

News Release

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USGS deploys storm surge monitors in South Florida ahead of Hurricane Ike

Reporters: If you'd like to accompany USGS scientists as they install storm surge sensors? Contact Leroy Pearman at 321-354-5248 or lpearman@usgs.gov.

As Ike heads toward South Florida, the USGS is deploying instruments that will provide a detailed record of how water levels respond throughout South Florida to the storm surge likely to accompany the hurricane. The instruments will record precisely when the storm surge arrived, the maximum water level measured, and how long it took for the water to recede at each of the locations monitored.

“The detailed information is a major improvement to storm surge data collected historically which provided only the maximum level of the surge attained during the storm. The information from these sensors will be used by scientists to improve storm surge models,” said Hydrologist Scott Prinos.

Requests for the data obtained during these special deployments are already being made by scientists working to improve future forecasts, which in turn could save many lives during future storms.

The USGS is also monitoring water levels and flows at thousands of the nation's streams on a real-time basis and is used by the National Weather Service to help forecast flooding.

<http://www.weather.gov/ahps/>

The public can access real time data information for their area at:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/rt>.

For information about USGS science and hurricane Ike:

<http://www.usgs.gov/ike>

For more information on how these devices have been used in previous hurricanes see:

<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=1564>

<http://soundwaves.usgs.gov/2006/02/>

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