



**NOAA - National Weather Service**

**Tampa Bay Area**

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## **NWS Supports Emergency Management for Gasparilla Events**

On Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, the National Weather Service Tampa Bay was part of the Unified Command Teams providing emergency response services for the 2012 Gasparilla Children's Parade and the 2012 Gasparilla Parade of the Pirates. For high profile events such as Gasparilla, Super Bowl, Republican National Convention, etc., the NWS is typically called upon to provide high resolution, site-specific forecasts for emergency responders. NWS Tampa is often joined by representatives from emergency management, police, fire department, public works, and various other agencies to make up the Unified Command. The Tampa Emergency Operations Center was partially activated for the 2012 Gasparilla Children's Parade, which had over 100,000 in attendance. Emergency Response Meteorologists Todd Barron and Rick Davis provided and briefed the Unified Command on the forecast for the parade route through the Downtown Tampa area. A full activation of the Tampa Emergency Operations Center was in effect for 2012 Gasparilla Parade of the Pirates, which drew a crowd of over 250,000 people. Emergency Response Meteorologist Mike Gittinger and Forecaster Jen Colson were part of the Unified Command Team for this event, providing briefings and forecasts for the parade route through downtown Tampa as well as marine forecasts for upper Tampa Bay as the Pirate Invasion brought nearly a thousand boats into the area. While the weather was fairly tranquil for both events, updated and accurate weather information was necessary as a few incidents and nearby fires occurred. Below are a few pictures from the Unified Command of both events, as well as a few pictures from the Parade of Pirates.



Todd Barron studies model data



Mike Gittinger and Jen Colson update the Situation Report



Courtesy of WFLA, the Pirate Invasion through upper Tampa Bay



Courtesy of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, along Bayshore Blvd.

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