**May 14th, 2024 GP-CERT Meeting Minutes:**

**Holtby welcomed everyone and mentioned that tonight’s meeting would be a little longer than normal due to an Operational Plan review taking the place of the educational teach-back at the end. He requested that everyone sign in, and mentioned that there are copies of tonight’s agenda on the back table.**

**Holtby noted that the 2024 hurricane season is extremely concerning. We had talked about it during our January and March meetings and he mentioned that conditions do not look any better. Historically, there is a 43% chance of a “major or Category 3, 4, or 5” hurricane hitting the west coast of Florida. This year, projections are 63% based on higher Atlantic ocean temperatures and the expected reappearance of La Niña. Since the summer 2023, the world has had**[**10 straight months**](https://apnews.com/article/climate-heat-record-hot-march-copernicus-33621288477a660d176ac3ff4a06e5c1)**of record-breaking global temperatures. Holtby noted that a lot of that warmth is coming from the oceans, which are**[**still at record-high temperatures**](https://climatereanalyzer.org/clim/sst_daily/)**.**

**The recent severity of storms, tornadoes and flooding in the mid-to-southern US may be a precursor supporting this increased hurricane threat. El Niño is almost gone after helping fuel a hot, stormy year, and there’s a good chance we’ll see La Niña – its opposite – by the end of summer. NOAA recently gave La Niña a 69% chance of forming in July, August or September.** **La Niña affects hurricanes by producing less wind shear, removing a brake on hurricanes.  Wind shear is a difference in wind speeds at different heights or direction. Hurricanes have a harder time holding their column structure during strong wind shear because stronger winds higher up push the column apart.**

**Another change on the weather front - beginning on or around August 15th, the NHC will begin issuing an experimental version of the infamous cone graphic. This experimental version will add a depiction of tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings over inland areas in the continental United States. Previously, the cone graphic only showed watches and warnings in a line along the coastline of the affected area. In addition, the experimental version of the cone will use white transparent shading for the entire 5-day forecast, instead of using white stippling for the 4-5-day portion of the forecast, and the entire outline of the cone will be in white.**

**Holtby stressed the need to stay vigilant and to stay prepared. He noted that we need to implement what we learned from Ian, and we need to be at the top of our game. Holtby advised that the Command Team met with Rebecca Beasley, our GM from KW, just prior to our meeting. We went over protocols and responsibilities in the event of a storm impacting GP. It was a productive meeting, with Bill Kelly, our Board liaison spearheading it. What came out of the meeting was that communication and education are key, we need to coordinate all points of contact, and we need to keep the Board apprised of our collective efforts. KW will be sending out a letter to all GP residents on or about June 1st, and we have the opportunity to tailor this communication to fit the needs of the GP community.**

**Hitting Update Item 2 on our agenda, we need to order new equipment and supplies, including waders for flood waters, during the June 1-14th Disaster Preparedness Tax Free Holiday period. Holtby noted that if you are a Command Team member and have not provided your shoe size for wader purposes – please do so. He also asked if anyone had any experience with waders that might be appropriate for floodwaters, as we are a little in the dark on this item. Other items we need to purchase based on feedback from our last meeting: caution tape, long-life batteries, waders (two minimum per zone), and an identifying banner for golf carts utilized by GP-CERT members. Zone Leaders were requested to provide feedback on what supplies might be required for their respective zone boxes.**

**The third Update item concerned the “The GP Responder”.**

**Holtby advised that GP-CERT published our fifteenth issue in March. He thanked Robert Spong, Cheryl Heeren, Rich MacCready, and Carole Myles for submitting articles; and offered a special thank you to the proof-readers and the Myles for putting the issue together. Our June issue is rapidly approaching, so he asked that everyone 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. A suggestion was made previously to profile members of the Command Team in each issue, and Brian Sheftel volunteered to be featured in the June issue.**

**The fourth update item on the agenda was Training & Education.**

**Holtby started out by mentioning that Sandra Tapfumaneyi had agreed to make a presentation to GP on Thursday, June 20th in the early evening – time still to be finalized, but likely at 6 pm. Sandra is Sarasota County’s new Emergency Management Chief. She previously was Chief of Lee County Emergency Management during Hurricane Ian, and she was recognized as the**[**Chad Reed - Emergency Management Professional of the Year**](https://www.fepa.org/awards)**by the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association in 2023.  In her role as Sarasota County’s Emergency Management Chief, Tapfumaneyi will be responsible for overseeing the preparation, prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation in an all-hazards environment. She has more than 21 years of professional experience, including crisis and emergency management, and has extensive knowledge in the development of facility-specific emergency management procedures, as well as the development and facility of team training and exercises. She holds a Master of Arts in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from the American University School of International Service and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Global Affairs from Eckerd College. She is a Certified Public Manager (CPM) and has experience with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP). Holtby advised that a few of us went up to Sarasota to listen to her give a presentation, and he noted that she was excellent. Holtby requested that everyone put this date on their calendars.**

**Kristi Loret then provided an update on training, with the first skills training scheduled for June 7th and June 8th at IslandWalk. She advised that we still have room for up to seven GP-CERT volunteers who want to do the on-line basic training and the in-person skills training on those dates (9 am – 3 pm each day). We also touched briefly on a Yellow Box drill, as IslandWalk held their drill this morning, and we may wait until September to hold it due to the heat.**

**The fifth Update item was Communications, and our Communications Officer, Richard MacCready, provided a brief update on the Net Radio Check-in, with eight Command Team members checking in for today’s drill. New radios were provided to Board members and the GM for future drills.**

**The sixth Update item was Recruitment – which Holtby noted continues to be a challenge, but he was happy to announce that we have had seven new members join the team over the last two months. Holtby requested that if anyone has any other ideas on ways to do this better- ideas would be appreciated. He updated the the Gran Paradiso At Wellen Park cap sales - we have sold 95 caps for approximately $1,700 – leaving 105 caps left to sell. The grey cap with blue lettering has been the top seller to date, followed by the grey cap with silver lettering. The white caps with red and silver/grey lettering are the slow sellers. Thoughts were that selling caps at Sandra T.’s presentation in June made sense.**

**As regards the tri-fold update, Holtby advised that he had updated the verbiage and the latest version was in Carole Myles’ capable hands right now for “finishing” and adding new GP-CERT photos. The BOD had agreed to have a GP-CERT trifold and a “one-pager” included in all new resident packages, and Holtby noted that we need to take advantage of this opportunity.**

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

**Holtby mentioned at our last meeting that we really need to get started on events for 2024 - and to get them on the schedule well in advance. Holtby noted that the new Sarasota County Emergency Preparedness brochure is now on-line, and one of our residents who works at the Sarasota County EOC will be dropping off a box of them at the clubhouse for our residents next week. He felt that the earlier we can plan and schedule them the better. He also noted that the date for our next meeting is Tuesday, July 9th, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the craft room.**

**Agenda Item 4: Brian and Sal then went through the newly revised operational plan, and pointed out the addition of a section for storms with very little notice – such as tornadoes. Brian highlighted several areas and recommended that everyone review the plan at their leisure on the GP-CERT web-site.**