**Tuesday, September 12th, 2023 GP-CERT Meeting Minutes:**

**Holtby welcomed everyone and offered a special welcome to anyone attending their first GP-CERT meeting. He requested that everyone sign one of the attendance sheets and noted that tonight’s meeting should last a little under one hour. Parlor Doughnuts and water were made available to all attendees.**

**Holtby noted that at our last meeting, we talked about the 2023 hurricane season and the uncertain outlook due to the opposing El Niño and the scorching Tropical Atlantic. He noted that the rapid intensification of Hurricane Lee from a Category 1 to Category 5 in 24 hours from Thursday morning winds of 80 mph to a staggering 165 mph by Friday morning was unprecedented. He mentioned that fortunately Lee does not appear to be a threat to Florida at this time. It appears that the hurricane will most likely remain offshore - but it could bring**[**significant storm hazards**](https://s2.washingtonpost.com/3b2066e/6500427ca33d6d6dce479eac/596a446aae7e8a0ef33c1ec6/35/64/6500427ca33d6d6dce479eac)**like strong winds, heavy rain and**[**storm surge**](https://s2.washingtonpost.com/3b01de8/6500427ca33d6d6dce479eac/596a446aae7e8a0ef33c1ec6/36/64/6500427ca33d6d6dce479eac)**to New England later this week and the Canadian Maritimes and Nova Scotia may experience a direct hit.**

**Holtby mentioned that storms like Idalia and Lee highlight the need to be vigilant and prepared. Hurricane Margo will likely dissipate and Nigel, Ophelia, Philippe, Rina, Sean, Tammy, Vince, and Whitney are the next names on this year’s list to be aware of.**

**Second item on our Agenda was : Updates/Plans – First Bullet Point was a few local weather statistics (compliments of David Elwart and his Basilica Drive backyard Tempest weather station) from Hurricane Idalia:**

**“Idalia was primarily a rain event with 2.03 inches of rain on the 29th and 1.99 inches on the 30th. Highest wind gust that David’s weather station recorded was 23.7 mph on the 30th at 12:33 am.”**

**As Holtby was not in country for Hurricane Idalia, Sal Baglio provided the GP-CERT response to Hurricane Idalia, and Sal provided the day-by-day highlights of the storm response – which he also highlighted in the newsletter that came out earlier today. Brian Sheftel also provided his perspective and the response on the storm.**

**The second Update item concerned the “The GP Responder”. Holtby advised that we published our thirteenth issue this week and our next issue is scheduled for December. He thanked those volunteers who are regular contributors, and gave a special thanks to Carole and Jeff Myles who continue to do a fabulous job on the newsletter. Holtby noted that the same people are contributing articles and we need some “new contributors” - please consider contributing an article – we are looking for 100-150 words on anything with a safety or weather focus that would be of interest to the GP community.**

**The third update item on the agenda was Training & Education: Kristi Loret provided an update and advised that CERT Basic Training was scheduled for September 28-29 and 30 in the library and clubhouse from 9-3 pm It has been extremely difficult to get space and Loret advised that anyone interested should contact her immediately if they have not already done so. There appear to be sufficient instructors, but we may have to open things up to IslandWalk CERT to fill up the class.**

**Sal Baglio provided an update on Ed McCrane’s presentation on August 10th and advised that close to 70 residents attended. Holtby noted that Ed McCrane had retired August 18th after 18 years at the Sarasota EOC and 40 years of public service overall!**

**The fourth Update item was Communications, and our new Communications Officer, Richard MacCready, provide a brief update on all the initiatives underway and he noted that 9 Command Team members had checked in for the Radio Net prior to the meeting.**

**The fifth Update item was Recruitment – which Holtby noted continues to be a big challenge – While the turnout was good for the CERT event with Ed McCrane, the Storm Aware and Prepare Day on Wednesday, July 26th that Jeremy and Lisa Thompson of Home Watch Reporters put together had terrible attendance. Holtby noted that the presentation and Q&A were excellent.**

**Sal had put together the recent GP-CERT shirt order, and a number of volunteers picked up their shirts at the end of the meeting. Hopefully wearing the shirts can increase the “visibility” of our team.**

**Holtby also challenged everyone in the room to recruit a new GP-CERT volunteer by next meeting. He suggested picking up a Volunteer Information Form from the back table and talking to one of your neighbors and encouraging them to get involved.**

**Agenda Item 3 was Q&A and Open Discussion:**

**There were a few miscellaneous items – Ed Litcher, a key member of GP-CERT who many of us know, just returned home after spending the last three months in the hospital and in a rehab facility. Holtby noted that Ed would love to hear from anyone who may have a few minutes. If anyone wants Ed or Barbara’s contact info, Holtby requested that they reach out to him.**

**The date for our next meeting is set for Tuesday, November 14th at 6:30 pm in the craft room.**

**Agenda Item 4 Education “Teach-back”**

**Holtby mentioned that yesterday he had heard that The National Hurricane Center was tracking two disturbances in the Atlantic called Invest 97-L and Invest 98-L.**

**Holtby asked: “What exactly does this term “invest” that I hear during hurricane season mean?” Spoiler alert: If you read the September newsletter that came out earlier today at 2:45 pm – you know the answer to this question.**

**An invest – short for "investigation" – is a naming convention used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) to identify features they are monitoring for potential future development into a tropical depression or storm within the next seven days. These invests will usually be festering clusters of showers and thunderstorms that do not yet have a persistent low-level circulation.**

**The term "invest" is used every**[**hurricane**](https://www.foxweather.com/category/hurricanes)**season in the Atlantic and the Eastern and Central Pacific basins, accompanied by a number from 90 to 99 and either the suffix "L," "E" or "C," respectively. In the Atlantic, these systems and models are tagged as Invest 90L, Invest 91L, all the way up to Invest 99L, and then it starts back at 90L and repeats. You might be wondering why the designation of invests only utilizes the numbers from 90 to 99 - the numbers from 1 to 49 are used for tropical and**[**subtropical depressions**](https://www.foxweather.com/learn/tropical-storm-subtropical-storm-extratropical-explained)**, 50 to 79 are reserved for other tropical cyclone forecast centers around the**[**world**](https://www.foxweather.com/category/world)**, and 80 to 89 are applied only for testing or training purposes.**

**According to the NHC, by designating a tropical weather system as an invest, the collection of specialized data sets and computer models on the area of interest can begin. These computer models, including the well-known “spaghetti model tracks”, simulate the system’s projected track possibilities and predict its future intensity. It also includes the scheduling of Hurricane Hunter aircraft missions. However, just because a system has been called an invest doesn't guarantee development into a tropical depression or storm.**

**For those interested in a deep dive into hurricanes or tropical cyclones The National Hurricane Center publishes the updated May 2023 “Mariner’s Tropical Cyclone Guide” on the following link: nhc.noaa.gov/marinersguide.pdf**

**Second question asked by Holtby – “What is the difference between a cyclone, a typhoon, and a hurricane?”**

**Depending upon location, tropical cyclones have different names around the world. In the:**

* **Atlantic/Eastern Pacific Oceans – hurricanes**
* **Western Pacific – typhoons**
* **Indian Ocean – cyclones**

**A tropical cyclone is a warm-core, low pressure system without any “front” attached, that develops over the tropical or subtropical waters, and has an organized circulation.**

**Agenda Item 5: Thanked everyone for their attendance tonight and adjourned meeting (42 minutes).**