

National Hurricane Program, End of Year Newsletter

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That's a Wrap, 2022!

The New Year presents an opportunity to reflect on **accomplishments** and progress in the closing year, **express gratitude** to those who made those achievements possible and consider **new goals** for the upcoming year.

The NHP closed the year as it started, with an emphasis on partner collaboration and an eye toward the future. In December, the FEMA HQ team hosted a three-day End of Year meeting in Washington D.C. The meeting brought together interagency partners of the FEMA NHP team to discuss three main topics: HURREVAC Developments, HES Modernization, and Strategic Program Planning.

During the HURREVAC Development session, program partners reviewed 2022 accomplishments and discussed development priorities for 2023 and beyond. In the HES Modernization Session, the project team reviewed the proposed path forward and collected feedback from stakeholders on HES Modernization initiatives. On the last day, the NHP team discussed strategic initiatives for 2023 and began planning the 2023 Interagency Coordinating Committee on Hurricanes Meeting.

The NHP will provide future updates in future newsletters and during our preseason engagement efforts (ICCOH, National Conferences, etc.). The program welcomes stakeholder engagement and feedback. If you would like additional information on NHP efforts or would like to contribute feedback, contact NHP@fema.dhs.gov.

Happy Holidays from the NHP Team!

Celebrate Accomplishments!

The NHP made significant progress in supporting our three goals in 2022! We are currently developing our Annual Snapshot report for 2022, but some of the past year's highlights include:

- **Goal 1: Provide operational tools, information, and technical assistance to emergency managers to support their hurricane evacuation and response decisions during hurricane threats.**
 - Over 24,800 emergency managers have registered for access to the HURREVAC Decision Support Tool.
 - Approximately 4,000 new users were added in 2022.
 - During Hurricane Ian, over 5,000 users were simultaneously using HURREVAC to support operational decisions, an concurrent usage record.
 - Over 2,000 emergency managers attended the annual 5-day HURREVAC Webinar series.
 - Emergency managers have created over 890+ storms in the Storm Simulator Tool to support hurricane planning and exercises.
 - HURREVAC users have completed 300+ self-guided training modules.
- **Goal 2: Provide data, resources, and technical assistance to support hurricane evacuation and response planning.**
 - Completed interim milestones on the following HES studies: New Jersey Transportation Analysis, Southwest Louisiana Vulnerability Analysis, Alabama/Mississippi Behavioral and Shelter Analysis, and Hawaii Hazard Analysis.
 - Began the HES Modernization Process and conducted 20 stakeholder interviews and consolidated findings in the HES Modernization Stakeholder Audit Summary Report.
- **Goal 3: Deliver comprehensive hurricane preparedness training to emergency managers and partners.**
 - Provided hurricane readiness training to more than 600+ emergency managers ranging in topics, including hurricane hazards, how to interpret storm surge modeling and forecast products, how to apply data and planning factors from Hurricane Evacuation Studies (HES) to inform evacuation plans, and how to use the HURREVAC decision support tool.

- Updated L0310: Hurricanes Readiness for Inland Communities in coordination with EMI and hosted a pilot training course for 36 participants.
- Provided L0311: Hurricanes Readiness for Coastal Communities for 150+ participants and updated training course for 2023.
- Hosted Interagency Coordinating Committee on Hurricanes Meeting with over 160 virtual Federal and State participants. Provided Virtual 360 Meeting Room to share meeting materials and provide resources for the remainder of the year; the majority of the Virtual Meeting Room views (more than 950+ views) occurred after the meeting.
- Promoted the NHP products and services through multiple exhibition booths engaging hundreds of emergency managers at events including the National Hurricane Conference and the JFK and DCA stops on the Hurricane Awareness Tour.

The 2022 Snapshot will be released in early 2023, lookout for it in the next NHP Newsletter!



Stay tuned for the NHP 2022 Snapshot, to be released in early 2023! Lookout for it in the next NHP Newsletter!

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Express Gratitude!

Thank you, National Hurricane Program Partners and Stakeholders!

Send thanks and recognize NHP stakeholders for contributions in 2022!

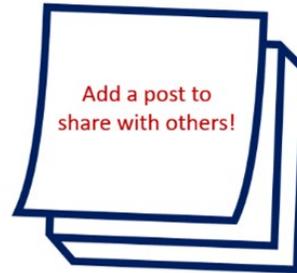


Thank you to Marco Ciarla, Tom Lazzo, Andy Layman (USACE) for coordinating multiple meeting venues to increase coordination and collaboration across the program, such as the Federal Program Partner Meeting and the ICCOH Annual Meeting.

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Thank you to stakeholders for participating in interviews with feedback on the current Hurricane Evacuation Study process and outcomes: Phillip Cane, Edward Lee, Bruce Sterling, Kiona Black, Heather Rolter, Joshua Friedman, Megan Pribam, Jennifer Wachua, David DeMatteo, Patrick Harvey, Melton Gaspard, Earl Eves, Darrell Borchardt, David Bierling, Walter Peacock, Rich LaFluor.



Click the image to add something to the NHP Gratitude board!

The National Hurricane Program is a team effort and requires engagement across a diverse group of stakeholders. We couldn't accomplish what we do without your time, resources, passion, and dedication.

THANK YOU to all of you!

We wanted to create a forum so everyone can take a moment to recognize the contributions of others!

- Who are you thankful for this year?
- What new initiatives were made possible by the leadership of others?
- How did a colleague help support the mission of the NHP this year?

We encourage you to post a **quick message** and let others know you appreciate their support.

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Set New Goals! The 2023 Lines of Effort

The National Hurricane Program (NHP) has outlined four lines of effort for 2023: Hurricane Evacuation Study Modernization, Training Curriculum Strategy, Enhance Stakeholder Engagement, and Strategic Program Planning. These lines of effort leverage last year's advancements and continue to strengthen program capabilities. Together, the NHP embraces this challenge to be innovative and adaptive in our service of building a more resilient nation.

The **2023 Lines of Effort** document will be released early next year! Look for it in the next edition of the NHP Newsletter.

Hurricane Evacuation Study Modernization

The program will review and improve the current HES methodology and outputs and create a more useful range of products that support our stakeholders in making informed hurricane evacuation and response decisions.

Enhance Stakeholder Engagement

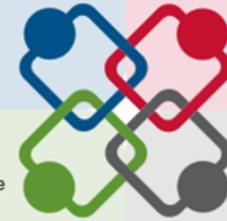
Beyond NHP-specific coordination and events, the NHP has created a strategic communications plan to proactively identify and create opportunities to better understand and support our partners and ensure a unified message and voice throughout program activities.

Training Curriculum Strategy

Through collaborative partner coordination and the development of a training curriculum strategy, the NHP is ensuring that we continue to meet the needs of our stakeholders and support the development of new and improved training capabilities in the emergency management workforce.

Strategic Program Planning

To chart the vision of the future of the NHP, the program will assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, establish baseline program governance, and develop a unified innovative vision of the future that aligns with agency goals.



NHP 2023 Lines of Effort

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Announcing the 2023 ICCOH Annual Meeting

The [National Hurricane Program](#) partners (FEMA, USACE, and National Hurricane Center) will host this year's **2023 Interagency Coordinating Committee on Hurricanes (ICCOH) Annual Meeting** at the **FEMA Region IV Office in Atlanta, Georgia** (3005 Chamblee Tucker Road, Atlanta, GA, 30341) on **March 13-17, 2023**. After three years of virtual meetings, this year's ICCOH Annual Meeting will be held **in person!** Virtual participation will be extremely limited.

The purpose of the ICCOH Annual Meeting is to aid the [National Hurricane Program](#) with programmatic development, stakeholder coordination, and the future direction for the hurricane planning and operational support provided to federal, state, and local emergency managers. [The attached NHP Overview and Contacts Fact Sheet](#) provides an overview of the program and contact information for the NHP team. At this year's ICCOH Annual Meeting, the NHP will share the status of ongoing NHP activities, including storm surge modeling, Hurricane Evacuation Studies, the [HURREVAC decision support tool](#), and training opportunities. In addition, the agenda will share new resources with stakeholders, arming them with the most effective tools to plan for hurricane response and to support operational decision-making during the hurricane season. The program wants the ICCOH Annual Meeting to be an engaging forum that addresses the topics most needed by our stakeholders if **you have ideas for this year's agenda or discussion topics**

send them to NHP@fema.dhs.gov. A detailed agenda will be distributed early in 2023.



Looking forward to seeing you at ICCOH 2023!

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HURREVAC Tip and Trick: Upcoming Interface Update

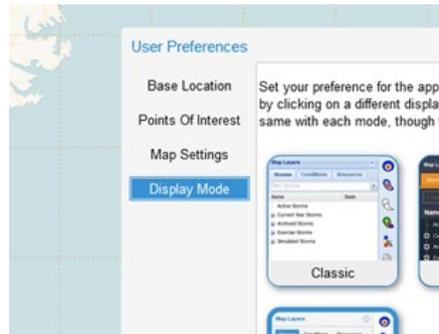
HURREVAC is getting a new look in 2023! This update will feature new interface color options and redesigned tool icons. In mid-January, “Display Modes” will be added to the “User Preferences” window. There, users can choose one of these options to set as a default:

- Light
- Dark
- Blue
- Classic (current HURREVAC interface display)



New HURREVAC interface options!

Click a tile to preview the option. The selected display mode is used whenever HURREVAC is opened. To try out another look, just reopen the "User Preferences" window.



Changes to Display Mode can be made in the User Preferences section

HURREVAC has the same features and functionality in each color theme, but the layout may change slightly in certain parts of the workspace. The display mode does not affect the colors used for the map layers, storm tracks, or other live weather data.

HURREVAC also has dozens of revamped icons to go with the new display modes. This is the second phase of a project to optimize the user interface. The redesign began with the new HURREVAC logo and toolbox icons in 2022. The new look is rolling out for the storm tools, map tools, and utilities bar icons in 2023.



New HURREVAC Icons will also be included!

All tools and layers will work the same way as before. Hold the pointer or mouse over an icon to see its name in a tooltip.

The HURREVAC team is already working on new upgrades and features for the 2023 season. If you have feedback about how you used the program in 2022 – or suggestions for what you would like to see in the future – please reach out to support@hurrevac.com. To register for a HURREVAC account, visit hurrevac.com.

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Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Hurricane Agnes



Flooding in Montgomery County, PA, from Hurricane Agnes.

June 2022 marked the 50th Anniversary of Hurricane Agnes. Not only was Agnes one of the worst tropical events in Mid-Atlantic history, but it was also the costliest tropical cyclone in U.S. history up to that point. A distinction it held for over a decade. FEMA, USACE, NWS, and several other state and non-governmental members of the [Silver Jackets](#) program partnered together to bring the Agnes story back to the forefront. Even though the anniversary has passed, you can still view our collective work, reflect on this historic storm, and consider the lessons learned and best practices from the Agnes response, recovery and mitigation efforts. We guarantee you will find something of interest and learn something you didn't know before! Explore the list of Hurricane Agnes informational materials below:

- FEMA Region 3 and USACE Baltimore and Norfolk Districts released several short videos featuring gripping survivor stories and perspectives from SMEs:
- [Interview of David DeCosmo](#), who was deputized as a Civil Defense Public Information Officer for Wilkes-Barre, PA (ground zero during Agnes).
- [Interview of Deb Kennedy](#), who narrowly escaped the floodwaters near Wilkes-Barre, PA.
 - [Interview of Renita Thornton](#), who evacuated her home in Richmond, VA.
 - [Interview of Robert Linder](#), who was involved in the critical deliberations between USACE and the operators of the Conewango Dam on the Susquehanna River in MD.
 - Overview of mitigation efforts since Agnes, by [USACE](#) and [FEMA](#).

- A [Facebook Live panel](#), hosted by the NWS Middle Atlantic Regional Forecast Office (MARFC), including additional webinars and panels focused on [mitigation](#) and [response](#).
- A [Before, During and After FEMA Podcast episode](#) featuring Mike Bilder (FEMA, Region 3) and Rob Shedd (NWS, MARFC), plus survivor interviews.
 - Mile Bilder interview on [the National Tropical Weather Conference \(NTWC\) Live! Podcast](#).

An [interagency website](#) commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Agnes. The website offers a wealth of information about Agnes, flood preparedness, mitigation efforts, service improvements, and more. The website is the permanent home of the social media videos, recorded webinars, and research done by the various Silver Jackets partners.

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Team Spotlight: Michael Spagnolo



Michael Spagnolo is the new FEMA Liaison to the National Hurricane Center (NHC), serving as the Deputy Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT) Manager. Michael facilitates and coordinates the exchange of information between the NHC and emergency managers in threatened areas. This exchange of information helps emergency managers make informed decisions and assists the NHC in providing decision support during tropical events. Michael also participates in preparedness training and outreach throughout the year. Michael joined FEMA in July 2022.

Before his role with FEMA, Michael was the Deputy State Meteorologist for over five years at the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). At FDEM, he provided meteorological decision support to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) for various incidents, including Hurricanes Irma, Michael, Dorian, and Sally, the 2017 and 2020 wildfire seasons, numerous tornado outbreaks and flooding events, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Surfside building collapse.

Michael received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Meteorology from the Pennsylvania State University in 2016. He has also been an active EMT since 2015 and a firefighter since 2018. During his time at Penn State, he volunteered as an EMT for the Penn State University Ambulance Service. This is where he first spent time in an EOC and was introduced to the important relationship between meteorologists and emergency managers. This has been his passion ever since. While living in Tallahassee, Michael was a volunteer with Chaires-Capitola Fire Rescue, where he also served as the President of their Board of Directors. Michael enjoyed seeing how the decisions made in state and local EOCs trickled down to

the boots on the ground throughout each of the different phases of emergency management.

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Important Upcoming Dates

- L-8324: Hurricane Preparedness for Decision Makers; National Hurricane Center; Miami, Florida
 - January 23-27: Southeast States (*by invite only*)
 - January 30-February 3: Northeast States (*by invite only*)
 - February 6-10: Gulf States (*by invite only*)
- Interagency Coordinating Committee on Hurricanes (ICCOH) Annual Meeting; FEMA Region IV Office; Atlanta, Georgia
 - March 13-17
- [National Hurricane Conference](#); New Orleans, Louisiana
 - April 3-6
- [Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference](#); Palm Beach, Florida
 - May 7-12
- Hurricane Awareness Tour (*locations TBD*)
- Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour; Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands



Mark Your Calendars!

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