



**Florida International University's International Hurricane Research Center,
Florida Division of Emergency Management and the
Museum of Discovery and Science Announce *Eye of the Storm* Event**

*FREE for the community, the annual event storms into MODS
on May 15 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., May 3, 2021 – How will YOU weather the upcoming storm season? With hurricane season around the corner, the International Hurricane Research Center (IHRC) at Florida International University (FIU), Broward County Emergency Management Division, the City of Fort Lauderdale Domestic Preparedness and Emergency Management Bureau and the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS), are partnering to host *Eye of the Storm 2021* event at MODS on Saturday, May 15 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. This **FREE** Museum admission day is sponsored by the FIU International Hurricane Research Center and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM).

“MODS serves as a community resource to help people in hurricane-prone regions understand the science behind the storm and how to prepare,” said Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO at MODS. “We are forecasting the *Eye of the Storm 2021* to be the best one yet with family-friendly and highly interactive components. Admission to the Museum and event are FREE, allowing the community to receive the most up-to-date science and information to help keep their families safe and protected during the upcoming storm season.”

“We are extremely excited to partner with FDEM and MODS once again to showcase hurricane science, mitigation and preparedness, the most up-to-date storm-tracking technology and the latest research to attendees,” said Erik Salna, associate director for education and outreach at FIU’s Extreme Events Institute and International Hurricane Research Center and host of *Eye of the Storm*. “*Eye of the Storm 2021* helps connect South Florida residents with hurricane experts, local emergency management, community relief agency and interactive science.”

The *Eye of the Storm* experience at MODS includes:

- Exciting presentations and interactive demos by hurricane experts.

- International Hurricane Protection Association Air Cannon Missile Demonstrations
- FIU NSF-NHERI Wall of Wind Exhibit
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- MODS Weather Science Demonstrations
- Kids Zone:
 - Weather Safety
 - Weather Art & Crafts
 - Storytime
 - Mascots
- Emergency vehicle “Touch a Truck” and meet & greet with South Florida first responders:
 - Emergency Responders
 - Canine Units
- Test your building skills at MODS’ wind tunnel construction zone, explore weather related engineering challenges in *The Hangar* Makerspace and make-and-take your own barometer.

Admission to MODS during the *Eye of the Storm* event is **FREE** thanks to the generous sponsors of FIU-IHRC and FDEM. Tickets can be reserved by visiting mods.org/2021eyeofthestorm or by visiting the Museum box office upon arrival. Masks are mandatory for all guests over the age of 2, including those who have received a COVID-19 vaccine and are required to follow our [Healthy Choices Make Healthy Scientists](#) protocols to ensure a safe experience.

Hurricane season officially begins on June 1 and runs through November 30, peaking in late August through October.

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ABOUT FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (FDEM):

The Florida Division of Emergency Management plans for and responds to both natural and man-made disasters. These range from floods and hurricanes to incidents involving hazardous materials or nuclear power. The division prepares and implements a statewide Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, and routinely conducts extensive exercises to test state and county emergency response capabilities. The division is the state's liaison with federal and local agencies on emergencies of all kinds. Division staff members provide technical assistance to local governments as they prepare emergency plans and procedures. They also conduct emergency operations training for state and local governmental agencies. For more information, please visit floridadisaster.org.

ABOUT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU) INTERNATIONAL HURRICANE RESEARCH CENTER (IHRC):

The IHRC is a multi-disciplinary research and education organization within the FIU Extreme Events Institute at Florida International University in Miami. As a NOAA Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador, the IHRC is focused on a single mission: to reduce hurricane damage and loss of life through more effective mitigation. The IHRC conducts both basic and applied research. The IHRC's current studies involve such areas as: household mitigation and evacuation; storm hazard and vulnerability mapping, economic loss modeling and wind engineering and the NSF-NHERI Wall of Wind. The IHRC also collaborates actively with the NOAA National Hurricane Center (NHC), co-located on the FIU main campus. For more information, please visit ihrc.fiu.edu.

ABOUT BROWARD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION:

The Broward County Emergency Management Division develops and implements comprehensive emergency planning response, mitigation and recovery activities in order to save lives and protect property in emergencies. Technical assistance is available to develop and maintain emergency plans for all types of hazards. Free training and presentations are available to the public on request. For more information, visit Broward.org/Emergency, follow on Twitter [@ReadyBroward](https://twitter.com/ReadyBroward) and Facebook.com/BrowardEMD or call 954.831.3900.

ABOUT CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BUREAU:

The City of Fort Lauderdale Domestic Preparedness and Emergency Management Bureau is responsible for developing, organizing and facilitating classroom training and disaster preparedness exercises for the City of Fort Lauderdale. The City of Fort Lauderdale Domestic Preparedness and Emergency Management Bureau encourages and promotes our neighbors to be well trained and prepared. For more information on how to assist in making your community safer, stronger and better prepared please contact FTL.EM@fortlauderdale.gov, follow on Facebook.com/City of Fort Lauderdale CERT or call 954.828.6700.

ABOUT MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE:

Founded in 1976 as the Discovery Center, today MODS is at the forefront of science education, innovation and exploration. In addition to daily hours, MODS is currently offering virtual and offsite programming, which allows us to continue connecting people around the globe to inspiring science - whether at home or in virtual classrooms. The Museum showcases more than 300 interactive exhibits, immersive films, experiential programs and an aviation-themed Makerspace. MODS currently offers virtual and offsite programs including boredom-busting experiences for children, families and adults - whether at home or in virtual classrooms. Families can enjoy super science shows and demonstrations, wild Creature Feature animal encounters, awesome avatar tours and private experiences, mind-blowing Makerspace labs, cool camps,

unforgettable birthday parties, engaging field trips and STEM curricula, professional development workshops for educators, distinguished speakers, and more.

The Museum celebrates diversity and welcomes visitors from all walks of life. The Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Starting Memorial Day 2021, MODS will be open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. MODS is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, please visit mods.org or call 954.467.MODS (6637).

Like us or follow us on Social Media:

Facebook: facebook.com/modsftl

Twitter: twitter.com/modsftl

Instagram: instagram.com/modsftl

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