



disaster preparedness report

National Weather Service

MAY 1982

What's Happening In DISASTER PREPAREDNESS!

A couple of changes need to be made to the Spotters Guide NOAA/PA 81011:

(1) Page 3, Figure 1 - The word "wall" needs to be placed over the wall cloud or an arrow needs to run from the word "wall" to the wall cloud.

(2) Page 8, Figure 12 - Heavy and moderate rain arrows are transposed and need to be redirected.

Figure 11 on page 7 needs to be relocated to the upper portion of page as it covers the tail cloud referred to on page 6.

These will be corrected in the next printing this spring, but if you have the first printing of December 1981 (back cover) please make the above changes 1 and 2 or have the spotters make the changes when appropriate.

. The new "Tornado Facts For Your Survival (NOAA/PA 82001)" which replaces "Tornado (NOAA/PA 77027)" and "Severe Local Storm Warning Services and Tornado Statistics, 1953-1976)", should now be available in June.

. A new Dust Storm Wallet Card (NOAA/PA 82002) is being printed and should be available in June.

. Do you have, or can you beg, borrow, or steal any recent photographs of various storm events? We need new photo material for use in disaster preparedness publications and public requests. Please send photographs thru your regional DP to W111. We will give proper credit to originators. The photographs will be kept on file at the NOAA Film Library in Rockville.

. Bill Dove, Electronic Technician at WSO Charlotte, has designed a telephone arrangement whereby incoming "outside" calls which are waiting on "hold" are provided with the current NWR message. Sort of a replacement for Muzak! Anyone interested in this feature should call Bill Dove or OIC Ron Kuhn, on FTS 672-6546.

. MIC/Area Manager Claire Jensen, advises that WSFO Phoenix, is undertaking a Public Awareness Program from April 22, through May 2, 1982. Michael Franjevic, DP Focal Point, is spearheading this program which will be called Public Awareness Program 1982. The theme of which will be NWR and disaster preparedness planning for events such as thunderstorms and flash floods.

Volunteers from WSFO Phoenix will be manning a display in two major shopping malls and major bank plaza in the Phoenix area. It is expected that 200,000 people will pass by the display during the 10-day period.

A Flash Flood Watch/Warning educational program will be conducted during the week of May 16 - National Flash Flood Awareness Week. Flash Flood Watch/Warning definitions along with "Protect Your Life -- Flash Flood Guidelines" will be printed on all Smitty's of Arizona grocery bags. (See example in back) Smitty's is one of the largest grocery chains in Arizona with more than 50 stores.

During that same week a statewide multi-agency disaster preparedness drill will be conducted. Bob Behm, DMIC, is working with state, county, and city agencies along with the WSO's in the state. A storm scenario has been provided to all agencies involved and they are to react accordingly at the appropriate time. A post mortem will be held subsequent to the drill.

Other future plans are to have the city of Phoenix place placards in their city buses advertising NOAA Weather Radio, Flash Flood, and Dust Storm Rules (a new Dust Storm Wallet Card will be available soon). We also plan to have these included in the Arizona Automobile Association trip kits.

To help keep Kentucky's Spotters "fined-tuned", WSFO Louisville, DP Focal Point John Feldt, has prepared a newsletter to statewide spotters. The newsletter includes reminders of who, when, and where to call, what to report, etc. This type of newsletter (4 pages plus a NOAA/PA 70012) lets the spotters know we need and appreciate their help.

Francisco Torres-Cordero, DPM for San Juan, reports that the first Puerto Rico Annual Fair was celebrated from November 19 to December 6, 1981. Our NWS participation in the Fair was from November 19 to November 30, 1981.

The National Weather Service occupied an area of 10' x 20', granted free of charge, thanks to the generosity of a few commercial firms that paid for areas occupied by institutions of government agencies that render public services or deal with the security, awareness, and safety of the community.

Here is a brief summary of our display during the Fair:

a. A mini weather station recording actual wind velocity, temperature, atmospheric pressure, etc.

b. An inflated weather upper air ballon with the radiosonde instrument and parachute attached. Mounted next to the radiosonde was an enlarged adiabatic chart covered with a plastic overlay.

c. Lack of telephone lines in the fairgrounds prevented having a drop from our weather teletype system operating in our booth at the Fair. That would have provided the most recent weather information. Nevertheless a daily current weather display was provided. Every morning Francisco-Torres prepared a package of the most recent surface chart and of satellite photos that covered the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean area. This weather information was taken to the Fair and organized on clipboard in order to offer the recent weather information to visitors.

d. Another tripod rack-board was prepared to display weather service publications, brochures, handouts, hurricane charts, etc. Displays of NWS (NOAA) and NWR were used. They made a very good impression among the visitors. Since the Red Cross booth was next to ours we alternated our movie shows for the general public. That way we shared the total area. "Lady Camille" spanish version was shown every regular night and twice during Saturday and Sunday nights.

Mr. Tomás Pérez-Lugo, Senior Meteorological Technician, scheduled meteorological technicians and met interns so that our booth would be attended at all times.

WSFO Boise, has worked successfully with McDonald's Restaurants in that area to include weather educational material on their tray liners. Many McDonald's Restaurants are now using a tray liner on which commercial advertisement as well as public service messages are printed. These are often incorporated into a monthly public service calendar.

Personnel from WSFO Boise, primarily Lee Krogh, Disaster Preparedness Program Leader, have worked with the managers of groups of McDonald's Restaurants and furnished packages of weather educational material, along with instructions stating the appropriate months to use this material.

Larry Mooney, Southern Region Preparedness Meteorologist, made a presentation on disaster preparedness to about 40 TV weathercasters attending a NOAA Severe Storms Workshop at Norman, Oklahoma. Larry encouraged them to help lay to rest the myth that windows should be opened during a tornado threat and emphasized the need to pay more attention to the flash flood problem. The weathercasters responded very favorably to the subject of disaster preparedness and conducted a number of on camera interviews with Larry.

There had been some indication that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) planned to remove the National Warning System (NAWAS) from NWS offices. We are now informed that FEMA has no intention at this time of discontinuing NAWAS. The Mobile Low Frequency Warning System proposed by FEMA will replace many individual terminals, but the backbone system will remain intact. We expect that NAWAS will continue as the primary means of alerting the various control nodes of the warning system. HF radio or meteor burst systems will be used as a back-up.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ROSTER

<u>NWS HEADQUARTERS STAFF</u>	<u>FTS 427-8090</u>	<u>W111</u>	<u>SOUTHERN REGION (continued)</u>	<u>FTS</u>
James B. Jones	Chief, Severe Weather Branch		Robert Case Miami (Focal)	350-5547
Richard A. Wood	Program Leader, Disaster Preparedness		R. Calvesbert San Juan (Fl. Fl. Hyd.)	8-809-783-5893
Lorraine V. Brown	Clerk, Disaster Preparedness		<u>CENTRAL REGION</u>	
			Laurence (Bud) Shaffer, Asst. Chief, MSD	758-3229
			Ken Kling Flash Flood Coordinator	758-3229
			Charles Stwertnik Chicago (DPM)	353-4680
			Kenneth Rizzo Ann Arbor (Focal)	378-2220
			Robert Corbett Des Moines (Focal)	862-4492
			William Gery Indianapolis (Focal)	331-5411
			John Feldt Louisville (Focal)	352-5210
			Guy Tucker St. Louis (Focal)	279-7018
			Jerry McDuffie Sioux Falls (Focal)	782-4244
			Steven Schurr Topeka (Focal)	752-2630
			<u>WESTERN REGION</u>	
			Mark Fair Regional DP	588-4000
			Tony Haffer Deputy Reg. Hydrologist	588-5137
			Lee Krough Boise (Focal)	554-9860
			Don Lust Los Angeles (Focal)	799-7215
			Mike Franjevic Phoenix (Focal)	261-3500
			Phil Peck Portland (Focal)	423-4340
			Thomas Cylke Reno (Focal)	470-5719
			Bill Alder Salt Lake City (Focal)	588-5133
			Norm Hoffman San Francisco (Focal)	463-7767
			Charles Ruscha Seattle (Focal)	446-6087
			Dave Olsen Great Falls	585-1311
			<u>ALASKA REGION</u>	
			Burt Goldenberg Chief, MSD-Anchorage	8-907-271-5127
			<u>PACIFIC REGION</u>	
			Takase (Dick) Hiyane, DP, (Focal) Honolulu	8-808-836-1831
<u>EASTERN REGION</u>		<u>FTS</u>		
<u>Eugene Kilgore</u>	Public Services Met.	665-3712		
Albert Kachic	Reg Hydrologist	665-7028		
Lynn Maximuk	Cleveland (DPM)	293-4949		
Mary Parker	Columbia, S. C. (DPM)	677-5501		
Phil Neff	Harrisburg, RFC (DPM)	590-2256		
Dave Curtis	Hartford, RFC (DPM)	244-2178		
Rick Schwerdt	Washington, D. C. (DPM)	763-8300		
Tim Scrom	Albany (Focal)	562-6586		
Tom Fair	Boston (Focal)	223-1354		
Tom Dunham	Buffalo (Focal)	437-4800		
Glenn Austin	Charleston (Focal)	924-1405		
Tom Bietel	Philadelphia (Focal)	597-0845		
Theresa Rossi	Pittsburg (Focal)	722-2882		
Dave Sisk	Pittsburg (Focal)	722-2882		
Laurence Lee	Raleigh (Focal)	672-4436		
Harold Gibson	New York	662-5340		
<u>SOUTHERN REGION</u>				
<u>Larry Mooney</u>	Regional (DPM)	334-2812		
Marvin Maddox	Atlanta (DPM)	246-7586		
Jay Shelley	Birmingham (DPM)	229-1549		
Alan Moller	Fort Worth (DPM)	334-3401		
Dennis Decker	Jackson (DPM)	490-4639		
Vacant	Little Rock (DPM)	740-5331		
Alfonso Castaneda	Lubbock (DPM)	738-7362		
Brian Peters	Memphis (DPM)	222-3833		
Neil Marchbank	Oklahoma City (DPM)	749-4155		
Clifford Brock	San Antonio (DPM)	730-5025		
Francisco Torres-Cordero	San Juan (DPM)	8-809-753-4893		
Ralph Pike	Albuquerque (Focal)	474-2170		
Dave Smith	New Orleans (Focal)	682-6891		

FLASH FLOODS!



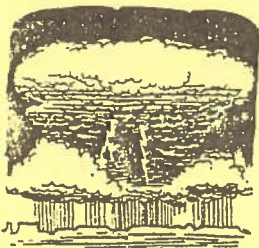
WHAT CAUSES FLASH FLOODS?

When a violent thunderstorm breaks over the mountains and deserts of the Southwest, runoff from the torrential rains cascades into the steep canyons in a matter of minutes. Walls of water sometimes 10 to 30 feet high swirl through the canyons and arroyos, picking up mud, boulders, trees, and other debris. Plants, animals, and sometimes man are caught, swept along, and battered in the onrushing torrent of the flash flood. Flash floods can result from thunderstorms centered over mountains many miles away.

FLASH FLOOD SEASONS

Flash floods can occur in the southwestern United States at any time of the year, but the predominant seasons are summer and early fall. They can occur as the result of: Isolated thunderstorms — late June to mid-September; Tropical storms or other general storms — mostly August to October.

THUNDERSTORM IDENTIFICATION



A thunderstorm cloud, called cumulonimbus, is a large towering cloud, frequently spreading out on top into the shape of an anvil. It usually appears dark and threatening when viewed from below, but very bright and white when seen from the side at some distance.

PROTECT YOUR LIFE

- Keep an eye and ear to the sky. Be alert for thunder or lightning in your vicinity and over nearby hills.
- Listen frequently to weather reports on radio.
- Camp on high ground but not on top of exposed peaks or ridges.
- Avoid deep canyons and dry washes during stormy or threatening weather.
- If heavy rains occur, move to high ground immediately (at least 30-40 feet above the canyon floor or bottom of the dry wash).
- If you can't move your vehicle, abandon it. Take your survival gear with you. Don't attempt to return to your vehicle until the sky clears or officials give you the OK.
- Don't try to drive through flooded areas. Abandon your car if water begins to rise over the road. Move to high ground immediately.
- Follow instructions of local authorities. LEAVE IMMEDIATELY when warned. Many lives have been lost because people have not heeded warnings of police officers, park rangers, and other officials.
- Before you leave home, inform someone of your destination and when you expect to return. Police should be notified immediately if you do not return on time.
- Take survival supplies for several days, including food, water, first aid equipment, and necessary medication. In desert areas during hot weather, allow 3-4 gallons of water per day, per person.

FLASH-FLOOD WATCH:

Heavy rains may result in flash flooding in the specified area. Be alert and prepared for the possibility of a flood emergency which will require immediate action.

FLASH-FLOOD WARNING:

Flash flooding is occurring or is imminent in the specified areas. Move to safe ground immediately.

Smitty's

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In cooperation with the State of Arizona
and National Weather Service