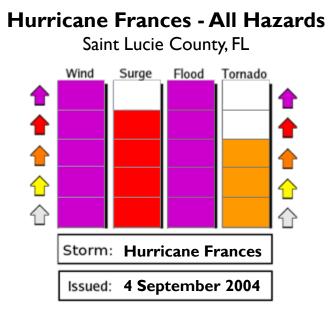
*"Evacuation of barrier islands must be complete before the winds increase and driving becomes dangerous."* 





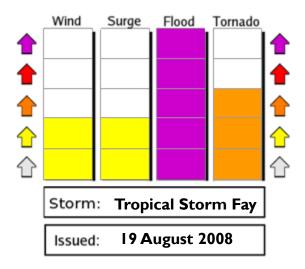
## **All Hazards Assessments**





#### **Tropical Storm Fay - All Hazards**

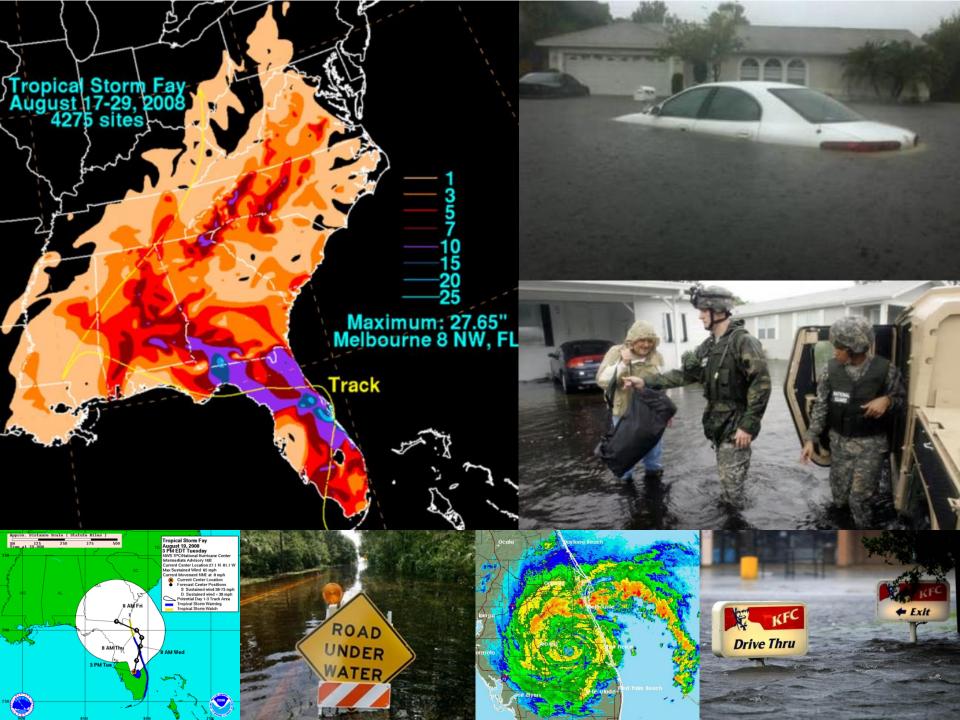
Lat/Lon 28.12N 80.62W







**Community Distress Index** 



## **Steps To Effective Warning Response**



Resources, Ability, & Time

### **Appropriate Protective Action**

Considerations for Public Safety Messaging to evoke Desired Societal Response

## What's the Main Message?

### • From the "Communications Desk"

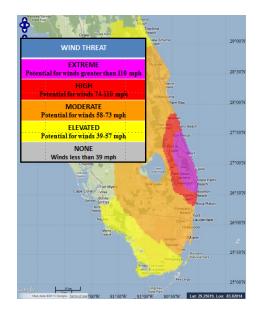
- Messaging Points for Media Interviews
- NWSChat
- Graphicasts; Graphical Posts
  - Flash Cards
- Social Media

Y

• Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.

"Historic hurricane event unfolding! Dangerous Hurricane Omega is coming our way! "

**BLUF** - Bottom Line Up Front **KISS** - Keep It Simple (Stupid)

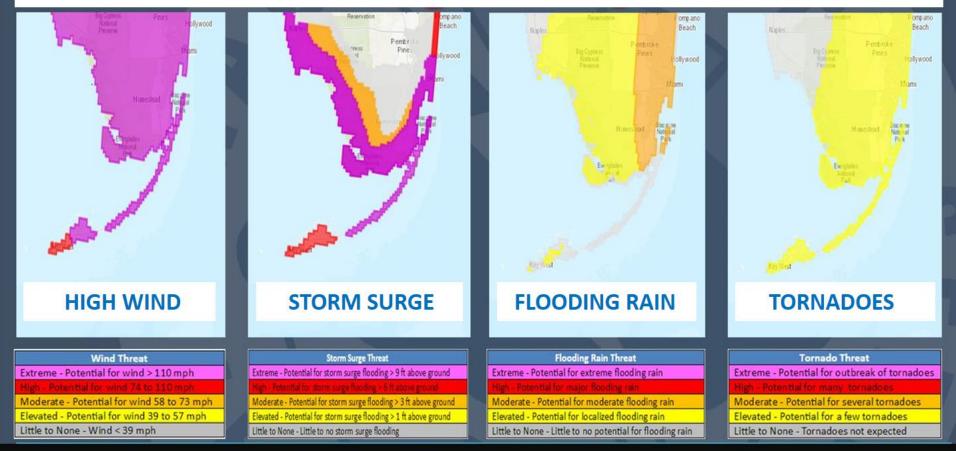




## **Category 5 Hurricane Irma**

#### Hazard Threats/Impacts as of 5PM EDT Thursday, September 07, 2017

#### SAFETY MARGIN: To be safe, protect against these potential conditions.





For more info http://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?office=key

IMPORTNT: Depictions account for the latest forecast, along with related uncertainties such as possible changes in track, intensity, and size of Hurricane Irma.



### Hurricane Winds

When wind speeds reach tropical storm strength, they become dangerous. That's why evacuation plans and shelter decisions are based on these speeds. If winds reach hurricane strength, the threat to life and property significantly increases. The wind threat is extreme with hurricanes of Category 3 force or greater.



### High Wind Safety Tips:



- Know your vulnerability relative to hurricane winds.
- Those living in mobile homes, high rise buildings, along the immediate coast, and at higher elevations are most susceptible.
- If you are vulnerable to high winds, relocate to safer shelter.
- Securing doors and deploying shutters can help reduce the risk of property damage.
  - Securing yard objects can help reduce the chance for dangerous projectiles.



## G R Ρ Н C A S

VCP 121

MX: 52dBZ

0.25 km, 0.5 dAz

### Hurricane Matthew Gust to 107 MPH at the 620 AM at the tip of the Cape

Extreme Wind Warning

40

30

20

9 = Strikes

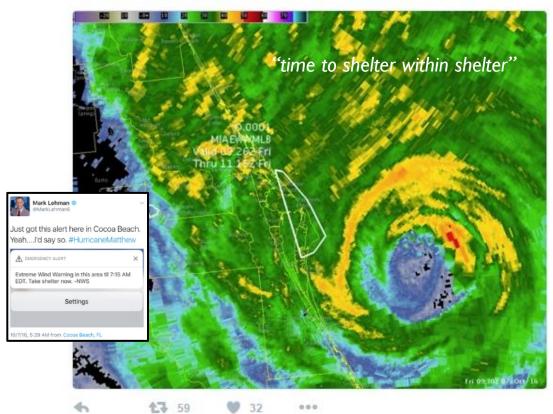
8 - Steikes



Impact Weather Update for East Central Florida National Weather Service Melbourne FL

> 630 AM Fri Oct 7 2016 Valid through 830 AM

NWS Melbourne @NWSMelbourne · Oct 7 543 am | Extreme Wind Warning for Brevard [FL] till Oct 7, 7:15 AM EDT forecast.weather.gov/product.php?si ...



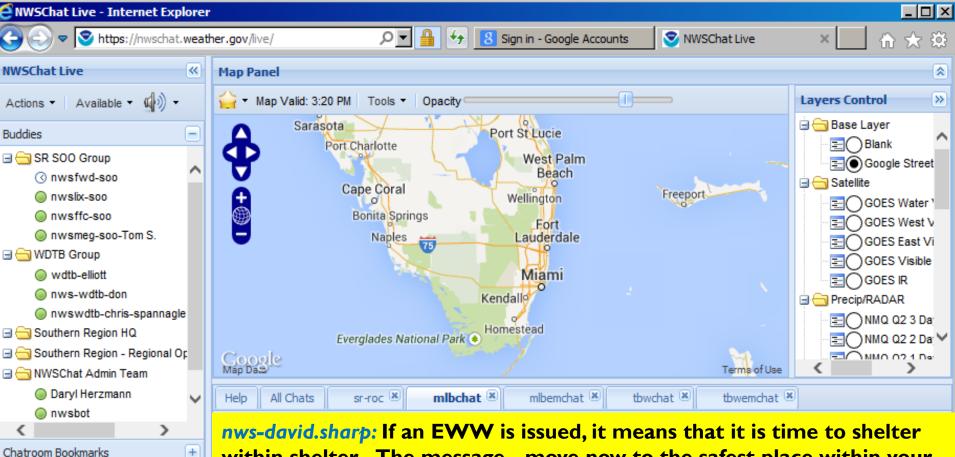
Using Social Media to Communicate Public Safety Message

Kimberly Prosser, Director Brevard County Emergency Management

- EM & WFO sharing and commenting on each others' Facebook posts and re-tweeting on Twitter increases the ...
  - Timeliness of information received
  - Visibility (of posts and agencies themselves)
  - Credibility (one agency bolsters credibility of the other)
  - Accuracy (EMs no longer need to rewrite WFO alerts/emails)
  - Interaction (public is likely to interact with both entities)
  - Reach (each agency's audience is largely unique)
  - Opportunity to reach those without weather radios, etc.

## NWSChat

### Use of NWSChat to keep the media "on message" during the event.



Chatrooms

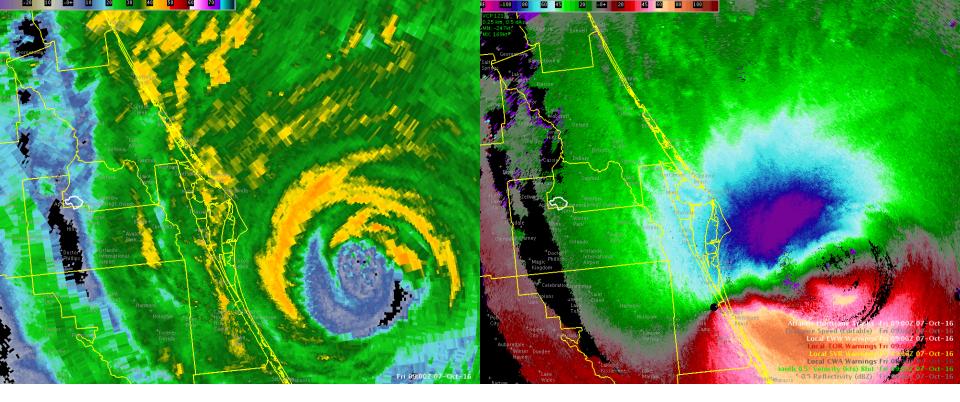
+

within shelter. The message - move now to the safest place within your shelter and protect your head and body from extreme winds.

#### Major Hurricanes & Societal Impacts:

- Lives greatly imperiled
- Devastating to catastrophic damage
- Increased projectile loading
- Numerous rescues
- Difficult initial response
- Community infrastructure collapsed
- Long-term recovery





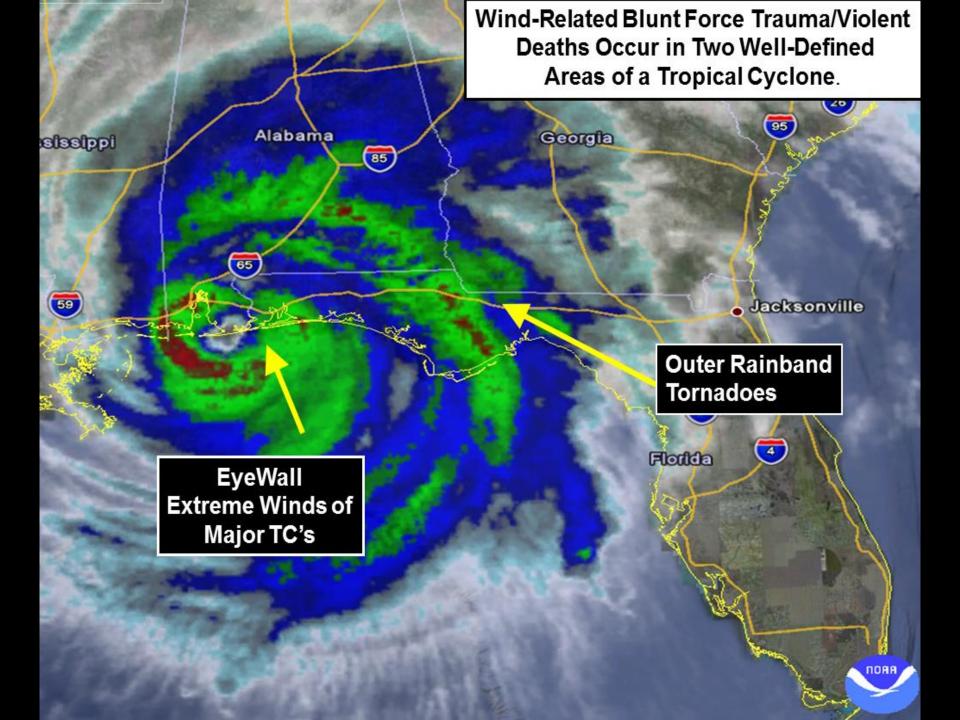


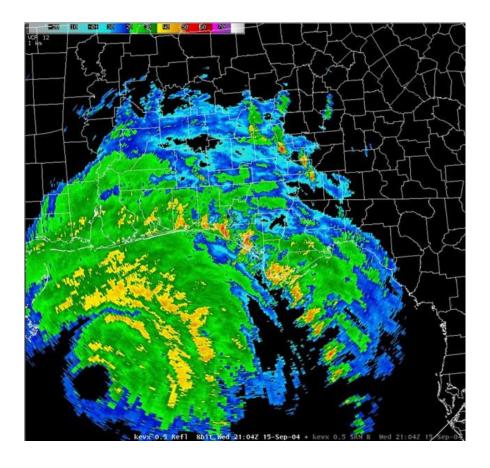
### Extreme Winds & Major Hurricane Matthew

### **Extreme Wind Warning**

- Issuance Criteria: An EWW is issued when both of the following criteria are met:
  - The tropical cyclone is a CAT 3 or greater.
  - Sustained winds of 100 kt (115 mph) or greater are expected to occur in a WFO's county warning area within 1 hour; product valid time is not to exceed 2 hours.

#### **Message: Shelter within shelter**

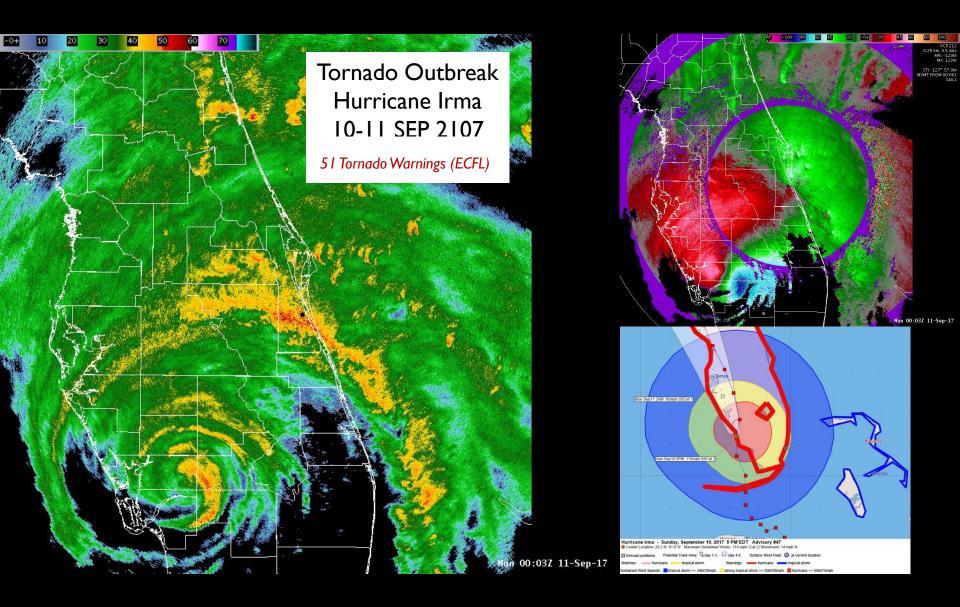


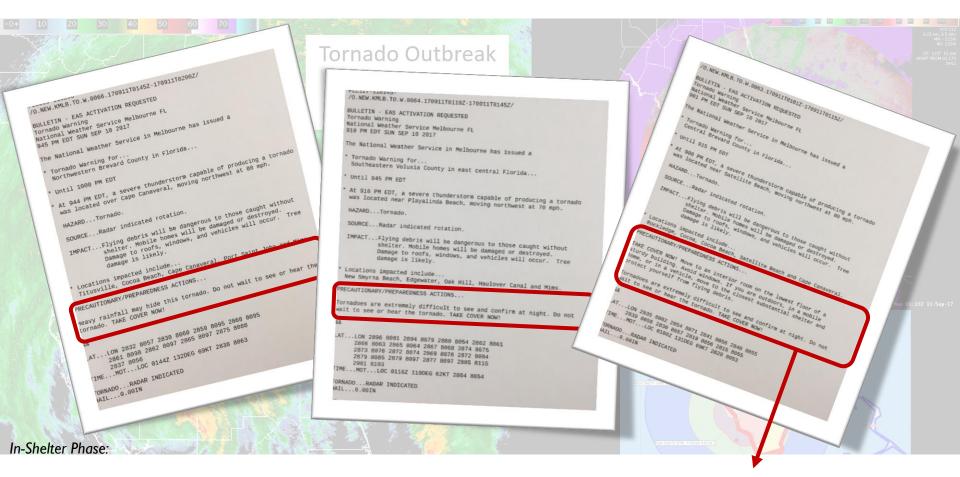


### **Tornado Outbreak !!!**

Typically, counties/cities do not have a tornado contingency within their hurricane emergency plans.

- Tornadoes can occur ahead of the main wind event.
- Tornadoes can occur after the main wind event.
- Tornadoes can occur in places away from the main wind event.
- Tornadoes can occur post landfall over inland locations.





TAKE COVER NOW! Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows. If you are outdoors, in a mobile home, or in a vehicle, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris.



Breathe!

Stay Calm

Stay Focused

Be the Voice of Reason

Stay Connected

Follow Through



