



# NWS AMS Partner Engagement Event 2023 Summary Report



## Introduction

On January 8th, 2023, the National Weather Service (NWS) conducted a **Partner Engagement Event** during the American Meteorological Society's (AMS) Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. The NWS typically conducts a Partner meeting at AMS each year, bringing together a diverse group of individuals from the industry, government, and academic sectors of the Weather, Water, and Climate (WWC) Enterprise. This year was a little different for two reasons:

- This was the first time an in-person Partner meeting was held since January 2020
- This year the event was combined with the Weather-Ready Nation (WRN) Ambassador event, typically held on the Sunday of the AMS Annual Meeting.

## Discussion Topics

This year's meeting revolved around service equity and ways that the WWC Enterprise can begin thinking about this concept from a team approach, and explore new ways to strengthen partnerships, leverage collective capacity, and interest in improving resilience. **Peyton Robertson, Director of the NWS Office of Organizational Excellence (OOE)**, welcomed the group and highlighted activities that OOE worked on during the pandemic, including the Partnership Strategy and several Partner-focused webinars. He introduced **Dr. Rick Spinrad, NOAA's 11th Administrator and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere** who spoke about the importance of partnerships and that this remains a key priority for NOAA.

## Why are Weather-Ready Communities Important?

The first session was a dialogue about the value of Weather-Ready communities facilitated by **Allison Allen, Director of the NWS Analyze, Forecast, & Support Office (AFSO) Portfolio**. The panelists included **Doug Hilderbrand (Preparedness & Resilience Program Manager, NWS)**, **Ashley Morris (Baltimore County Office of Emergency Management)**, and **Lucas McDonald (Director, Emergency Operations - Walmart)**. The panel provided their perspectives on the uniqueness of the communities they serve and engaging those communities through a "Weather-Ready Communities" concept. The presenters challenged the audience to think about what already exists across the WWC Enterprise and how the benefits are amplified when we work together.

## How do we bring the pieces together to create Weather-Ready Communities?

Next, **NWS Director Ken Graham** asked the attendees to rethink how we conduct outreach, training, and risk communications. Ken facilitated a discussion with NWS panelists regarding Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS) efforts. **Katie Edwards (IDSS Program Manager)** discussed the future of IDSS from a policy perspective and where the WWC Enterprise fits in.



