



Aware

Aware is published by NOAA's National Weather Service to enhance communications between NWS and the Emergency Management Community and other government and Private Sector Partners.

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NWS Considering Eliminating “Advisory” Term, Offering Webinars

By [Eli Jacks](#), Chief, Forecast Services Division, NWS Silver Spring, MD

NWS is examining the feasibility of removing the term “Advisory” from the NWS Watch, Warning and Advisory system. This decision to explore this possibility comes after years of [social science research](#) with NWS forecasters, partners and the public. Research has shown the public, and even some partners, frequently confuse the terms “Watch” and “Advisory,” considering them almost as synonyms.

If approved, this change would retain our current “Watch” and “Warning” terms, but remove “Advisory” as a headline term. The end goal would be a simpler, two-term headline system in which action needed for a significant event is either Prepare, when NWS issues a Watch, or Act, when NWS sends a Warning. This is similar to the system used by emergency managers (EM).

NWS would not eliminate advisory-level information; rather, we would explore how we could communicate this information in a different, more intuitive way. One potential solution is provided in the example below. As a part of this change, we will expand the use of the headline “Emergency” beyond Tornado and Flash Flood for

Current: Winter Weather Advisory	Alternative: Descriptive message
<pre>...WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IN EFFECT UNTIL 12 PM EST THURSDAY... * WHAT...Additional snow accumulations of 2 to 5 inches. * WHERE...In Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties. * WHEN...Early Thursday morning. * IMPACTS...Difficult travel conditions.</pre>	<pre>...LIGHT SNOW AND GUSTY WINDS INTO THURSDAY... * WHAT...Additional snow accumulations of 2 to 5 inches. * WHERE...In Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties. * WHEN...Early Thursday morning. * IMPACTS...Difficult travel conditions.</pre>

selected hazards.

NWS has just begun considering this proposal. Before a formal implementation decision, NWS will engage with partners and stakeholders to gather technical concerns and feedback regarding this change as well as provide a public comment/review period. As an initial engagement, NWS partners are invited to attend one of two identical webinars to discuss this proposed change. Please register at one of the links below:

- ◆ July 24, 2:00pm – 3:30pm EDT at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4466654237367171074>
- ◆ July 25, 2019, 10:00am – 11:30am EDT at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/72907446546357325>

We understand this would be a major change and have just become the formal consideration process. This proposal is a major project milestone. It will be several years before NWS official products are changed permanently if the change is adopted. Keep your eye out for more *Aware* articles on our progress and how you can be involved! For further details on the Haz Simp project, visit our [website](#). We welcome comments at hazsimp@noaa.gov.

Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador Inspires University EM Students

By [Felecia Bowser](#), WCM, NWS Jackson, MS

NWS Jackson, MS, hosted Noxubee County Mississippi EM Corey Brown. During the visit, Warning Coordination Meteorologist Felecia Bowser discussed best radar interrogation practices and the detection of other hazardous weather such as squall line and supercell storms.

The visit had two purposes. The Jackson office has developed a volunteer team composed of several meteorologists at the office that includes university students interested in practical experience. The team's goal is to increase the interest of college-aged students regarding meteorology and emergency management studies.

As a result, two Emergency Management majors at Jackson State University joined the team. These students were afforded the opportunity to speak with Brown, gaining first-hand knowledge about what it would take to become an EM. The students soaked in the information and listened intently to his advice, which seemed to further validate their desire to become an EM.



Jackson, MS, State University students Jeremy Patrick and Aireyunna Mallet with Noxubee County Emergency Manager Corey Brown (center).

NWS Seeks to Improve Relations with Native Americans

By [Andy Stern](#), Director, NWS Analyze Support and Forecast Office; [Chris Wamsley](#), Meteorologist

For the first time, NWS representatives attended a national level conference focused on developing relationships with tribal governments. Attending the meeting were representatives from tribal nations from across the United States. This engagement was a step toward fulfilling language within the Weather Act that stipulates NWS will provide Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS) to state, regional, tribal and territorial governments.



Cultural night at the conference: A night to share the beauty of the local culture with dancers and drum. Shown is the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Pow Wow Club, an intertribal dance troupe comprised of members of the larger Reno-Sparks Native American Community.

During the last week of June, staff from across the NWS attended the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Mid-Year Conference. Themes ranging from surface transportation and communications capabilities on reservations to the impacts of climate change. NWS Chief Operating Officer John Murphy delivered a keynote presentation on "Building emergency preparedness capacity: from natural disasters to emergency communications."

NWS staff was warmly welcomed and took part in special events such as a "Sunrise Ceremony" which provided a "respectful observance to honor sacred places, sacred beings and sacred waters, and all those who

care for them and protect them from harm.” Staff also attended “Cultural Night” which showed the beauty of the local culture with tribal dancers and drum.

We hope to continue to strengthen our engagement and improve relationships with tribal nations across the country. Plans are already underway to meet with NCAI leadership at its headquarters this summer to improve engagement and increase NWS visibility. NWS staff will discuss opportunities such as having listening sessions with tribal elders, and making specific presentations to NCAI subcommittees while attending the NCAI Annual Meeting this fall in Albuquerque, NM.

WFO Hosts First Multi-Market Media Partner Meeting

By [Sandy Lacorte](#), NWS Meteorologist, Greenville-Spartanburg, SC

While NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC, has hosted media partner meetings in the past, for the first time, media partners from both major media markets were in attendance at one meeting, including 10 meteorologists from 6 TV stations. With the responsibility of a 46-county County Warning Area (CWA) expanding across North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, the major media markets are Charlotte, NC, and Asheville, NC./Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.

NWS meteorologist and media partner meeting organizer Sandy LaCorte decided to approach this meeting differently than previous ones. “We all love the science, that’s why we’re here. But instead of a meeting filled with Powerpoint presentations and little time to talk, I wanted the main focus of this meeting to be communication and getting to know each other,” LaCorte said.

From an in-depth tour of NWS operations and the duties and responsibilities of each NWS employee, to a variety of rich discussion topics including local flood products, preparedness weeks, severe weather operations and more, this 2-hour meeting was not only a success, but extremely beneficial to everyone. “It’s this type of face-to-face interaction that allows us to get to know our partners better and for our partners to get to know us, as well, and each other too – that’s how you strengthen relationships and build trust,” LaCorte said. Learning about NWS and media working operations from all perspectives was an eye opening experience for everyone.

LaCorte noted that even the 10-minute ice breaker at the beginning of the meeting in which everyone had to introduce themselves and share why they became a meteorologist was surprisingly beneficial. From a handful of similar childhood weather stories, to those who went to the same school, or even found out they were classmates at one point and didn’t even know (or remember) it. Connections were made, which can contribute to successful and trusting professional partnerships.

“You not only get to know your partners, but it allows everyone to build or strengthen that trust. Having that trust in place before high-impact situations or for everyday operations, will allow you to feel more comfortable asking the tough questions in the future such as, what can we do to improve?” LaCorte said.



NWS Greenville-Spartanburg Media Partner Meeting group photo. Attendees included media reps from stations WSOC, WLOS, Fox Carolina, Fox 46 Charlotte and WBTV.

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