HURRICANE FORECASTING

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When a hurricane threatens, emergency managers and city officials have to make some very difficult decisions regarding possible shut downs or evacuations. Making an informed decision requires a good understanding of the hurricane forecast process and, more importantly, typical forecast error. In this presentation, the various parts of the forecast process will be discussed, from how the center of a hurricane is located to the use of computer models to assist the forecaster. This will lead into a discussion of typical track forecast error and the importance of considering hurricane size in the equation.