



Warning Coordination Meteorologist **Barry Goldsmith** speaking to Rio Grande Valley partners on NWS Hurricane Information for the 2012 season.

Hurricane Workshop a Smashing Success! **Forecast Information, Forecast Use, Decision Support Highlighted**

WESLACO, TX, May 23rd – National Weather Service (NWS) Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley Meteorologist-in-Charge *Steve Drillette*, Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith*, and Tropical Program Leader *Justin Gibbs* spoke to a packed conference room at the Texas Department of Public Safety Region 3 Headquarters on the following topics:

- The Importance of Partnerships in Building a Hurricane-Ready RGV
- Myths and Truths about Pre-Season Atlantic Basin Hurricane Forecasts
- How Phases of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Impact Gulf Coast Tropical Cyclones
- NWS Hurricane Information in 2012: From the Nation to the RGV, We've got it Covered

More than 100 public and private sector partners came from across the Rio Grande Valley to better understand the information provided by the NWS and use this information to make cost, life, and property saving decisions before, during, and after a hurricane strikes. Many of the partners represented one of [the fifteen emergency support functions](#) as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Association:

- Transportation (Brownsville/SPI International Airport, TSA)

- Communications (South Texas [Radio] Communications)
- Firefighting (Harlingen, Hidalgo[city], Rio Grande City, Texas Forest Service)
- Emergency Management (Cameron, Willacy, Hidalgo, Starr County; City of McAllen, City of Brownsville, City of Edinburg, City of South Padre Island, Cities of Weslaco/Donna, City of Port Isabel; US Customs and Border Protection)
- Mass Care/Emergency Assistance (South Texas Red Cross, Valley Air Care)
- Logistics/Resource Management (US Customs/Border Protection)
- Public Health/Medical Services (Hidalgo County Health, Cameron County Health, Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas Health/Human Services Commission)
- Agriculture/Natural Resources (Texas Council on Environmental Quality, International Boundary and Water Commission)
- Public Safety/Security (Numerous local police departments)
- Long Term Community Recovery (Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, Texas A&M/Americorps Center for Housing and Urban Development)
- External Affairs (Hidalgo County Public Affairs)

Other partners represented local educational institutions (University of Texas/Pan American, Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District [CISD], Port Isabel ISD), the U.S. Consulate in Matamoros, Mexico, and the Texas Secretary of State's Office.

Rio Grande Valley media was very well represented. Television personalities and film crews from KRGV-TV-5 (ABC), FOX2/Univision-48, KGBT-TV-4 (CBS), McAllen Cable Network (independent) covered the event; newspaper reporters/journalists from across the Valley on both sides of the border attended, as did ClearChannel Radio.

The NWS in Brownsville, serving the Rio Grande Valley, thanks everyone for attending this important workshop prior to the start of the 2012 Hurricane Season. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to help our partners improve how to understand and use information that might otherwise be complex and confusing. We sincerely hope that our workshop gave our partners the confidence to use the information should a hurricane bear down on the Rio Grande Valley. The NWS succeeds only when our primary partners can use information to save lives and livelihoods as we build a Weather Ready Nation – together.



View from the rear of the Conference Room at Texas DPS Region 3 Headquarters.