



IFPS Brings Users a New Suite of High Quality, High Resolution Forecast Products *Newton Skiles*

The National Weather Service has embarked on a new program to produce a suite of high quality, high resolution forecast products. IFPS (Interactive Forecast Preparation System) will bring Your Pin-Point National Weather Service Forecasts for the 21st Century; Your way; Whenever you want it.

For a large number of years, the National Weather Service (NWS) has been issuing mainly text products to you, the user. Now, with the implementation of IFPS, the NWS can provide not only enhanced text products, but a new group of detailed, high quality graphical forecast products. Some of these graphical products will provide forecasts down to an hourly basis. Forecasts out to 7 days in advance are available to you. A select group of these graphics are available to the user via the Internet. To view these graphical forecast products log on to www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk and click on Graphical Forecast. Several examples are included on this page.

The graphical forecasts are part of an overall national digital forecast database (NDFD) that is being generated. Select users can download the NDFD into specially designed programs that will generate additional forecast products to meet their specific needs. These users may include, building and masonry contractors, roofers, farmers, aerial applicators, and many others whose projects are highly dependent on the weather conditions.

IFPS will allow NWS meteorologists to spend more time concentrating on the forecasts, and much less time typing forecast products. IFPS will allow forecasters to update the forecasts quickly and easily.

The end result will be that text, voice, tabular, graphical and gridded forecast products will all be produced from a forecaster-prepared database to support a variety of users.

We at the National Weather Service hope that these new and improved forecast products will help meet your needs. If you have questions concerning any of our products, please contact us at 501-834-0308.

