

# NEWS TIP

Media Contact: For help contacting the experts listed below, contact NC State News Services at 919/515-3470 or [newstips@ncsu.edu](mailto:newstips@ncsu.edu).

Aug. 29, 2005

## NC State Experts Can Discuss Hurricane, Disaster Issues

Media looking for information on a variety of hurricane topics can contact the following North Carolina State University experts:

### Physics of Hurricanes

NC State meteorologist and State Climatologist **Dr. Sethu Raman** has studied hurricanes for more than 20 years, and can discuss the structure of hurricanes, the paths they take and their interaction with the environment. Raman is compiling a history of storms in North Carolina, their tracking and rainfall distribution. He can be reached at 919/515-1440 or 515-3056.

### Storm Surge and Flood Prediction

Coastal meteorologists and oceanographers **Drs. Leonard Pietrafesa and Lian Xie** (pronounced **Leon Zhay**) can discuss their research on hurricane formation. Specifically, they can talk about hurricane climatology and seasonal prediction; storm surge and coastal flooding forecasting; and ocean-hurricane interaction.

Xie is at 919/515-1435; Pietrafesa can be reached at 919/515-7777.

### Hurricane Formation and Function

Meteorologist **Dr. Al Riordan** can discuss the ways hurricanes form and function. Riordan's number is 919/515-7973.

### Hurricane Numbers and Conditions

Associate State Climatologist **Ryan Boyles** is a weather and climate specialist who can explain why there have been so many hurricanes this year and discuss the conditions necessary to spawn them. He can be reached at 919/513-2816.

### Evacuation Planning

Civil engineer **Dr. Billy Williams** can talk about his research on detailed analyses and modeling of traffic operations during evacuation situations, including lane-reversal plans. He can be reached at 919/515-7813.

### Agricultural Effects

Crop scientist **Dr. Jim Dunphy** can discuss the effects high winds, heavy rainfall and prolonged flooding have on crops. He can be reached at 919/515-5813.

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**Water Quality**

Dr. Greg Jennings is an expert in water quality. Jennings can discuss a hurricane's effects on drinking water quality and on pollution from farms and urban runoff. He can be reached at 919/515-6771 or 919/218-0137.

**Effects on Children and Parents**

Dr. Karen DeBord can discuss the effects of disasters, like hurricanes, on children and parents, and how to help parents assist their children in preparing for and recovering from a disaster. She can be reached at 919/515-9147.

**Home Cleanup and Restoration**

Dr. Sarah Kirby can talk about a variety of topics on storm damage to homes, including furniture cleaning, minor structural repairs, and moisture on wood or wood products. She can be reached at 919/515-9154.

**Food Safety**

Dr. Angela Fraser can discuss home food preservation and other food safety issues. She can be reached at 919/515-9150.

**On the Web**

A State Climate Office Web site with real-time access to weather information collected from nearly 250 stations around the state and bordering regions can be accessed at *www.nc-climate.ncsu.edu/cronos*.

A list of N.C. Cooperative Extension personnel with expertise in disaster-related issues can be accessed at *www.cals.ncsu.edu:8050/agcomm/writing/disaster/*.