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## Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

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Joe Simpson and his family – from left, Joe III, Troi, and wife Tange – enjoy a sunny day touring Cancun prior to the intrusion of Hurricane Emily, at right, which provided a scary end to the Simpsons' Cancun vacation earlier this month.



## Hurricane Emily Intrudes on Joe Simpson's Family Vacation

• Metro's webmaster stranded when storm hits Cancun

By PERRY WILLIAMS

(July 29, 2005) Enjoying an annual family vacation on warm, palm-fringed beaches, Metro Webmaster Joe Simpson found himself caught in the middle of Hurricane Emily when it hit Cancun, Mexico.

Simpson along with his wife, Tange, his son Joe III, 7, and daughter Troi, 5, were in for an unexpected event not mentioned in their tourist package.

"We were near the end of our trip and scheduled to be out of Cancun by Monday, but the hurricane came early on Sunday," he says.

Packing winds up to 135 mph, for five straight hours Emily ripped roofs off resort hotels along the popular Cancun shoreline.

"A lot of people in the city were tourists who had never experienced a

live hurricane, so they decided to stand out near the water and take pictures," says Simpson.

### **Remained secure**

He and his family chose to remain inside their room where they were secure from the hurricane.

"Our resort was right on the water so we stayed inside because we knew it was pretty serious," he says. "The room had a protective door the staff slid across the glass door so it wouldn't pop out – making us feel pretty safe."

As a result of the storm, power went out all across areas of Mexico leaving those in the hurricane no way to receive updates. Suprisingly, Simpson says, the power didn't go out, but satellite TV reception did when the storm hit and had not returned by the time the family left Cancun.

"We were fortunate, or unfortunate, however you look at it, that our TV was out because we couldn't see CNN," he says. "We really didn't know how serious it was. Being there inside of the room all we had was each other."

Airports closed, so anyone who was not in the air by 2 p.m. was stranded in Cancun until the hurricane passed.

### **'Prepared for a quick exit'**

Simpson compares the sound of hurricane winds to a non-stop train running through your living room. "As the storm intensified, our kids slept, but my wife and I prepared for a quick exit, if necessary, by having our bags packed and shoes at the door. Neither of us could sleep -- partially due to the heat -- and took turns checking the sliding glass door."

The aftermath of Hurricane Emily left trees uprooted, roads closed, and no cars moving. The roads eventually opened, leaving tourists fighting to get on a single daily flight.

Despite his hurricane experience, Simpson says his family will vacation in Cancun again. "I feel very fortunate that the hotel was prepared. When I returned home, I looked on the news and saw that some resorts were blown down, but our hotel was definitely prepared."

Grateful to be alive, Joe Simpson remains in good spirits when talking about the difference between watching a hurricane and being in one. "All I can say to someone, if they find themselves in the middle of a hurricane, is that it's an experience but please don't run out and attempt to capture the moment on film."