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MEDIA NOTE: Release is corrected to provide the right link to the All Hazards website.

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Tropical Storm Bonnie shows need for hurricane preparation

The development of Tropical Storm Bonnie signals the arrival of the peak of the 2010 hurricane season and also serves as a reminder of the importance of being prepared for a storm.

Sarasota County Emergency Management officials have monitored the progress of Tropical Storm Bonnie all week and participated in conference calls with the state Emergency Operations Center and the National Hurricane Center.

Although Tropical Storm Bonnie does not pose a significant threat to Sarasota County, it shows how quickly storms can form and threaten Florida's coastline, according to Sarasota County Emergency Management Chief Ed McCrane. He advises residents to take precautions for hazardous weather and ensure their disaster supply kits are complete.

"Residents need to use Tropical Storm Bonnie as a reminder to finalize their personal and family disaster plans and get their disaster kits ready," McCrane said. "As we approach the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season, we will monitor the tropical activity and provide early warnings, but citizens need to do their part and be prepared. "

McCrane advises residents and visitors to monitor local media stations for updates on the storm. Information can be found at <http://www.scgov.net/EmergencyServices/allhazards.asp> on Sarasota County's All Hazards website.

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