

Jeannie Floyd

From: Jeannie Floyd
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 8:29 AM
To: julie.roberts@noaa.gov
Subject: Inaccurate Forecasts

As a 67-year-old citizen of Florida who has family in the Panhandle and is a native of Orlando, I have often looked to NOAA for information about active hurricanes. I heard President Trump on the news when he first said Alabama was in the path of Hurricane Dorian. Shocked, as it wasn't reflected in the news, I looked to your website to see if I had missed something. Alabama was nowhere in the NOAA forecast cone at that time. It was clear to me then that the leader of our country had not done his homework and was not up-to-date on the facts about Hurricane Dorian.

In response to news coverage, President Trump then began a media and Twitter blitz to try to cover up his mistake and apparently drew NOAA into his propaganda plan. Recently, the NOAA memo backed up his fabrication, likely under pressure from him.

I am shocked that NOAA's leadership would support an untruth. This is a major disappointment. However, I do not believe for one second that NOAA scientists supported this communication. Who did?

As I personally witnessed on your website, Alabama was nowhere in the NOAA forecast cone for Hurricane Dorian at the time the president said it was.

Anyone can make a mistake. As a Journalism/PR major at University of Florida, I learned that the best public relations is the truth, with mistakes addressed immediately.(Prime examples: Communication on the Exxon-Mobil oil spill was mishandled years ago with cover up communication...and now this!) Unfortunately, President Trump lacks the character to acknowledge his own mistakes. Had he just addressed this honestly and quickly, Alabama citizens would not have been falsely frightened by a misleading alert, NOAA would not have been directed to relay false information, the media would not have to continuously report on this Trump blunder and the president would stop tripping over himself.

The majority of the people of Florida and Alabama carefully track active hurricanes. Most know the current president is covering up his mistake, only making him look immature and foolish. We've come to expect that of him. I hope voters factor this into their decision-making come the election of 2020. We need a gentleman and scholar in the White House, not a spoiled child.

Unfortunately, Trump takes others down with him. This was a major communications mistake for NOAA that will be recorded in the history books. NOAA will be here long after Trump's presidency, but will now be forever associated with his mistruth. NOAA leaders need to consider the organization's credibility and only communicate the facts. A good president would want that, along with transparency.

I highly recommend that those who generated this misleading information from NOAA return to navigation with a moral and ethical compass. Our lives and our democracy depend on it.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Floyd

Concerned Citizen of the City Beautiful in Florida

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Sent from my iPad