



Left: Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* speaks on the drought prognosis to gathered media from the Rio Grande Valley. From left: City of McAllen Precinct 2 Commissioner Hector “Tito” Palacios, McAllen Mayor-Elect Jim Darling, and County Emergency Management Coordinator Oscar Montoya. **Right:** KRGV-TV-5 Meteorologist Lisa Villegas promotes rip current safety with Goldsmith on South Padre Island.

May 2013: Drought and Hurricane Preparedness Keep NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley Outreach Hoppin’

- May 1, 15: Lisa Villegas of KRGV-TV-5 interviewed Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) **Barry Goldsmith** on the dangers of rip currents along the beaches of South Padre Island during the peak summer tourist season, especially when tropical cyclones may enter the eastern or central Gulf of Mexico and propagate large swells toward Texas. Also interviewed were Gene and Rachel Gore, longtime surfing instructors on [South Padre Island](#), on safe swimming and surfing for children of all ages. Each interview was scheduled to air on the surfing school about Tides, Currents and Swell. Interview segments aired for the one hour hurricane preparedness special, “Facing the Fury”, which aired on June 1st.
 - Forecaster **Maria Torres** conducted a presentation about Hurricane Preparedness for 20 minutes at the Yzaguirre Elementary school (Head Start Program). This presentation was geared for the parents in Spanish. (45 attended).
- May 2: Meteorologist-in-Charge **Steve Drillette** attended the [Brownsville Chamber of Commerce](#) “Speed Networking” event at Zocalo’s Bar & Grill. Sixty local businesses and organizations exchanged information about their organizations in a rapid fire, round table discussion format.
- May 3: Forecaster **Justin Gibbs** participated at the Ben Brite Elementary School Career Day in Brownsville, explaining his career choice and fulfillment to hundreds of young students.
- May 4: **Justin Gibbs** presented a 20 minute briefing on the drought status and forecast updates for the Junior Ranger Day at Palo Alto Battlefield Museum in Los Fresnos. He also hosted a booth at the event.
- May 7: **Barry Goldsmith** provided a 20 minute briefing to the Texas Water Infrastructure Coordination Committee at the Embassy Suites in McAllen on current drought conditions and future drought prospects.
 - Science and Operations Officer (SOO) **Doug Butts** was interviewed by Alan Shoemaker from KRGV Channel 5 on the Dual Pol Radar and Hurricane.
 - **Barry Goldsmith** also did an interview with Maritza Calderon from KFXV FOX Channel 2 about the state of the dam and drought.

- May 8: **Barry Goldsmith** previewed the 2013 Hurricane Season and reprised a workshop panel presentation, originally given at the National Hurricane Conference, on The Challenge of Ending Reliance on a Single Hurricane Scale, to the South Texas Hurricane Conference in McAllen. Attendance was more than 300 persons from Rio Grande Valley Emergency Management organizations, public health departments, Customs and Border Patrol, Environment, etc. The talk was very well received by audience and organizers, and used as an introduction to begin a conversation on “More to the Story than the Category.”
 - Hydrologic Program Team member **Alfredo Vega** conducted an interview with a member of the Associated Press regarding the Drought conditions.
- May 9: **Barry Goldsmith** participated in a Press Conference and spoke at a panel discussion to 22 Mayors and other Hidalgo County officials on “Where’s the Water” at the South Texas Hurricane Conference (top left photo). Presentations and discussion focused on the need to move forward with region-wide comprehensive water management plans. Goldsmith provided data on the 30 month (October 2010-March 2013) record outlier and showed that future similar droughts may occur based on end of 20th century climate predictions. Population trends were shown and explained as dramatically worsening impacts on both side of the border for people and agriculture. Around 100 persons attended.
 - **Barry Goldsmith** gave a presentation about NWS and the importance of our mission to the nation and to the Rio Grande Valley at the Leadership Harlingen meeting in Harlingen C.O.C.
- May 13: Senior Forecaster **Mike Castillo** provided an interview to Valley morning star regarding rainfall amounts and an update on the drought conditions.
- May 14: **Barry Goldsmith** reprised the drought presentation “Where’s the Water” (May 9th) for taping and broadcast by [McAllen Cable Network](#) .
- May 17: **Barry Goldsmith** participated at the City of Brownsville/BISD Annual Functional Exercise at the Brownsville Emergency Operations Center. The exercise involved a large chlorine spill and explosion, channeled by strong southerly winds which direct a plume across Brownsville PUB water treatment plant, the Brownsville Learning Academy, and nearby neighborhoods along Robindale Road. Goldsmith provided initial weather briefing overview, then updates through the City of Brownsville’s webEOC weather update portal. Emergency Support Functions included Brownsville ISD, Valley Medical Hospital, and the Cameron Count Local Emergency Planning Committee. KGBT-TV Channel 4 and KVEO-TV Channel 23 provided mock media coverage of a press conference. Senior Forecaster **Timothy Speece** provided chemical plume dispersion data from ALOHA, used in the briefing.
- May 18: **Maria Torres** participated at the American Association of University Women Harlingen meeting.
- May 20: **Barry Goldsmith** was selected for a photo shoot as the weather wizard using a “Crystal Ball” to make the seasonal forecast at Valley Morning Star in Harlingen.
- May 21: **Barry Goldsmith** was a participant (“player”) at the Falcon Dam Release Catastrophe DSS simulation at the Falcon Dam International Reservoir/IBWC Offices. The Table Top exercise included pre-event briefing by WCM John Metz (WFO CRP) on a fictitious tropical cyclone that dumped up to 20 inches of rain west of Laredo, and the future flood “wave” that surged toward Falcon Reservoir. The briefing was followed by planning and action discussions for downstream impacts in the Upper Valley in a round-table format where WFO Brownsville (Goldsmith) was an active participant. Action discussions involved future information in such a scenario, including river stage forecasts and inundation mapping for downstream warning information in Starr County. Senior Forecaster **Mike Castillo** and **Fred Vega** attended as observers.
 - **Barry Goldsmith** was interviewed by KGBT-TV-4 about the importance of practicing for a potentially catastrophic river flood event similar or worse than Alex and Beulah.
 - **Doug Butts** was interviewed by KRGV regarding the Moore, Oklahoma Tornado.

- **Maria M. Torres** was interviewed by Laura Alvarez from El Expreso in Matamoros about the hurricane preparedness week and what we expect for the 2013 hurricane season, and by Tampa Genesis 680 AM about the difference between Warnings and Watches, and Hurricane preparedness week.
- May 22: **Barry Goldsmith** taped a broadcast for the public affairs radio program, “Borderline”, on the 2013 Hurricane Season (forecast, meaning, preparedness) with DJ personality “Patches” from ClearChannel Radio of the Rio Grande Valley. The broadcast was scheduled to air on June 2nd.
 - **Barry Goldsmith** provided hurricane preparedness, forecast, and “More to the Story...” information for Welcome Home RGV, a collection of RGV RV and manufactured home park managers. Twenty-five to thirty persons attended.
 - **Barry Goldsmith** provided the 2013 seasonal forecast and communication information to 15 residents and others at the annual Hurricane Preparedness Town Hall on South Padre Island.
- May 23: **Barry Goldsmith** presented to staff of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Rio Grande Valley Sector, on the 2013 hurricane season outlook, family preparedness, threat communication, etc. at the RGV Sector Headquarters in Edinburg. Attendance: 35; presentation was very well received again this year. Note: Talk was given hours before the official NOAA forecast was released.
- May 23: **Mike Castillo** was interviewed by Valley Morning Star on the Sky conditions for the astronomical conjuncture.
- May 28: **Barry Goldsmith** assisted the State of Texas Division of Emergency Management in conducting Hurrevac® training for local EM-related officials at the City of Brownsville’s Emergency Operations Center. Twenty persons attended, mainly from Cameron with a few from Hidalgo County.
 - **Barry Goldsmith** conducted a 5 minute interview with the Sergio and Tim morning show on KURV-710 AM on the upcoming hurricane season and what it means for the RGV.
 - **Barry Goldsmith** attended the annual Port Isabel Hurricane Preparedness Town Hall meeting and spoke for 20 minutes on the 2013 season forecast and what it means, and a bit on where to get more information. Attendance: twenty residents, with more arriving toward the end of the talk prior to the scheduled City Commission meeting.
- May 29: **Steve Drillette, Barry Goldsmith, Doug Butts, and Justin Gibbs** led the 3rd Annual RGV Partners’ Hurricane Meeting and Inaugural Integrated Weather Information Team Meeting at City Hall in Weslaco. Details [here](#).
- May 30: **Maria M. Torres** conducted two live segments at Univision 48 early morning show about the Hurricane Preparedness week and the 2013 season. She did another interview with Genesis 680 AM in Tampa for the update on NOAA’s outlook for this season.
 - **Barry Goldsmith** did a [live segment](#) with Valley Central at KGBT Channel 4 Studios in Harlingen to discuss the 2013 Hurricane season forecast and communication of threats beyond category, and where to find information. FEMA Region VI and AEP Texas/RGV Sector were also interviewed independently as part of the show’s hurricane preparedness focus.
 - **Barry Goldsmith** did a [live interview](#) with Good Day Valley FOX-2 about Hurricane preparedness week and the 2013 season forecast. Segment lasted just under 5 minutes.
 - **Justin Gibbs** participated at Del Castillo Elementary School Career Day in Brownsville.
 - **Barry Goldsmith, Tim Speece, and Fred Vega** actively participated in the second Integrated Rio Grande Drought Webinar. Barry offered to help set up an autumn 2013 South Texas Drought Forum in the RGV, pending outcome of 2013 hurricane season and possible deterioration of drought into winter 2014.

- **Barry Goldsmith** and Forecaster **Jason Straub** set up a booth at the City of Brownsville Annual Hurricane Fair in the Brownsville Central Library. Several hundred pieces of material were distributed, from the 2013 guides to Owlie Skywarn. An estimated 300 persons passed by.
- **Barry Goldsmith** presented to 150 City of Brownsville residents during a set of preparedness talks, including City/Regional Emergency Management, Brownsville PUB, and The Home Depot, among others. The topic was Rio Grande Valley/Texas Hurricane History and the 2013 forecast.
- **Barry Goldsmith** interviewed with Ty Johnson of the Herald on the upcoming Spanish Language NWR Transmitters while at the Brownsville Hurricane Fair.
- May 31: **Justin Gibbs** provided the annual discussion on the upcoming hurricane season for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Rio Grande Valley section's environmental/emergency management staff, including investigators. Thirty-five to forty persons attended.
 - **Steve Drillette** spoke to city officials and staff of the San Benito police and fire departments on the 2013 season outlook, preparedness, and where to find critical information. Attendance: 25 persons.
 - **Barry Goldsmith** participated in a press conference for the City of Edinburg on the 2013 season outlook, what it means, and why preparedness is always important. Participants included EMC/Fire Chief Shawn Snider, City Councilmember Elias Longoria, Public Works, Police, and TDEM Region 3 Disaster District Chair. Attendance: 15, including KGBT-4, Telemundo, Edinburg Cable Network, and McAllen Monitor. Barry conducted side interviews with Telemundo and Jared Janes of The Monitor.
 - **Barry Goldsmith** taped a feature-length (30 minute) television broadcast (English) on the 2013 Hurricane Season with Irma Garza of Edinburg Cable Network.
 - **Barry Goldsmith** cut sound bites with Vicky Gonzalez of KFXV-TV-2 (Fox Rio) at WFO Brownsville for the start of the 2013 hurricane season.
 - Senior Forecaster **Joseph Tomaselli** cut sound bites for overlaid graphics with Vicky Gonzalez for the first weekend of June weather broadcast for KFXV-TV-2.