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Kennedy Space Center Hurricane Preparations

8/1/95 1 p.m.

Hurricane preparations are underway at the Kennedy Space Center anticipating that KSC will go to "Condition 1" (full alert) some time this evening. The direct effect of Hurricane Erin at KSC may be felt about midnight tonight. The storm is currently expected to make landfall between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. on Wednesday morning near Vero Beach. It is forecast to exit the state into the Gulf of Mexico near Crystal River. Wind at KSC is forecast to be of tropical storm strength with steady state winds of 55 knots (63 mph) with gusts to 65 knots (75 mph). The storm surge will occur at low tide around day break and is expected to be three to five feet above normal. Approximately 5-8 inches of rain is expected at KSC over a 36 hour period. Some local flooding is expected.

A Hurricane Warning extends from south Florida northward to New Smyrna Beach. On Wednesday, heavy rain is forecast with winds 25-35 knots (29 mph - 40 mph), gradually diminishing Wednesday evening. It is anticipated that the KSC Hurricane Control Center will be activated tonight beginning at midnight.

Rollback of Space Shuttle Endeavour began at 12:45 p.m. and it is expected to be in the Vehicle Assembly Building about 6 p.m. It will ride out the storm in high bay one and will be returned to Pad A as soon as the storm effects have passed. The other orbiters will remain in the Orbiter Processing Facility, Discovery in OPF Bay 1, Atlantis in OPF Bay 2, and Columbia in OPF Bay 3.

The Orbiter Processing Facility is designed to withstand winds of 105 mph, the VAB and the launch pads 125 mph, and the payload facilities 110 mph.

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