

Speaker 1:

Welcome to Prep Talk, the emergency management podcast. Find out what you need to know about preparedness. Get all the latest tips from experts in the field, and learn what to do before the next disaster strikes. From the Emergency Management Department in the city that never sleeps, here are your hosts.

Ines Bebea:

Hello, everyone. Thank you for listening. I'm Ines Bebea.

Allison Pennisi:

And I'm Allison Pennisi, and you are our listeners, and as always, we thank you for joining us. We want you to come back as often as you can, so feel free to listen to Prep Talk on your favorite podcast provider. You can also follow us on social media on our Twitter at nycemergencymgt, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and much more.

Ines Bebea:

On this episode of Prep Talk, we are joined by Matthew Rosencrans, lead hurricane season outlook forecaster with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's climate prediction center, who will share the science behind the outlook for the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season. Matthew, thank you for joining us. You have a wealth of experience in the field of meteorology. What sparked your interest in the field and how did you get started?

Matthew Rosencrans:

So it actually all goes back to a town in upstate New York, Newburg, New York, and the eighth grade earth science laboratory there. We had a meteorology lab there. I thought it was interesting. And then one day, this real charismatic gentleman, named Al Roker, came to give a talk at the junior high school about science and life, and I was like, "I could do this for a whole career." And that's where it all started, just an interest in what's going on up above our heads and turned it into 20 something years later now.

Ines Bebea:

I wonder what Al Roker is doing now.

Matthew Rosencrans:

I saw him the other day. Looks like he's doing pretty good. Stuck with that whole meteorology thing.

Allison Pennisi:

So Matt, you have been working at NOAA for two decades, as you mentioned, and you've seen a variety of severe weather events during that time. So what lessons have you learned and how have those experiences shaped your outlook for the future when it comes to severe weather events?

Matthew Rosencrans:

Yeah, so I've seen a few different things, from the hurricanes and even to doing oil spill response, from the [inaudible 00:02:18] oil spill. It's really let me know that it's about being prepared ahead of the storms and ahead of the events. And then it's also about how the community can come together after.

So prepare before, take action when you are given a request or a directive from a local authority, and then it's a whole of the community and the area effort to put lives and pieces back together as best as you can after a major disaster.

Allison Pennisi:

Thank you for that. Recently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, unveiled the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season outlook, predicting an above normal season. So can you explain to our listeners what this means and why it's important?

Matthew Rosencrans:

Yeah. So we forecast an above normal season, as you said, with 14 to 21 main storms, which is tropical storms or subtropical storms, and six to 10 hurricanes. So that means that during the season, between June 1st and November 30th, we expect to see that many formations happen over the Atlantic. How many of them will come close to the coast, potentially make landfall? That's uncertain right now. We do know that when we predict above normal seasons and we have above normal seasons, the East Coast of the US is twice as likely to have a major landfall from a hurricane, which is devastating to communities, as you know.

What it really means now is to listen to these other Prep Talk episodes about how to prepare before a hurricane event comes, and then look at your life, where you're living, where you could go to evacuate to. How are you going to get information before the storm gets there? NOAA weather radios, your local TV stations, your local radio stations, Facebooks, websites, making sure that they're reputable sources and then acting on that information to keep yourself safe. I always remind people that you can rebuy stuff, but you can't rebuy a life

Allison Pennisi:

Excellent point.

Ines Bebea:

That's a great segue to even just mention our Ready New York program, where we help New Yorkers prepare for all kinds of emergencies. And I'm sure listeners across the country could also take some tips on what to do. So given that, could you share with our listeners how NOAA fits into the disaster cycle as well as how NOAA works with emergency management agencies during these events?

Matthew Rosencrans:

Yeah. So NOAA is involved in the emergency management cycle at the beginning, helping agencies plan mitigation activities, and then even getting through the preparations, and their response and their recovery. So we have scientists that are working in mitigation and adaptation strategies for future climates, where we even interface with the National Institute of Standards and Technology about how to design better buildings, more storm water systems for flooding. Those are things that NOAA is involved in, and our scientists are working with engineers and public officials there.

Then once we get towards an event, forecast, watches, and warnings, [inaudible 00:05:17] the hurricane outlook are great reminders for people to prepare. Now, we also have some offices that work across the country and the world with partners at all scales. We have national centers in the weather service that are working with national partners, all of FEMA, all of USDA. And then we have regional partners. We have an office in New York, and I'm sure the weather forecasters there are sometimes

even embedded with emergency management departments to really help them respond locally to what's going on.

After a storm, the Ocean Service surveys for storms and flood damage, and we'll help remap water navigation pathways. We have satellite and data groups that provide pre and post event information. So really, NOAA's integrated with the emergency management community from before the event right up through the entire recovery phase.

Allison Pennisi:

So Matt, we talked about NOAA's mission, how NOAA works with emergency management agencies throughout the disaster cycle, how to be prepared, but what do you want listeners to know about you?

Matthew Rosencrans:

I really want them to know that I'm part of a whole team at NOAA that is really truly about using science to help people. It's such a core, fundamental belief to so many people at NOAA that we really want to get the best science to save lives and just help the world be a little better place tomorrow than it is today. It's why I do what I do. That's one of my underlying things is just do science to help people, and that's been an underlying philosophy in my brain for my entire career.

Ines Bebea:

So Matt, as the science bug bit you and you've now made a career in this field, what keeps you up at night?

Matthew Rosencrans:

What keeps me up at night, from looking at hurricanes specifically, is the storm that's off the coast that undergoes rapid intensification and goes from a category one to a category four in 24 hours. And Hurricane Michael in Florida, where that's the nightmare scenario in hurricanes, where it rapidly intensified, and we saw it wiped towns off the map and had a lot of devastating and catastrophic consequences to lives, including deaths. So that's what would keep me up at night from my science perspective.

Allison Pennisi:

Speaking with Matthew Rosencrans from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It is rapid response time, and if you are a first time listener, it's simple. Prep Talk will ask questions and our guest will give the first answer that comes to mind. But before rapid response, here is a message from New York City Emergency Management.

Speaker 5:

What do New Yorkers and hurricanes have in common? There are more of them each year. Hurricanes don't wait, and neither should you. Visit nyc.gov/knowyourzone or call 311 to find out how to prepare for hurricanes in New York City. Prepare today. Know your zone.

Speaker 6:

It's time for Prep Talk rapid response.

Allison Pennisi:

This transcript was exported on Jun 28, 2022 - view latest version [here](#).

Okay. We are back with rapid response with Matt Rosencrans from NOAA. First question. What is one emergency item you cannot live without?

Matthew Rosencrans:

Chocolate.

Allison Pennisi:

I think that's a first for Prep Talk, and I will take that answer.

Ines Bebea:

You can never go wrong with chocolate. So getting from that, tell us what is your favorite disaster movie?

Matthew Rosencrans:

I kind of like The Day After Tomorrow.

Allison Pennisi:

I feel like it hits too close to home, so I can't really watch it that much. Last but not least, sum up the work you do in one word.

Matthew Rosencrans:

Service.

Allison Pennisi:

That's great. For our listeners, hurricane season is underway. Make sure you know your risk or know your hurricane evacuation zone. Have a plan and take steps to stay informed. You could check out more information about hurricane preparedness by visiting your local emergency management agency, or you can check out noaa.gov for more information. Stay safe this season. Thanks, Matt.

Matthew Rosencrans:

Good to talk to you.

Speaker 1:

That's this episode of Prep Talk. If you like what you heard, you can listen any time online or through your favorite RSS feed. Until next time, stay safe and prepared.