

BILL READ

DIRECTOR

NOAA NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

Bill Read has been the Director of the National Hurricane Center since January, 2008. In this capacity, he is responsible for the operational tropical weather forecasts for the Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Eastern Pacific Ocean. Additionally, he leads the national effort on hurricane awareness. Significant hurricanes since taking the position include Gustav, Ike and Paloma in 2008 and Jimena in the Eastern Pacific in 2009.

Bill was the Meteorologist in Charge of the Houston-Galveston Area National Weather Service WFO from 1992 to 2007. In this capacity, he led the office through technology modernization and the added responsibilities associated with restructuring of the field operations of the NWS. In 2005, he led the office through a first in the nation relocation to a hurricane resistant facility collocated with Galveston County Emergency Management. Significant weather events during his tenure included the November 1992 tornado outbreak, the October 1994 floods, Tropical Storm Frances, the October 1998 floods, the September 2000 heat wave, unprecedented urban flood caused by Tropical Storm Allison, Hurricane Claudette, and Hurricane Rita. Bill served with the FEMA/NWS Hurricane Liaison Team, augmenting the staff at the National Hurricane Center for Hurricanes Isabel (2003), Charley (2004), and Katrina (2005).



He came to the Houston-Galveston office from National Weather Service headquarters where he was program leader for the severe thunderstorm and flash flood programs. Bill's background in the NWS includes six years as a forecaster in Fort Worth, and six years as a forecaster in San Antonio. He started his NWS career in 1977 with the Test and Evaluation Division in Sterling, Va.

Bill spent more than four years on active duty as an officer in the U. S. Navy where he had a variety of unique assignments, including serving with the Navy Hurricane Hunters in 1972-1973.

Bill earned both a bachelor's (1971) and master's degree (1976) in meteorology from Texas A&M University. He was president of the National Weather Association in 2003, and president of the Houston chapter of the American Meteorological Society in 2006. His most significant awards include the Special Award for Public Education from the National Hurricane Conference, 2004, and Member of the Year Award from the National Weather Association, 1996.



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