

After a winter and spring of howling blizzards, monster Northeasters, widespread flooding, beach erosion, and record heat, the question is: What's happened to our "normal" weather pattern?

Two of the nation's foremost meteorologists, Dr. Steve Lyons of the Weather Channel, and Bill Read, Director of the National Hurricane Center, will give their perspective at the upcoming New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Association's annual conference in Atlantic City.

The forecasters are the keynote presenters on Thursday, May 6, at 10:30 a.m. in the showroom of the Tropicana Resort Hotel and Casino where more than 1,000 first responders from New Jersey and surrounding states are gathering for a full week of intensive training courses and seminars designed to prepare them for all sorts of natural and man-made disasters.

In its 11th year, the conference gives the opportunity for those who protect the public to train together, share experiences, and view displays of the latest equipment and supplies they need to perform their duties.

Specialized courses, most of which offer continuing education credits, begin Monday, May 3, followed by seminars on a number of topics Wednesday and Thursday.

The Friday session features a special presentation by Sprint on rapid deployment of communications links during a major disaster.

A complete listing of events, and instructions on how to register for the conference, are on the web at njepa.org which provides a full overview of activities for the week.

EDITORS: Media coverage of conference events is welcome, especially at the keynote presentation. If you need assistance, contact the publicity co-chairs, Glenn Nickerson, at (856) 297- 4623 or David Burgin, at (609) 670 – 8969.