Jack Beven, Ph.D.
Senior Hurricane Specialist
National Hurricane Center

Jack Beven, Ph.D., is a senior hurricane specialist at NOAA's National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami.

Dr. Beven received his Bachelor's Degree in Physics from Louisiana State University (1984), and his Master's Degree and Doctorate in Meteorology from Florida State University (1988, 1994).

Dr. Beven began his career with NHC in 1988 as a student intern. He participated in the Tropical Cyclone Motion-90 experiment in 1990, studying typhoons in the western Pacific Ocean, and took part in the TRACEA atmospheric chemistry experiment in 1992. He advanced to a full-time position at NHC in 1993 as a map analyst, and was promoted to a marine and aviation forecaster in 1994. He became a hurricane specialist in 1999. The position involves the issuance of track, intensity, and wind radii forecasts as well as associated watches and warnings for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and eastern North Pacific oceans. It also includes writing Tropical Cyclone Reports on these cyclones after they are done. He has been the lead author on hurricane season summary articles published in the Monthly Weather Review, Weatherwise, and the Mariners Weather Log.

For many years, Dr. Beven has been the primary NHC trainer of the Dvorak technique for estimating the intensity of tropical cyclones from satellite imagery, training the analysts at the NHC as well as many members of the international community. He has also participated in many national and international workshops on weather satellites and the use of satellite data in analyzing tropical cyclones, including the NOAA Satellite Conference and the International Workshop on the Analysis of Tropical Cyclones. He also was part of a decade-long proving ground program to prepare the NHC for the new generation of GOES weather satellites first launched in 2016.

Dr. Beven is an instructor at the Tropical Prediction Center workshops for U.S. emergency managers and worldwide meteorologists covering many aspects of operational tropical cyclone forecasting. He is the current chairman of the supervisory committee for the hurricane tracks reanalysis project, which involves overseeing changes to the NHC Hurricane Best Tracks Database (HURDAT). As part of this, he has participated in conferences on worldwide tropical cyclone best tracks. He has done operationally-oriented research on subtropical, extratropical, and hybrid cyclones, handling them from a forecaster's standpoint.

Dr. Beven was a participant in two of the International Workshops on Extratropical Transition. Dr. Beven received the first ever State of Florida Emergency Management Preparedness Program of the Year Award in 2009. The award recognizes a preparedness program that has developed a structure in preparing for disasters. He is a presenter and participant in several meteorological meetings, including American Meteorological Society Conferences on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology, NOAA Hurricane Conferences, Interdepartmental Hurricane Conferences, and the International Workshop on Tropical Cyclones. He has also participated in emergency management conferences including the National Hurricane Conference and the Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference.

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