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Public invited to tour Hurricane Hunter aircraft on April 30

The public will have an opportunity to tour a Hurricane Hunter aircraft during a visit to Sarasota by NOAA hurricane experts from 3-4:30 p.m., Friday, April 30 at the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport. The plane will be at Dolphin Aviation on the west side of the airport at 8191 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

The hurricane team is coming to Sarasota as part of a Gulf Coast Hurricane Awareness Tour about storm threats and the importance of having a personal preparedness hurricane plan. The group will include Bill Read, director of NOAA's National Hurricane Center, hurricane specialists Dan Brown and John Cagialosi, and storm surge specialist Jamie Rhome.

The hurricane season begins June 1. Ed McCrane, Sarasota County Emergency Management Chief, reminds residents to be prepared by knowing their evacuation zone, having a plan and deciding now whether to stay or go when a hurricane approaches.

The NOAA WP-3 Orion turboprop aircraft is used by scientists to study elements of a hurricane by flying through the eye of a storm several times on each flight. The crew collects and transmits data by satellite to the National Hurricane Center so forecasters can analyze and predict the hurricane's path and strength.

Staff from emergency management offices, non-profit organizations such as the American Red Cross, and several local NOAA National Weather Service forecast offices will join the team at each stop.

Information about the NOAA Orion turboprop is available at
http://www.aoc.noaa.gov/aircraft_lockheed.htm

For more information on all hazards preparation, visit the Sarasota County web site at www.scgov.net or contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 861-5000.

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