

# NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley In Your Neighborhood...and Beyond!



Forecaster and Spanish Language Liaison Maria Torres "Hits the Road" for Spanish Language Hurricane Preparedness at the 2nd Annual Media Partners Meeting (top), and the City of Brownsville Hurricane Fair (Bottom) in May.

## May 2015

May 1: Forecaster *Justin Gibbs* attended the **Rio Grande Valley Hurricane Evacuation Study Status Update meeting** at the Brownsville Central Public Library.

May 2: Senior Forecaster *Tim Speece* and Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* staffed a tent at the first **South Padre Island "Cyclovia"** event and handed out brochures, as well as discussed weather information, to dozens of passers-by.

May 4: *Barry Goldsmith* spoke to more than 200 students, teachers, and parents on hurricane preparedness, safety, and resilience at an annual end of school year event held at **Elma Barrera Elementary/Colonia in Santa Rosa**.

May 6: *Barry Goldsmith* attended and spoke at the **US Customs and Border Patrol Hurricane Preparedness Meeting** in Edinburg. Barry spoke to about 75 agents and offices from South Texas and other locations on the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season forecast, what it means (and doesn't), a review of the human impact from Beulah and the near nightmare of Allen and Bret, and simple steps to build personal and community resilience.

May 7: Forecaster *Maria Torres* and *Barry Goldsmith* gave **15 minute segments** (Maria in Spanish) on the 2015 hurricane season for the **McAllen Cable Network Hurricane 2015 Preview**.

*Barry Goldsmith* taught a two hour session on weather readiness and preparedness in advance of the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season to a **CERT class** from Harlingen, and provided a brief overview of the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season and preparedness tips to a small crowd of 14 students at **Rio Hondo High School**.

May 11-15: *Barry Goldsmith* attended and spoke at the annual **Texas DEM Conference** in San Antonio. Forecaster *Maria Torres* also attended and spoke on May 14-15. On May 13, Barry provided an update on Weather Ready Nation Ambassadors in Texas to more than 50 attendees. On May 15, *Maria* presented on Spanish language NWS products and information at the "Hablamos del Timpo en Espanol, Texas?" session.

May 14: Information Technology Officer *Pablo Gonzalez* gave a 30 minute **presentation on hurricane preparedness** in Spanish for the parents of **Head Start** students in Brownsville.

May 15: Senior Forecaster *Geoff Bogorad* and Meteorologist *Erin Billings* provided **presentations and office tours** to approximately 90 students and 10 adults from J.T. Canales and Southmost elementary schools in Brownsville.

May 17: *Pablo Gonzalez* staffed a booth at **Storm Fury** in Pharr, answering weather and climate questions to about two hundred parents and children who stopped by the booth.

May 19: *Barry Goldsmith* presented the 2015 hurricane season forecast and hurricane preparedness, awareness, and resiliency to 55 foster care managers from **International Educational Services** in Los Fresnos.

Forecaster *Jason Straub* provided an **office tour** to a group of home-school children and their parents, approximately 15 individuals, as well as an upper air balloon release.

May 21: *Barry Goldsmith* presented the 2015 hurricane season forecast and hurricane preparedness, awareness, and resiliency to 55 shelter managers from **International Educational Services** in the Brownsville/Los Fresnos/San Benito region.

May 22: *Barry Goldsmith* set up a booth at the **Dora Romero Elementary Career Day** in Los Fresnos. Over 300 students from 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, passed through in small groups from seven minutes each session.

May 27: Forecasters *Blair Scholl* and *Maria Torres* and Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* presented to more than 120 Emergency Management partners from the Rio Grande Valley at the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual RGV EM Partners Hurricane Workshop** at the Knapp Medical Center in Weslaco. Topics included new products and services, a review of the 2014 season, a “live” listen to the 2015 NOAA press conference/forecast, Spanish language information, social media, and a discussion on how the Rio Grande Valley might handle Hurricane Allen in 2015.

May 28: *Maria Torres* and *Barry Goldsmith* presented to 25 media partners from the Rio Grande Valley at the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual RGV Media Partners Hurricane Workshop** at the KGBT- Channel 4 studios in Harlingen. Topics included new products and services, a review of the 2014 season, a discussion of the 2015 Atlantic season forecast, Spanish language information and social media.

*Barry Goldsmith* spoke to 40 hospital and health care managers at the **South Texas Emergency Care Foundation Hurricane Prep Meeting** in Harlingen, on the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season, what it means, and how to build community and personal awareness and resiliency.

*Maria Torres* and WCM *Barry Goldsmith* staffed a booth at the annual **City of Brownsville Hurricane Fair**. More than 200 people stopped by the booth to discuss the season, learn about hurricanes, and pick up materials. *Maria* spoke to more than 100 people in English and Spanish on the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season, what it means, and how to prepare.

Senior Forecaster *Mike Castillo* gave a **taped interview** with **KRGV 5** discussing flood potential with hurricane season starting soon.



Warning Coordination Meteorologist Barry Goldsmith (center) stands with elected officials, law enforcement, and Emergency Management personnel from the City of Edinburg and Hidalgo County after the annual hurricane season press conference held in Edinburg in June.

## June 2015

June 1: *Barry Goldsmith* participated at the **Hurricane Press Conference** with City of Edinburg (above) at **Edinburg City Hall**.

June 2: *Jason Straub* gave a **tour and presentation to Homeschool group** that came to visit the office. An estimated 20 students and parents attended and saw the balloon launch.

June 3: *Barry Goldsmith* gave an interview on **Hurricane preparedness for the 2015 Hurricane Season at Fox-2 in McAllen**, and also gave a Hurricane preparedness talk at the **Dare to Prepare Event in Alton, TX**.

June 4: *Pablo Gonzalez* gave a Hurricane Preparedness Talk to 60 individuals who attended **Dare to Prepare Event in San Carlos, TX**. The majority of the attendees were native Spanish speakers.

June 6: *Barry Goldsmith* attended and **spoke at the TWUA Citrus Association Hurricane Meeting in Schlitterbahn Beach Resort in South Padre Island.**

June 10: *Barry Goldsmith* taped a 30 minute "Borderline" radio broadcast on **2015 Hurricane season Preparedness with Clear Channel Radio in Weslaco, TX.**

June 11: *Maria Torres* gave a presentation at **Senator Eddie A. Lucio Middle School on the National Weather Service Career as a Meteorologist.** A total of 25 students from fourth to sixth grade attended.

*Barry Goldsmith* also provided an **overview of the 2015 Hurricane Season** to 25 attendees including general public and city employees at the **Port Isabel City Hall.**

June 12: *Pablo Gonzalez* gave a **Hurricane preparedness talk at the Dare to Prepare Event in Alamo, TX.** A total of 80 people attended the event and the majority spoke only Spanish.

June 17: *Pablo Gonzalez* gave a **Hurricane preparedness talk at the Dare to Prepare Event in Alamo, TX.**

June 19: *Barry Goldsmith* presented to **Mission Fire Department about Hurricane Preparedness** with an overview of the seasonal forecast.

June 24: *Barry Goldsmith* provided a 20 minute **overview of the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season and preparedness tips to the Brownsville Public Utilities Board.**

- *Barry Goldsmith* and *Pablo Gonzalez* presented on hurricane awareness, preparedness, and resilience in English and Spanish at the **Texas A&M Colonia Outreach Program in Lasara, TX.**