



# The GP Responder

May 2021

<https://gp-cert.org>

Vol. 2, Issue 2

## Message from Incident Commander, Gordon Holtby

As we head into the 2021 hurricane season, I hope you enjoy the fourth edition of The GP Responder. We have included an article on the 2021 hurricane forecast and the names which will be utilized, as well as some hurricane preparation tips. Florida's annual hurricane sales tax holiday is coming back this year to help you save money on supplies. It will run from May 28 through June 6. The 10-day period is officially called the *Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday*. It's in place to encourage Floridians to stock up on critical needs before a hurricane or a tropical storm comes our way. For those of you who enjoy biking around our area like my wife and I do, there is also an article on bicycle safety.

Since our last issue, the GP community elected a Board of Directors, which includes two of our very own Command Team members, Mitch Farrah and Tom Porada. Please join me in supporting and thanking them and the remainder of the Board for their efforts on behalf of our community.

Many of our volunteers have now been vaccinated and we are cautiously getting back to training and educational activities. All GP-CERT volunteers should note that we have scheduled a GP-CERT all-hands-on-deck "Yellow Box" exercise for Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 am. Details will be forthcoming by e-mail and on our web-site, so please reserve this date on your calendar. New residents are welcome to join the all-volunteer team at any time so please feel free to reach out to any of the volunteers listed at the end of this newsletter for more information.



Sincerely,

*Gordon Holtby*

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## Volunteers Needed!

GP-CERT is a volunteer organization that deploys in the aftermath of disasters in the community. There is a continued need for volunteers to work in areas such as damage assessment, search and rescue, team organization, communications, and basic first aid. Volunteers will be assigned to tasks based upon their desires, skills and experience. Background/training in these areas is encouraged but not required. The GP-CERT training and preparation will allow community members to respond and assist each other in those hours or days between the incident and the return of our property management staff.



For more information or to volunteer, please go to the GP-CERT website at <https://gp-cert.org> or contact Gordon Holtby at [gordon.holtby@gmail.com](mailto:gordon.holtby@gmail.com)

# *Bicycle Safety in Florida and Sarasota County*

Submitted by Carole Myles



Have you had the chance to read the Florida statute ([316.2065](#)) on bicycle riding? The 2016 statute outlines the rights and responsibilities that bicycle riders should be aware of when riding on a roadway or a sidewalk.

To recap in brief, and beginning with helmets, anyone under the age of 16 must wear a helmet that has met the federally approved standards for bicycle helmets. Any underage passenger that is being carried within a trailer behind the bike is also required to wear a helmet.

Common sense dictates, though the Florida statute doesn't, that adults should wear helmets too. The two main types of crashes for bicyclists are falls and accidents with vehicles. On a bicycle ride once, my spouse, who was wearing a helmet, fell off his bicycle

after hitting an uneven part of the road. He rolled over onto the sidewalk where he hit his head. After arriving home we noticed that the helmet had taken the brunt of the fall and had a large crack. That could have been his skull without a helmet.



A bicyclist's rights and responsibilities differ if he/she is riding in the roadway or on the sidewalk. A bicycle in the road must follow all the rules of the road as an auto follows. A person on the road must travel in the same direction as traffic, signal before changing lanes, and stop at traffic lights. Laws are different for bicycles on a sidewalk. It's not encouraged to ride a bicycle on a sidewalk since cars don't expect to encounter moving traffic as they're backing out of their driveway. Also, check the law in your county to see if sidewalk riding is legal. (In Sarasota County, it is.) A person riding a bicycle on the sidewalk has all the rights and responsibilities of a pedestrian with limitations. A bicyclist on the sidewalk has to yield right of way to any pedestrian, and emit an audible signal when overtaking and passing a pedestrian.

## Did you know that bicyclist deaths:

- Occur most often between 6 pm and 9 pm
- Occur mainly in urban areas (71%) and rural areas (29%)
- Were 5.6 times higher for males than females in 2016
- Involved alcohol in 35% of all fatal crashes in 2016

(Thanks to Island Walk for their slide presentation on Bicycle Safety.)

# 2021 Hurricane Forecast and Names

Submitted by David Elwart

Hurricane season may be longer than normal this coming season. The National Hurricane Center is deciding whether the season should be extended due to seeing activity that has been seen before the start of the season.

The season normally starts June 1, but NOAA is thinking about changing the date to May 15.

## Outlook for 2021

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is one major factor that impacts Atlantic hurricanes. For the past several months, La Niña has been in an active phase across the tropical Pacific Ocean. This means that the Pacific tropical waters are colder than usual. Not only does it mean cooler ocean temperatures, but it can affect the entire tropical atmospheric flow. During La Niña, there is a strong east-to-west wind blowing across the tropical Atlantic, which helps to steer hurricanes toward North America. There's also less vertical wind shear, which allows the storms to strengthen and grow as they trek across the Atlantic. In contrast, El Niño has the opposite effects and is generally detrimental to hurricane growth.

La Niña looks to end later this spring with models having water temperatures trending closer to average. However, a quick transition to El Niño is rarely the case. This idea hints that conditions may still be favorable for storm growth and development as we enter into the 2021 season.

Based on how several hurricane seasons have transpired, along with the current long-range models, researchers and forecasters at Colorado State are expecting a 90% probability of an average or above average season - with only a 10% possibility of having below average tropical activity. We may not see another historical year with regards to the quantity of storms, but the possibility of an active season still remains.

After reading many articles and the predictions of many experts, my prediction for the 2021 Hurricane Atlantic Basin Season are as follows:

- 17 Named Storms (average 12)
- 9 Hurricane (average 6)
- 4 Major Hurricanes (average 1.8)
- 4 -5 United States Hurricane Landfalls
- 2 Major United States Hurricane Landfalls

## 2021 Hurricane Names

Ana	Bill	Claudette	Danny	Elsa	Fred	Grace
Henri	Ida	Julian	Kate	Larry	Mindy	Nicholas
Odette	Peter	Rose	Sam	Teresa	Victor	Wanda

# Hurricane Preparation and Recovery

Submitted by Gordon Holtby

- Build an emergency kit with flashlights, batteries, cellphone chargers, first aid supplies, a change of clothes, bottled water, nonperishable food, a portable radio, tarps, garbage bags, duct tape and rope.
- Plan your household safety and evacuation strategies. Identify alternate travel routes and destinations, then establish meeting areas and chains of communication.
- Stock up on essentials. Obtain critical medications, and keep extra cash on hand. Fill your bath tub and/or empty containers with water and fill vehicle gas tanks as well as gas containers for generators. Also, if you have pets, don't forget to pack their necessities.
- Communicate your emergency plan with friends and family before severe weather hits. In the event of an emergency, safely relay your status to loved ones.
- Listen to local news for updates. Tune in to a weather radio, and comply with evacuation orders as soon as possible.
- Verify your home insurance policy, especially flood coverage. Take photos of your home and valuables. Store insurance papers, photos and other significant documents in a dry, secure place and print important documents in the event of power outages.

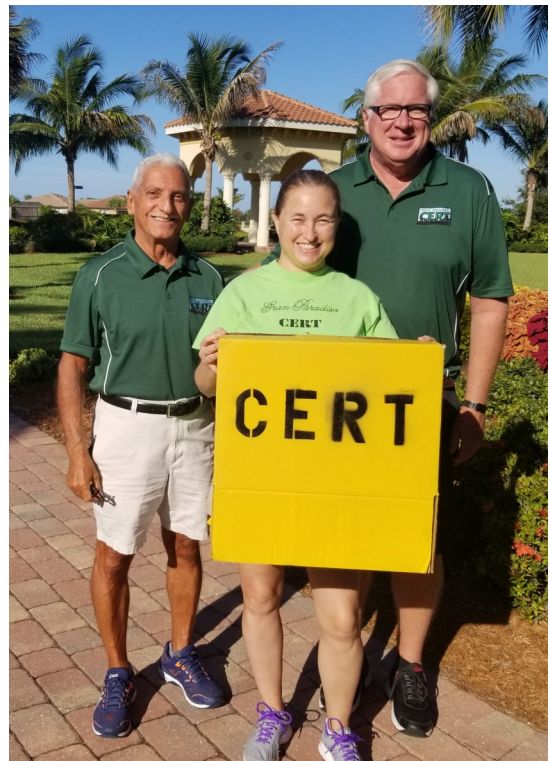


- Unplug appliances and sensitive electronic devices to prevent power surge damage when power is restored. Don't unplug the refrigerator and freezer. However, adjust settings to keep food cold (refrigerators should be set at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, and the freezer should be set at 0 degree Fahrenheit).
- Elevate the furniture if your home is in a surge zone.
- Reinforce your home's exterior and property. Bring large outdoor items inside or tie them down. Ensure trees and shrubs are well trimmed. Fortify entry doors and garage doors. Board up windows with hurricane panels or plywood to help prevent against breakage.
- Consider getting a generator in the event of a power outage. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a generator.
- Secure your family and home. In the event of a mandatory evacuation, lock your home and safely follow the evacuation plan.

## Yellow Box Drill

The purpose of the "Yellow Box" drill is an exercise in deployment, communications and documentation of damage assessment by our Gran Paradiso Community Emergency Response Team (GP-CERT) in the aftermath of a hurricane or other disaster event.

In the photo standing from left to right are Mitch Farrah, Kristi Loret, and Gordon Holtby attending the "Yellow Box" drill held at Island Walk in May.





The Gran Paradiso – Community Emergency Response Team (GP-CERT) has been formed to assist neighbors in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The team is comprised of your neighbors who have undertaken the appropriate training to assist where needed.

Please submit articles and/or corrections to the newsletter publisher, Jeff Myles, at [jmyles19@gmail.com](mailto:jmyles19@gmail.com).



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The GP Responder is a publication of the Gran Paradiso—Community Emergency Response Team. Our plan is to publish it every third month throughout the year. The GP Responder is forwarded to all residents by ICON, our management company, and it is also available for viewing in the GP-CERT website at <https://gp-cert.org>

