

CABLE in the CLASSROOM

The Cable Industry's Education Foundation

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news

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Florida Schools Learn Hurricane Safety from The Weather Channel

In Florida, students are all too familiar with extreme weather. High temperatures, strong storms, and overbearing humidity are the norm. But when weather turns dangerous, are kids really prepared? Recently, The Weather Channel teamed up with the American Red Cross, AT&T Broadband, and Adelphia Cable to promote hurricane safety awareness among young people in Florida through a special Project SafeSide curriculum program featuring a mock emergency.

Project SafeSide teaches students about severe weather phenomena such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes, and helps them understand how to prepare for and cope with potential disasters. After the curriculum is covered in class, students plan for the mock emergency by forming their own county government, electing a mayor, an emergency manager, fire and police chiefs, and public-information officers. Once the government is in place, the students participate in simulations, working together to solve serious disaster-related problems.

Students from schools in Miami, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and the Florida Keys reenacted their classroom disaster simulations at local county emergency operations centers. "I didn't know exactly how the county



Brian Hanley, a special project coordinator for the Palm Beach County Emergency Management Center, explains the importance of being prepared for a hurricane during Boca Raton High School's mock government disaster simulation.

responded to emergencies such as hurricanes until now," says Samantha King, a student at Marathon Middle School in the Florida Keys. "Solving these problems was a great experience."

For more information about Project SafeSide, go to <http://www.weather.com/safeside>.