

Hurricane Awareness Tour Visits the Southeast

Before the official start to Atlantic hurricane season on June 1, NOAA hurricane experts visited five U.S. East Coast cities, three of them in the southeast, aboard a NOAA hurricane hunter aircraft to raise awareness about storm threats and the danger of being caught without a personal hurricane plan. Over a thousand students and members of the general public turned out at the stops in Falmouth, MA; Patuxent River Naval Air Station, MD; Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, NC; Savannah, GA; and Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Local media and The Weather Channel also highlighted the tour and interviewed NOAA hurricane experts at each stop.



The public lined up to tour NOAA's "P-3" hurricane hunter aircraft.

Representatives from local emergency management offices, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, non-profit organizations such as the American Red Cross, and several local NOAA National Weather Service forecast offices were included in the tour. These speakers provided background information that helped prepare visitors for the star attraction of the tour, the [NOAA WP-3D Orion hurricane hunter aircraft](#). The P-3, as it is often referred to, is part of NOAA's fleet of highly specialized research aircrafts which are operated, managed and maintained by the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. The aircraft is piloted by officers of the NOAA Corps — one of the seven uniformed services of the United States — and based at the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center, located at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL.



Children watch hurricane videos on the NOAA SECART kiosk.

Members of NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team (SECART) also participated in the tour at the North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida stops. They brought along a new touch-screen kiosk to bring interactive video and web-based content to the hurricane "road show." The kiosk was a big hit with the younger generations who appreciated the interactive nature of the display.

While NOAA predicts an above average hurricane season for 2011, it is important to remember that it only takes one storm to impact a community with devastating results. NOAA



encourages everyone who might be impacted during hurricane season to prepare hurricane kits and have an evacuation plan for everyone in their family. For more information on preparing for hurricanes, download the [Tropical Cyclones Preparedness Guide](#).

