

Comment Period for the Transition Away from Haz Simp Advisory Headline

By: NWS Staff

The NWS Hazard Simplification (Haz Simp) team is currently accepting public comments on the transition away from the Advisory headline to plain language headlines. For further details on how this change will be reflected in future NWS text products and displays, please see the [Public Information Statement](#).


NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

HAZARD SIMPLIFICATION PROJECT (HazSimp)

The NWS has made the decision to replace “Advisory” and “Special Weather Statement” terminology from the Watch, Warning, and Advisory (WWA) system with **plain language headlines**.

WHY IS THIS BEING CHANGED?

According to social science, the term Advisory is especially confusing.



“Is this as bad as a Warning?”
“Is this a downgrade from a Watch?”
“What are you advising me to do?”

One goal of HazSimp is to convey plain language in NWS displays without adding a third term.

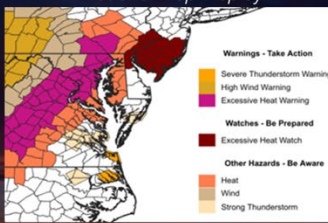
WHAT WILL THIS LOOK LIKE?

New text headlines led by the HAZARD NAME:


SNOW: Hazardous travel in snow and blowing snow from 9am to 8pm


HEAT: Heat index values up to 100F until 4pm

National Map Display



Local Forecast Page



 [weather.gov/hazsimp](https://www.weather.gov/hazsimp)

Fall Weather Safety Campaign Starts September 1st

By: NWS Staff

The Weather-Ready Nation outreach team encourages everyone to take steps to ensure their safety from weather hazards this fall. Starting September 1, new weather safety content will be available for anyone to access, share over social media, or incorporate into their own safety messages to family, employees, and especially those most vulnerable. Content includes infographics, social media templates, presentations, and Spanish-language resources. For more information and to access the Fall Weather Safety Campaign visit: <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/fall-safety>.

Everyday Wildfire Prevention

Most wildfires are caused by humans — many everyday things can create sparks. Keep ignition sources far away from dry vegetation, wood, and other fuel.



Have a clear 10 foot radius around campfires, burning brush, etc. Never leave fires unattended, and always properly extinguish.



Maintain vehicle brakes & tires, and secure tow chains to avoid dragging. Don't drive on dry grass or brush.



Use grills/smokers on gravel or paved surfaces.




Water your lawn & keep grass cut. Mow lawn early in the morning and when it's not windy or excessively dry.



Never toss lit cigarettes on the ground. Put ashes in a metal container with a tight lid.

Always follow burn bans & regulations. Be aware of weather conditions. Low humidity, heat, drought and winds are conducive to fires.



Keep water stored near campfires, fire pits, grills, smokers, burning brush, etc.



WFO Shreveport Hosts Inland Tropical Preparedness Tour

By: NWS Staff



The Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Shreveport, LA hosted an Inland Tropical Preparedness discussion at Angelina College in Lufkin, Texas, on July 25. The goals of the talk were the following:

- Discuss the impacts of tropical cyclone hazards for inland communities.
- Familiarize emergency management and the public with the products issued by the National Hurricane Center and local WFOs for support and decision making.
- Provide WFO forecasters an opportunity to connect with the public regarding tropical cyclone preparedness and forecasting.

During the discussion, two WFO Shreveport meteorologists talked about the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season outlook, why the forecast is advertised as it is, and how this compares to previous hurricane seasons. These were tied into the possible impacts this could have on Deep East Texas, along with the southernmost counties and parishes in the WFO Shreveport County Warning Area (CWA). The talk, centered around tropical storms, is a first for the WFO and is a project that has been in the works since early spring.

Inspiration for the workshop came from office discussions about finding new and original ways to help increase communication efforts of inland hazards from landfalling tropical systems. Although the WFO Shreveport warning area does not have coastal forecasting duties, the southernmost counties and parishes can still be impacted by a landfalling tropical storm or hurricane through the hazards of flooding, strong winds, and tornadoes. In collaboration with local media station KTRE-TV Chief Meteorologist Brad Hlozek, this ignited the idea to hold a discussion solely on these hazards and how the public and emergency managers can prepare now ahead of the next threat.

If your office is interested in hosting a discussion like this, or for more information and details on how this was conducted, please reach out to Ryan.Knapp@noaa.gov.



WFO Shreveport, LA, Meteorologists **Ryan Knapp** and **Marty Mayeaux** provide a presentation on inland tropical hazards to the crowd at Angelina College in Lufkin, TX.



Ryan Knapp and **Brad Hlozek** (Chief Meteorologist, KTRE Lufkin, TX) present on the transition of WFO and National Hurricane Center issued products to the local media.

NWS Boston/Norton Participates in Multiple IDSS Events

By: NWS Staff



sessions offered to maximize attendance and

Rhode Island Annual Preparedness Conference. From left to right: Justin Pullin, Bryce Williams, Frank Nocera, NWS Director Ken Graham, and Emily Klaus.

This June, NWS Boston/Norton (BOX) participated in two significant Impact-Based Decision Support Services (IDSS) events: a media hurricane tabletop exercise led by Lead Meteorologist **Frank Nocera**, and an IDSS presentation by meteorologist **Bryce Williams** at the Rhode Island Annual Preparedness Conference.

The very successful media hurricane tabletop exercise (TTX) was the first of its kind, with all major media markets from Boston, Massachusetts; Hartford/New Haven, Connecticut; and Providence, Rhode Island, participating. The exercise took place on June 14, with both virtual and in-person options, including two accommodate three news shows (morning, noon, and evening broadcasts).

with a total of 33 broadcast meteorologists from all three major markets! Harvey shared with us his recollections of Hurricanes Gloria (1985) and Bob (1991), the last landfalling hurricane in Southern New England. His news station dedicated a remarkable 10 consecutive hours during Hurricane Bob to provide comprehensive storm updates. Such an undertaking is undoubtedly daunting and physically demanding.

Thanks to our keynote speaker, Boston WCVB broadcast meteorologist Harvey Leonard, participation was outstanding,

This same exercise was conducted last spring with State and Federal partners, including State Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) from MA, CT & RI, FEMA Region I, the U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This year, we continued building a coalition by furthering our relationship with our media partners. The scenario was a Category 3 hurricane that made landfall along the CT/RI, similar to Hurricane Carol in 1954. The initial long-range forecasts had it weakening as it moved inland across northern New Jersey. Successive advisories trended eastward and faster and, thus, the storm remained over water and maintained its strength. Of course, there was saturated soil from a predecessor rain event and it was Labor Day weekend. The name was Hurricane Thompson, paying homage to NWS Boston's retired Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) **Bob Thompson**.



Opening slide to the TTX with images (from left to right) of Hurricane Henri (2021), the first Storm Surge Watch issued by NWS Boston/Norton (2021), and rainfall from remnants of Hurricane Ida (2021).

WFO BOX's Information Technology Officer (ITO), **Jim Notchey**, built a website exclusively for our media partners that was used during the scenario. It included reference material for the players, such as the latest US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) hurricane evacuation maps for MA, RI, and CT (Zone A is based on Cat 1 & 2 hurricanes; Zone B for Cat 3 & 4 hurricanes). This was an effort to educate and increase our situational awareness of evacuation zones after the tragic loss of life associated with Hurricane Ian in southwest Florida in September 2022, where findings indicated that residents did not know the difference between evacuation zones or whether they lived in one. As a result of this knowledge, educating the broadcast media on evacuation zones was a main reason for our outreach effort to protect life and property before the next tropical cyclone makes landfall in Southern New England.

Frank included several NWS BOX staff members in the exercise in a very meaningful way, including three forecasters (**Rob Megnia**, **Torry Dooley**, and **Kristie Smith**) delivering presentations on three different NHC Advisory briefings. After each hurricane advisory, there were open discussions about what actions would be taken at those early stages (4 to 5 days out) and during the Watch and Warning phases. Frank and the WFO MIC **Andy**

Nash created a list of questions that were used to help facilitate discussions.



*Clockwise from the top: MIC **Andy Nash**, WCM **Glenn Field**, Evan Belkin (NERFC), Anthony Maceri and Christina Erne (both from NBC10 Providence, RI), Meteorologists **Torry Dooley** and **Kristie Smith** from NWS Boston/Norton.*

The Hurricane Thompson media exercise was a great success. Harvey Leonard summed it up nicely: “The tabletop exercises were great, and certainly bring to light the challenges that all will face (meteorologists and the public) when we next experience a landfalling hurricane. But one thing I know for sure...NWS Boston/Norton will do a great job....the great team of meteorologists assembled, combined with the great tools that you have at your disposal, will help give New Englanders the best chance to deal with the storm. And I'm sure MEMA and our Boston Media Meteorologists will come through as well. I'm very impressed (and I have been for some time) with the great outreach and education your office offers to the media meteorologists in The Boston Market.”

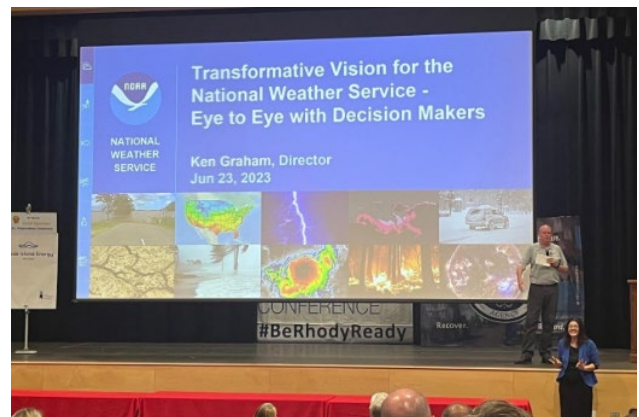
Having our media partners participate at the WFO office helped strengthen working relationships and build trust with these Core Partners during the offseason, especially with the addition of our new staff over the past three years.

Many communications challenges and lessons learned were observed, such as:

- Our viewers struggle with NWS phrases such as “considerable”; media must reword/repackage these phrases into more meaningful translations (Matt Noyes - NECN, Boston).
- The NWSChat platform provides an opportunity to add clarity to a given situation, and kudos were given to NWS Boston from Mark Searles, Chief Meteorologist at NBC10 Providence.
- Storm surge and evacuation challenges, particularly residents knowing their evacuation zones. Past events have also uncovered a new challenge: Airbnb brings people from out of town into storm surge areas that they are not familiar with, including evacuation zones and shelters.
- Ryan Hanrahan (NBC Hartford) emphasized their expectation from NWSChat 2.0 is for additional granular detail behind the scenes, such as anything we may have not included in an Area Forecast Discussion (AFD) or email briefing. Also, the media appreciates any info on trends regarding coastal inundation potential, given the low frequency but high impact of tropical storms and hurricanes.

This exercise helped us build a coalition with our media partners who are now better prepared for a potential major Category 3 hurricane striking southern New England. This is especially important because many of the broadcast meteorologists within our CWA have limited exposure to tropical systems, mainly due to the lower occurrence of such events in the northeast and many new, young broadcasters from parts of the country not impacted by tropical cyclones.

Following the success of the tabletop exercise, WFO Boston/Norton participated in the 2023 Rhode Island Annual Preparedness Conference in East Providence on June 23. Meteorologists **Bryce Williams** and **Frank Nocera** presented a slideshow on weather resources for the Emergency Management Community focusing on a demo of the new WFO Emergency Management (EM) prototype self-briefing page created by ITO **James Notchey** and Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) **Glenn Field**. Also shared with EMs was an IDSS page for EMs to request weather support. A demo was also provided for fire weather spot forecasts.



*NWS Director **Ken Graham** presenting on stage at the Rhode Island Annual Preparedness Conference.*

NWS Director **Ken Graham** was one of the keynote speakers at this conference. Marc Pappas, Director of Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) and Clara Decerbo, Director of Providence Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) informed Ken during and after his presentation of their high praise for IDSS from WFO Boston/Norton to both of their agencies, including knowing many forecasters by name. Ken and both agencies gave WFO Boston/Norton a standing ovation!

NWS Participates in the Alaskan Native Village of Eklutna’s Culture Camp

By: NWS Staff

Every year, the Native Village of Eklutna hosts a Culture Camp. This gathering is an opportunity to teach Native traditions to the youngest generations, for Tribal Elders to contribute and share their generational knowledge and teachings, and for families from all around Southcentral Alaska to be reunited. This year, for the first time, WFO Anchorage was also invited to participate in the Culture Camp and make a presentation for all ages regarding weather and how it relates to their traditional teachings and community.

The Culture Camp covered a variety of topics, including how to build a cache (a structure meant to store foods off the ground and away from hungry animals), how to identify native plants for medicinal and dietary purposes, and how to catch and process fish in a traditional manner. The NWS program was incorporated into the Native Plant Walk day to give the many Dene generations in attendance the opportunity to tie in day-to-day weather knowledge with their understanding of native plant growth.



*Enthusiastic young Native Village of Eklutna members ask WFO Anchorage meteorologist **Nicole Sprinkles** and WCM **Aviva Braun** about cloud formations and eagerly volunteer to help with the “cloud in a bottle” demonstration.*



*Children and Elders gather around the Native Village of Eklutna’s emergency manager and Land and Environment Co-Director, **Carrie Brophil**, to learn how to identify Native plants for medicinal and dietary purposes. Children were tasked with gathering nutritious plants to make their own lunch salads.*

The program was a success, as WFO Anchorage meteorologist **Nicole Sprinkles** and WCM **Aviva Braun** participated in the day’s teachings, engaging with many youngsters who took part in the conversation, learned about cloud formations, and grew their cloud identification skill set further. NWS Anchorage has already been invited to next year’s Culture Camp; in the interim, the Anchorage staff have been invited to cultural learning sessions and Tribal Council meetings in an effort to continue growing the relationship between the NWS and their community.

Strengthening Media Relationships at NWS Charleston

By: NWS Staff



*From left to right: Lead **Kimberly Hoepfner** and WOAY-TV broadcasters **Chad Merrill** and **Braden Petry**.*

The team at WFO Charleston, West Virginia (RLX) is working on growing relationships with local media groups across the region.

Media outreach efforts are being revived after the recent move to a modern facility. A new Media Outreach team organized in December 2022 including WCM **Tony Edwards**, lead forecasters **Kimberly Hoepfner** and **Francis Kredensor**, and general forecasters **Levi Cornett**, **Gabe Wawrin**, **James Zvolensky**, and **Joe Curtis**. The outreach efforts are coordinated by team members; however, every member at the office gets involved and contributes. Team members put tireless efforts into creating and leading presentations, editing, and interviewing. This type of collaboration with media partners builds stronger relationships. The goal is to “keep the conversation going” to clearly communicate messages when weather phenomena challenge our communities.

Media members were invited to explore the office on several guided tours, which included an introduction to Science on a Sphere, hosted by the partnership with the West Virginia Technology Park. The last of the introductory tours was held July 11. These meetings were the first coordinated visits since COVID-19, and brought media representatives from across the region, some driving several hours to attend. Out of ten local media networks across the region, nine were represented by one or two broadcast meteorologists/camera operators. One of these media partners chose to do their evening show at the Charleston office, highlighting the new building during the evening news. Others filmed short interviews with staff and took pictures of the new set up, which was later broadcasted in media shorts and exclusive stories.



*ESA **Dave Cunningham**, Braden Petry (WOAY-TV), Chad Merrill (WOAY-TV), and meteorologists **Kimberly Hoepfner** and **Levi Cornett**.*

Many staff members assisted with these tours. Electronic Systems Analyst (ESA) **Dave Cunningham** made a huge contribution of his time, presenting a slide show of the work they do out in the field, on the radar, and on Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) stations. A tour of the mechanical room was mesmerizing as Dave explained the support that keeps operations running. The team was able to share what a typical day at NWS RLX looks like and their typical product issuance times. This opportunity led to further discussion about the forecast process and challenges that the team faces during active weather.

These meetings re-open doors for future events, such as local conferences and warning exercises with interested broadcasters across the region. The team at RLX brought a diversity of thoughts and experiences that captivated the audience of media members.

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