

## Tune In to the Inaugural Partners and Users Heat Webinar

By: Kimberly McMahon, NWS Public Weather Services Program Manager

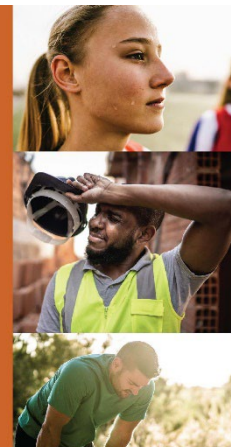
The National Weather Service Public Weather Services Program will be hosting its inaugural *NWS Partners and Users Heat Webinar* on **April 20, 2023 from 2 - 3 PM EDT / 12 - 1 PM MDT**. The webinar will provide information on NWS heat-related products and services issued across the agency, covering a continuum of timescales. This will include products from the Climate Prediction Center, Weather Prediction Center, and local Weather Forecast Offices. Our objective is to ensure that all of our partners and users know how to find and use the necessary weather information to proactively make informed decisions.



**NWS PARTNERS & USERS HEAT WEBINAR**

APRIL 20, 2023  
2 - 3 PM EDT / 12 - 1 PM MDT

Join us for the inaugural NWS Partners and Users Heat Webinar! The webinar will provide a showcase of NWS Operational Heat-Related Products and Services across timescales.



This webinar will cover:

- Current operational heat-related products issued by the Climate Prediction Center, Weather Prediction Center, and local Weather Forecast Offices
- Future plans and initiatives related to heat from the Public Weather Services Program and National Centers
- Time for questions and answers

The webinar is open to all NWS partners and users, including Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors, media, emergency management, and federal, state, tribal, and local governments. If you would like to attend, [please register here](#).

For more information please contact the NWS Public Weather Services Program Manager, Kim McMahon, at [kimberly.mcmahon@noaa.gov](mailto:kimberly.mcmahon@noaa.gov).

## Strengthening Our Partnership and Service Equity - Red Cross and NWS Sign IDSS Agreement

By: NWS Staff



On March 10, 2023, NWS Director Ken Graham and Red Cross CEO Gail McGovern signed an agreement focused on the provision of Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS). This agreement formalizes the Red Cross as an NWS Core Partner and reinforces that the NWS can provide IDSS to the Red Cross at any level, including the local chapters supporting preparedness and response to high impact weather, water, and climate events.

“We are honored to be the first nonprofit organization named as a core partner of the National Weather Service,” said Gail J. McGovern, president and CEO of the American Red Cross. “Every single moment matters during a disaster and this collaboration is critical to ensure we can continue to build more resilient communities and provide hope for people facing unimaginable loss.”

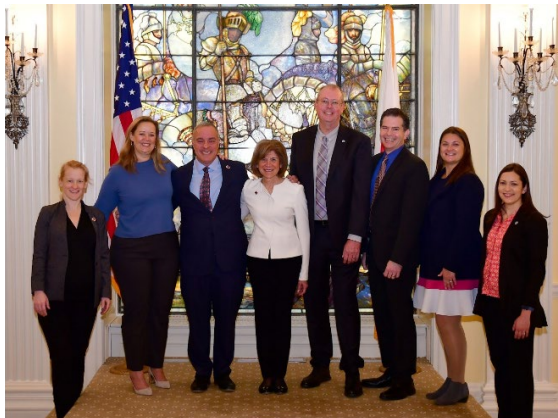
Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs) such as the Red Cross are not included in the formal definition of NWS Core Partners; however, the NWS has signed this agreement as an exception, given that the Red Cross directly supports the preparation for and response to impacts of environmental hazards, and given that it is often involved in formal response efforts of NWS Core Partners (e.g., emergency managers). Having an agreement in place with the Red Cross will formally define their status as an NWS Core Partner, which will ensure a more consistent approach to engagement with and support to the Red Cross throughout the Nation.



**What this means for IDSS:** The NWS can now consider the Red Cross an NWS Core Partner at any level of their organization.

In some cases, NWS is already serving the Red Cross, as they are associated with the Emergency Management Community. For example, the NWS Operations Center directly supported the Red Cross at the national level during 2022 during Hurricane Season. They briefed personnel at the Red Cross to convey the expected impacts from Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Fiona, including discussion of flooding, damaging winds, storm surge, and expected weather hazards during recovery efforts, including high heat and river flooding. The briefings were conducted once a day, began several days before storm landfall, and continued well into the recovery phase. The briefing information allowed the Red Cross to more precisely anticipate areas that would be in most need of resources and assistance during and after these events.

The Red Cross is now granted qualification to receive IDSS regardless of whether they are present in an ICS structure or not. As with All Core Partners, IDSS delivery is dependent on NWS resources available and the situation at hand.



This agreement is showcasing NWS's commitment to the communities they serve and is a pathway for the National Weather Service to better serve communities equitably. By leveraging a partner like the Red Cross, who are also local community experts, as an additional reach, NWS can better serve vulnerable populations and help them become Weather-Ready.

The IDSS program is ready to support you should you have questions about this agreement or how to engage directly with the Red Cross. Please contact [Andy.Foster@noaa.gov](mailto:Andy.Foster@noaa.gov) directly, or pose your questions via the [WCM/SCH Listserv](#) to start a national discussion.

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## Inaugural Gulf Coast Aviation Weather Safety Workshop Held in New Orleans

*By: Phil Grigsby, Lead Forecaster at WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge*

The inaugural Gulf Coast Aviation Weather Safety (GCAWS) Workshop was held in New Orleans on February 24-25th, 2023. The purpose of the GCAWS Workshop is to promote aviation safety and productivity through improved weather awareness and forecasting services. GCAWS is designed to strengthen communication and best practices between the aviation and weather forecasting communities to support the National Airspace System (NAS).

A total of 48 people attended the workshop, which was held over two days at the Alario Center. Represented groups included NWS meteorologists, military personnel, private and general aviation pilots, airlines, airports, and other federal agencies from across the



*Jeff Cupo, Operational Services Division Chief, NWS Southern Region Headquarters, gives a presentation on the latest hot topics concerning the aviation weather program in Southern Region 8.*



country. 12 separate NWS offices were represented in the workshop, including eight Weather Forecast Offices (WFO), two Center Weather Service Units (CWSU), Aviation Weather Center (AWC), and a National Aviation Meteorologist from the Federal Aviation Administration Command Center. The Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board, United States Coast Guard, and other private and public partners were also represented at the workshop.

GCAWS was separated into two individual workshops. The first day was focused on aviation weather forecasting. Presentations were given by CWSU, AWC, WFO, and national aviation meteorologists. Topics included aviation products and services available to support the NAS, tools to improve terminal aerodrome forecast (TAF) situational awareness, case studies of recent fog and convective events, and an Impact-Based Decision Support Services (IDSS) exercise involving a mix of meteorologists, pilots, government agencies, and airline/airport operators.



*Lt. Justin Moore, Pilot, United States Coast Guard, gives a presentation on the need for a deeper understanding of weather from the pilot's perspective.*

The second day was focused on understanding pilot and air traffic controller needs for weather safety information, including presentations on aviation weather hazard recognition, mitigation, and avoidance. This session was led primarily by non-NWS partners and provided a chance to see how these partners utilize weather information in the real world. Topics included interpretation of lessons learned in weather-related aircraft mishaps, the pilot's perspective on using NWS forecast products, how weather impacts airline and airport operations, and how automated observing systems are maintained both onshore and offshore. Louisiana Airport Passport Program credit was offered to pilots in attendance.

The GCAWS workshop was a resounding success, and provided a great opportunity for networking, collaboration, and discussions with users and partners within the aviation community. We look forward to the next GCAWS workshop that will be held in either late 2024 or early 2025 at a yet to be determined location. Be on the lookout for announcements concerning the next GCAWS in the near future! More information on the inaugural GCAWS, including saved presentation slides/recordings and workshop photos, can be found at the [GCAWS website](#).

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## NWS Jacksonville Participates in Hazmat and Wildfire Tabletop Exercise

*By: Angie Enyedi, Lead Forecaster at NWS Jacksonville*

National Weather Service Jacksonville Emergency Response Meteorologists Al Sandrik, Ben Nelson, Kip Bricker, and Angie Enyedi participated in a HAZMAT and Wildfire Table-Top Exercise with Nassau County Emergency Management. Nassau EM and Angie Enyedi developed realistic weather injections throughout this dynamic scenario, which included a car accident across railroad tracks that led to a train derailment, a toxic chemical release, and a quickly expanding brush fire. In the scenario, pre-frontal winds and high dispersion fueled the brush fire and HAZMAT plume, then as winds shifted with the frontal passage, impacts to other vulnerable populations and critical county infrastructure occurred.

During the exercise, the JAX ER-Met team delivered EOC briefings and showcased diverse DSS tools available to first responders including the SPOT forecast, Hysplit utility, and the experimental IDSS Forecast Points interface.



NWS Jacksonville Emergency Response Meteorologists Ben Nelson, Angie Enyedi, Kip Bricker & Al Sandrik participated in a 2 day HAZMAT & Wildfire Exercise with Nassau County Emergency Management.

This exercise included a visit to the CSX Incident Responder Training Center. This location provided a training ground for first responders' practice train derailment response with the CSX Hazmat team in order to mitigate hazards in the event of damage to chemical transport rail cars.

Many local NWS-EM training scenarios focus on large-scale weather events, including Tropical Cyclones and Severe Thunderstorm impacts. These events are typically anticipated days to hours in advance. The HAZMAT and Wildfire training scenario provided insights to responders, EM and NWS Jacksonville Meteorologists for a "Blue Sky" weather day incident where accurate, digestible and actionable weather intelligence is critical for first responder and public safety.

## NWS Jacksonville Participates in LANTEX23 Tsunami Exercise

By: *Al Sandrik, WCM at NWS Jacksonville*

On March 2nd, National Weather Service Jacksonville participated in the Atlantic Tsunami Exercise (LANTEX23). This exercise simulated a M8.3-8.7 earthquake along the Puerto Rico Trench, which had the potential to produce tsunami waves up to 3 feet, as well as life-threatening currents along Jacksonville area beaches and inlets. With the simulated issuance of a Tsunami Advisory by the Tsunami Warning Center, NWS Jacksonville personnel presented a Google Meet briefing for our Core Partners, maritime partners, and local media. The briefing utilized the office's pre-established Tsunami Advisory briefing, which includes local advice and areas of concern. At least 60 partners participated in the briefing, and the exercise proved to be a great opportunity for tsunami education with major partners.

**NWS Jacksonville LANTEX23**

**EDUCATIONAL BRIEFING EMBEDDED WITH EXERCISE SCENARIO SLIDES FOR CORE PARTNERS & MEDIA**

Location	Wave Height	Wave Period	Wave Direction
Sumner, GA	17.00	600-700	East
Jacksonville Beach, FL	2.00	600-700	East
Indian Beach, FL	16.00	1200-1300	East
Melbourne, FL	18.00	Unknown	Unknown

Briefing by Al Sandrik  
WCM NWS Jacksonville

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