




The National Weather Service
What we can do for you


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Building a Weather-Ready Nation



- Weather-Ready Nation and Ambassadors
- IDSS Briefings
- Impact Based Warnings
- Websites
- NWSChat
- Exercises/WRECKIT


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The National Weather Service Vision:
A Weather –Ready Nation

One that is:

- *Ready*
- *Responsive*
- *Resilient*



Weather-Ready Nation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

 **Increasing Vulnerability** 

Becoming a **Weather-Ready Nation** is about building community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather.



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 **Building a Weather-Ready Nation:** 

- ✓ Integrate social and physical sciences
- ✓ Delivery of warnings - focus on the "last mile"
- ✓ Assess and update warning dissemination strategy
- ✓ Improve outreach and education




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WEATHERREADY NATION


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 **Decision Support Services(DSS)** 

The NWS is focused on providing **Impact-based Decision Support Services(IDSS)** to core partners



Outcome: Communities are better prepared and more resilient

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Decision Support Services

To help get the right people

To do the right things

At the right time

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NWS Decision Support Services

- **“Heads up” Situational Awareness PDF briefings**
 - Leading up to an event
 - Planning purposes
 - Issuance criteria varies across the state due to partner/customer needs
 - Provides more detail than standard forecasts
- **Event-driven Conference Calls/Webinars**
 - Conference Calls / Webinars
 - Bigger, Greater Impact events
- **Weekly PDF Briefings(BUF) and YouTube Videos(BGM)**
 - Increase “Big Picture” Situational Awareness

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NWS Decision Support Services
Weather Emergency Deployments (On-site)

Remote DSS Support


- Local, County, State Emergency Managers
- Local Public Works/Highways
- State DOT/ NY Thruway
- School Districts
- Public Utilities

Map locations: VT State EOC, NY State EOC, Broome County, Erie County, NYC EM (Suffolk County, Nassau County), FEMA I EOC (Maynard, MA), FEMA II EOC.

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Building Relationships

- **Credibility** between organizations.
- **Exercises:** a great way to achieve this before the next disaster hits!!!!



*Craig Fugate
Administrator of Federal Emergency
Management Agency*

"I need to listen to someone who is credible."

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Impact Based Warnings / "Tags"

- **GOAL:**
 - Better communicate risk
- **WHY:**
 - The first instinct upon receipt of a warning is to respond based upon a past experience with a similar message
 - Assessing our past warning history, we generally provide adequate warning for storms, but often don't describe just how bad it will be
 - We're trying to "ring the bell" a little louder
- **APPLIES TO:**
 - Tornado Warnings
 - Severe Thunderstorm Warnings
 - Special Marine Warnings

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Tornado Warnings: Tornado Tag

TORNADO...RADAR INDICATED	Evidence on radar and near storm environment is supportive of a tornado. A tornado may be developing or ongoing, but no confirmation has been received.
TORNADO...OBSERVED	Tornado is confirmed by spotters, law enforcement, etc.

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Tornado Warnings: Tornado Damage Tag

No Tag	Use most of the time, when tornado damage possible within the warning polygon. Tornado duration generally expected to be short-lived.
TORNADO DAMAGE THREAT...CONSIDERABLE	There is credible evidence that a tornado, capable of producing considerable damage, is imminent or ongoing. Use rarely when there is radar or other observational evidence that a tornado, capable of producing considerable damage of EF2 or greater is imminent or ongoing. Tornado duration generally expected to be long lived.
TORNADO DAMAGE THREAT...CATASTROPHIC	A severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage from a tornado is occurring, and will only be used when reliable sources confirm a violent tornado. Use exceedingly rarely. Only when there is DIRECT observational evidence that an EF4-5 is striking or about to strike a population footprint. Tornado duration generally expected to be long lived. False alarm rate should be zero.

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning:
Tornado Tag**



TORNADO...POSSIBLE	A severe thunderstorms has some potential for producing a brief tornado although forecaster confidence is not high enough to issue a Tornado Warning.
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**Special Marine Warnings:
Waterspout Tag**


WATERSPOUT...OBSERVED	Waterspout is confirmed by spotters, mariners, Coast Guard, etc.
WATERSPOUT...POSSIBLE	Evidence on radar and near storm environment is supportive of a waterspout. A waterspout may be developing or ongoing, but no confirmation has been received.



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National Weather Service and NOAA Websites


Up to the Minute Information
anytime you need it!!



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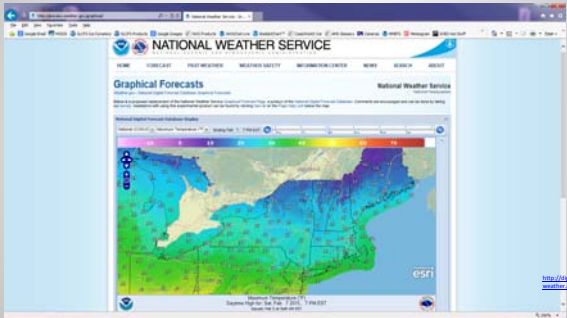
www.weather.gov/bgm www.weather.gov/buf




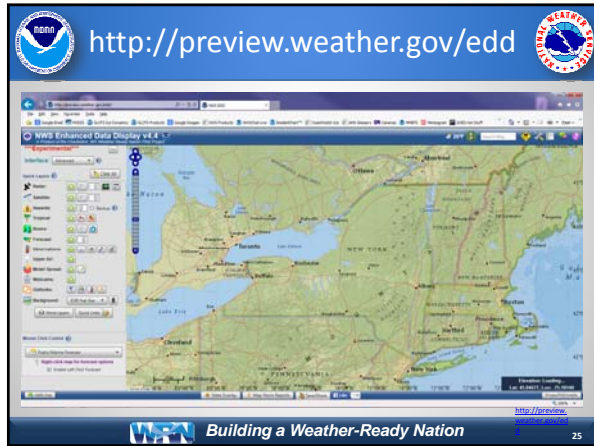
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<http://digital.weather.gov>




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NWS Chat

- NWSChat: Instant Messaging program for sharing critical weather information with the media and emergency response community
- NWS partners can use NWSChat as a way to seek *clarification* of the NWS communication stream.
- Emergency manager only chat rooms available.



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Western Region Emergency Communications, Knowledge and Information Tests




WINTER STORM WARNING



WRECK IT 2015

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 **Exercise Objectives** 



- Evaluate the ability of regional partners to gain and maintain situational awareness
- Evaluate regional partners' ability to activate an EOC in anticipation of a major weather event
- Identify regional mass care capabilities within the first 48 hours of an event
- Demonstrate the region's ability to perform resource management
- Identify/coordinate volunteer resources that would be required during a major weather event

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 **Exercise Components** 

- Amateur Radio Communications Test
- New York / Pennsylvania Cross Border Tabletop Exercise
- Road Closure Tabletop Exercise
- Mass Care Sheltering Tabletop Exercise
- Functional Exercise

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 **Summary** 

- The exercise provided an excellent opportunity for NWS Buffalo and Binghamton to strengthen relationships with our federal, state and local partners
 - Many "non-traditional"
- Multi-year participation will allow for building on previous strengths and weaknesses identified
- Feedback provides an understanding of customer needs allowing forecaster to be more sensitive and situationally aware of those needs

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