

THE CAPTIONING GROUP PROVIDES 24-HOUR EMERGENCY CAPTIONING

PRESS RELEASE (Central Florida, Friday, June 16, 2006) - - Deaf and hard of hearing Central Floridians received crucial, up-to-the-minute news provided by The Captioning Group Inc. about Tropical Storm Alberto, the first storm of the 2006 hurricane season. The Captioning Group is privileged to put its fifteen-plus years of experience to work and to provide viewers with the highest quality and most accurate closed-captioning services during emergency situations like this.

The tropical depression that produced Alberto formed Saturday, June 10th, nine days after the official start of the hurricane season. Top wind gusts hit 60 mph by early Tuesday, forcing officials to issue evacuation orders for about 21,000 people in at least five coastal counties stretching for more than 100 miles. Under such circumstances, the need for accurate and reliable closed captioning is vital. The Captioning Group provided wall-to-wall coverage for local television stations in both Orlando and St. Petersburg for a period spanning two harrowing days for coastal residents until the storm was no longer a threat.

With only hours of notice, The Captioning Group sprung into action, providing real-time captioning for important and ongoing emergency coverage. The amount of preparation to caption such a live emergency is immense, the research and scheduling becoming an increasing pressure, and time in short supply.

Emergency information is extremely important to viewers living in coastal communities vulnerable to storms at this time of year. Scientists say the 2006 season could produce as many as 16 named storms, six of them major hurricanes. Last year's hurricane season was the most destructive on record and the busiest in 154 years of storm tracking. With a record of 28 named storms and a record of 15 hurricanes, meteorologists used up their list of 21 proper names (beginning with Arlene and ending with Wilma), and had to use the Greek alphabet to name storms for the first time. This year, however, meteorologists have said the Atlantic is not as warm as it was at this time in 2005, meaning potential storms would have less of the energy needed to develop into hurricanes. Yet, because the possibility of a big storm like Hurricane Katrina always exists, emergency information is so very important. For many, closed captioning of emergency information can literally be life saving!



Effective January 1st, 2006, FCC regulations state that most television stations in the top 25 television markets must close caption their emergency information and breaking news reports. Emergency information is information that is intended to further the protection of life, health, safety, or property. Television stations that fail to provide close captioning for emergency information are subject to stiff fines from the FCC.

The Captioning Group is honored to be able to provide emergency captioning services to Floridian viewers in these times of need!

For further information contact, Tammy Stretch, President
1-800-717-7907
tstretch@captioning.com

