

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

May 2015



JEA Preparedness Week May 18th – 22nd, 2015

Northeast Florida Regional Council staff, in partnership with JEA's Emergency Preparedness Division, conducted the 2015 Hurricane Exercise Series with JEA Management and Senior Leadership Team.



JEA personnel are considered essential members during the response phase of a disaster, and as such are expected to report for duty while many others may have evacuated. The exercise series was specifically designed with this in mind. The first day was a seminar for 200 JEA employees that emphasized aspects of personal Storm Ready preparedness. Presentations were made by the National Weather Service, Duval County Emergency Management, and the Northeast Florida Regional Council as it relates to storm preparedness and evacuation.



The second day was a seminar that focused on internal JEA preparedness, specifically highlighting new and emerging resources for JEA personnel. Day three was the culmination exercise that required 85 members of JEA management and senior leadership to develop primary objectives following the aftermath of a hurricane and major flooding event.

This is the 5th year of the JEA/NEFRC emergency preparedness partnership. For more information, contact Eric Anderson, eanderson@nefrc.org

Hurricane Awareness Tour Stop – St. Augustine

NOAA hurricane experts visited five U.S. East Coast cities and one city in Canada, flying aboard a USAF Reserve WC-130J hurricane hunter aircraft along with the NOAA G-IV aircraft to raise awareness of the impacts from tropical cyclones threats. They flew in to the Northeast Florida Regional Airport in St. Augustine, on Thursday May 7. St. Johns County Emergency Management organized the event, with hundreds of St. Johns County school students visiting the event in the morning, while the general public took tours in the afternoon.

National Hurricane Center Director Dr. Rick Knabb, hurricane specialists Daniel Brown and John Cangialosi, storm surge team leader Jamie Rhome, the USAF hurricane hunter crew members and the NOAA aircraft crew members were on hand to educate students and residents of vulnerable communities about hurricane preparedness. Numerous other agencies provided educational displays including the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA, Florida Army National Guard, St. Johns Fire Rescue, and St. Augustine Fire Department. For more information, contact Beth Payne, epayne@nefrc.org



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Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

St. Johns County Exercises

Northeast Florida Regional Council staff assisted St. Johns County Emergency Management with two preparedness events. The first event was a Points of Distribution (POD) Drill held on Monday, April 27 at Treaty Park in St. Augustine. This drill provided a training opportunity for St. Johns County staff in the setup, breakdown and operation of a POD. The second event, held on April 29 at the County EOC, was a tabletop exercise held in partnership with the Department of Health – St. Johns County (DOH-SJC). This exercise brought together

staff from the DOH-SJC and leadership of other partner agencies to discuss the policies and procedures that would be used in the event of a meningitis outbreak. The exercise reviewed epidemiological procedures specific to meningitis as well as information sharing procedures, both internally and to the public. For both events, NEFRC staff provided logistical support and evaluation services. For more information, please contact Beth Payne, epayne@nefrc.org



Healthcare Coalition Exercise



The Northeast Florida Healthcare Coalition (NEFLHCC) conducted a measles virus tabletop exercise (TTX) at the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center in St. Augustine, Florida on April 29. A total of 63 people from six different disciplines participated in the event. The exercise tested health-care system recovery, information sharing and medical surge. This event helped the NEFLHCC to determine their key roles during a regional health emergency or disaster.

Staff of the Northeast Florida Regional Council put together the exercise, from scenario creation to facilitation. For more information, contact Eric Anderson, eanderson@nefrc.org

Economic Development Strategy Session

Staff from the Northeast Florida Regional Council attended an economic development strategic growth planning session organized by the Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity. This event was held at the Hammock Beach Resort on May 19 for over 100 economic development leaders and residents. Participants gathered in small groups to discuss specific industry sectors in Flagler County, including agriculture, aviation, high tech, manufacturing and tourism.

For more information, contact Lindsay Haga, lhaga@nefrc.org

Members of the Regional Community Institute win State Conservation Awards

The Florida Wildlife Federation is recognizing two members of the Regional Community Institute with 2015 Conservation Awards. These awards recognize those that have made outstanding contributions to conservation in Florida. Dr. Quinton White will be awarded the Marine Conservationist of the Year and Sarah Boren of the US Green Building Council will be awarded the 2015 Living Green Award. The award winners will be honored at the Florida Wildlife Federation's 78th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet, to be held June 13 at the St. Augustine Rod & Gun Club. Congratulations to the award winners and thank you for your continued commitment to conservation in Florida. For more information, please contact Margo Moehring, mmoehring@nefrc.org



Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc.

Did you know...

On a single flight, the Hurricane Hunters will deploy more than two dozen dropsondes, which are similar to weather balloons but in reverse. The instruments are tubes about the size of a can of Pringles, and they're parachuted from a high-altitude plane to take a profile of the atmosphere. They collect collecting wind speed, air pressure, temperature, and humidity data until they splash down in the ocean below.

Source: www.nsas.gov/content/goddard/what-the-heck-is-a-dropsonde