

Video of Live Hurricane Simulator Demonstration Added to AAMA Web Site

SCHAUMBURG, Ill. – The American Architectural Manufacturers Association (AAMA) has added live video showing the real-world effects of hurricane force winds and wind-driven rain to its Web site. The free download is available at <http://www.aamanet.org/news.asp?sect=1&id=38&newsid=168> <<http://www.aamanet.org/news.asp?sect=1&id=38&newsid=168>> .

As the fenestration industry's source of performance standards, product certification, and educational programs, AAMA called on the University of Florida to demonstrate the world's largest portable hurricane wind and rain simulator at the association's National Fall Conference in October.

The simulator -- calibrated to recreate actual recorded wind-driven rain scenarios -- provides a realistic evaluation of building products and test methods intended for hurricane-prone regions. The apparatus is mounted on a trailer and composed of eight 5-foot-high industrial fans powered by four marine engines that collectively produce 2,800 horsepower. Architectural Testing, Inc., provided the building mock-ups for the demo, which the simulator blasted with winds of up to 130 mph -- Category 3 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale -- and high-pressure water jets that mimic torrential wind-driven rain of up to 35-inches/hour.

Although most residential and light commercial properties that are built in compliance with current codes will physically withstand hurricane winds, water intrusion through windows, doors and walls remains an issue. When rain penetrates these exterior building products and their assemblies, it often causes significant interior damage, occupant displacement, business interruption, and extensive restoration expenses.

"The information gathered will help us ensure performance of the windows, doors and wall assemblies under real-world hurricane conditions, and ultimately, protect more people and properties from costly damages," said Rich Walker, AAMA's president and CEO.

"When this program first started, we brought the lab to the hurricane. Now, we're bringing the hurricane back to the lab," added Dr. Forrest Masters, assistant professor of civil and coastal engineering at the University of Florida.

To download the video or for more information on AAMA's activities, please visit www.aamanet.org <<http://www.aamanet.org>> .

AAMA is the source of performance standards, product certification, and educational programs for the fenestration industry. (SM)

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