

National Weather Service
Severe Weather Workshop
(03/04/04)

***YOUR LOCAL NWS OFFICE,
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EM
COMMUNITY, SAVES LIVES!***

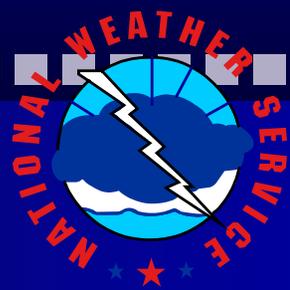
Bill Proenza
Regional Director
National Weather Service
Southern Region

Overview

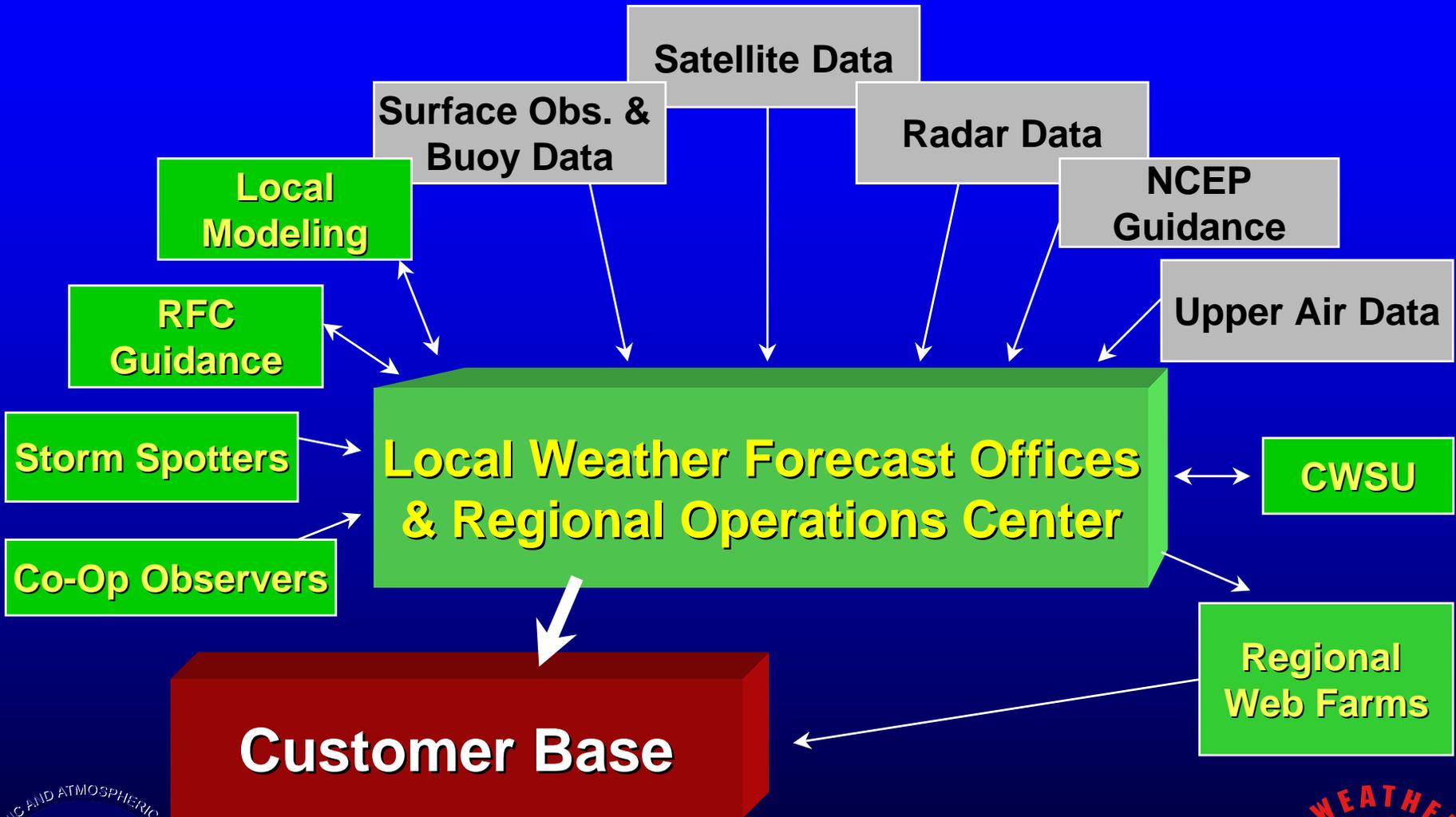
- NWS Network of 122 Local Weather Forecast Offices
- Vital Performance From Your Local Area National Weather Service Forecast Office
- Information Available on the NWS Website
- The Future of the NWS



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www.srh.weather.gov



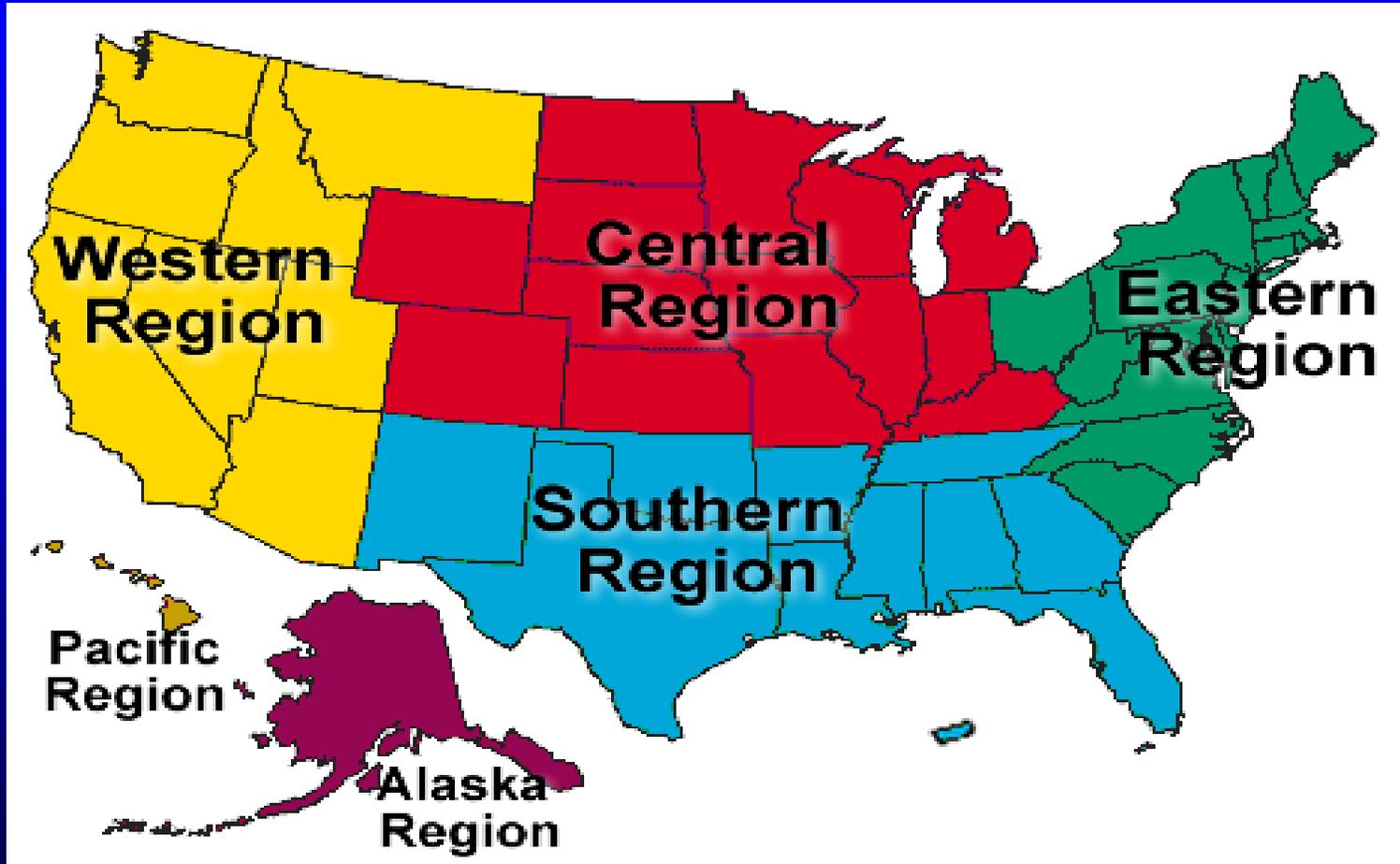
NWS Information Flow



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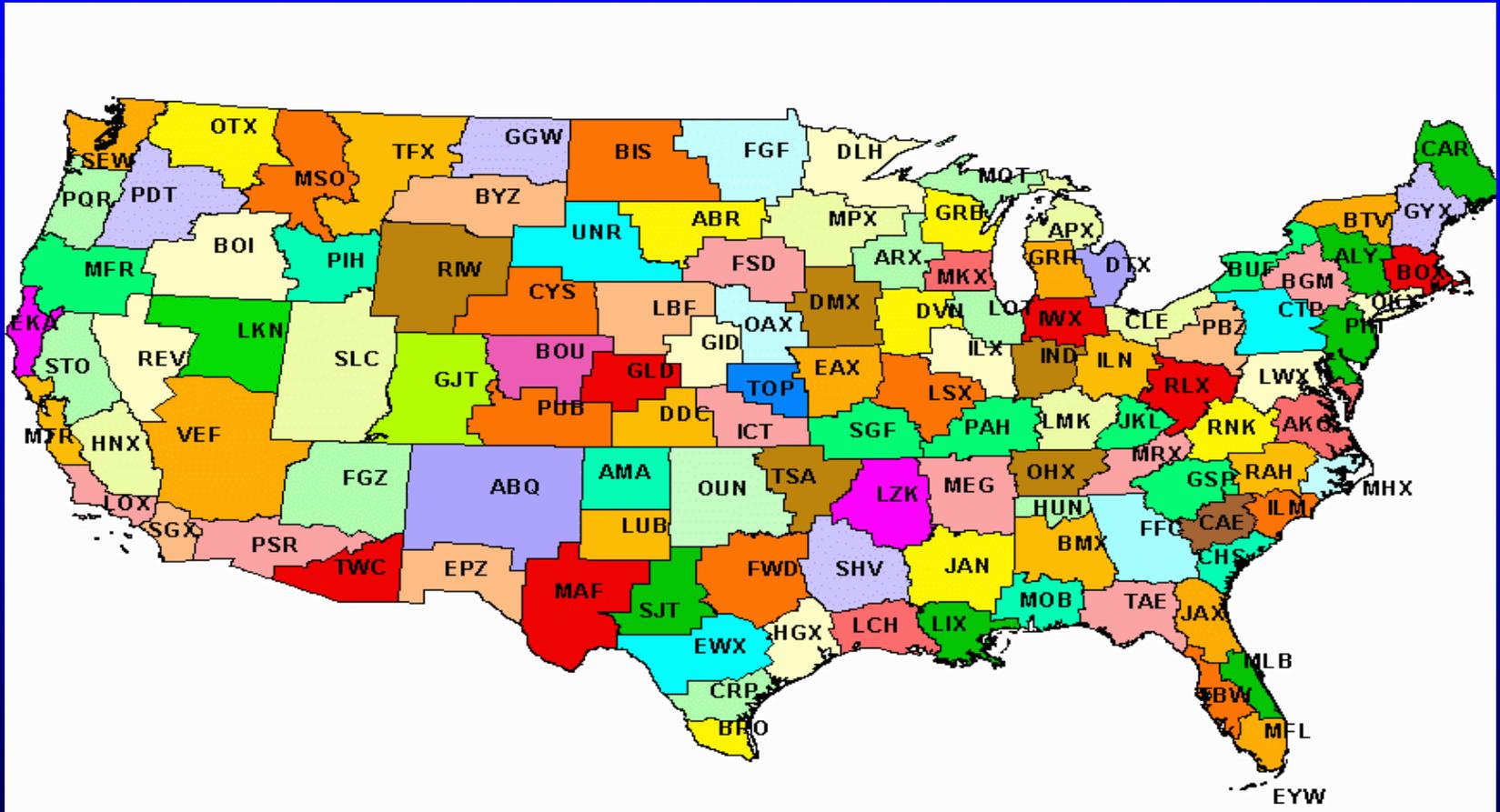
National Weather Service by Region



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NWS Field Offices



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All Weather is Local

- **Vast Majority of Partner/Customers are Local**
 - Local Emergency Managers and Government Officials
 - Local Media
 - General Public



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Local WFO Operations Save Lives!

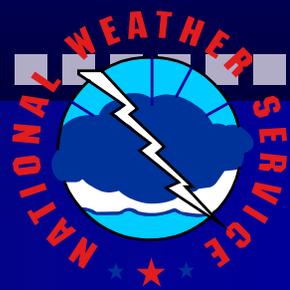
Local Area Expertise For:

- More Accurate Forecasts and Warnings
- Outreach
 - **Public awareness supports our mission delivery**
- Greater Service to Public and Partners
- Better Climate Services
- Homeland Security – Weather Support 24/7

The best weather expertise for your local area!

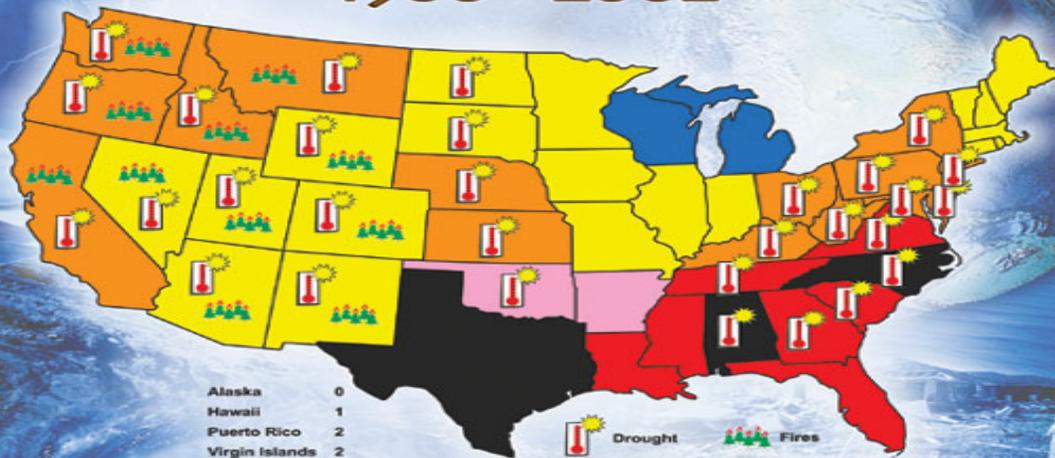


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Billion Dollar Climate and Weather Disasters 1980 - 2002



Alaska 0
Hawaii 1
Puerto Rico 2
Virgin Islands 2

Drought Fires

NUMBER OF EVENTS	NUMBER OF STATES	DISASTER	FREQUENCY	2002 EVENTS
1 - 3	15	Tropical Storms/Hurricanes	28%	Widespread drought spring through fall 2002. Moderate to extreme drought over large portions of 30 states; preliminary estimates of over \$10 billion in damages/costs.
4 - 6	12	Non-Tropical Floods	22%	
7 - 9	10	Heatwaves/Droughts	18%	Western fire season spring through fall 2002. Major fires over 11 states due to drought and periodic high winds with over 7.1 million acres burned; over \$2 billion in damages/costs; 21 deaths.
10 - 12	5	Severe Weather	9%	
13 - 15	5	Fires	9%	
16 - 20	2	Freezes	4%	
	2	Blizzards	4%	
	2	Ice Storms	4%	
	1	Noreaster	2%	

Most of these events affected multiple states; for example, 13-15 events shown for a state means that the state was impacted by 13-15 events -- each producing significant damage. The aggregate damages from affected states are totaled and combined and must equal at least \$1 billion to be classified as a "Billion Dollar" event.



NOAA'S NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

World's Most Active Weather! Weather!



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U.S. has the most Tornadoes

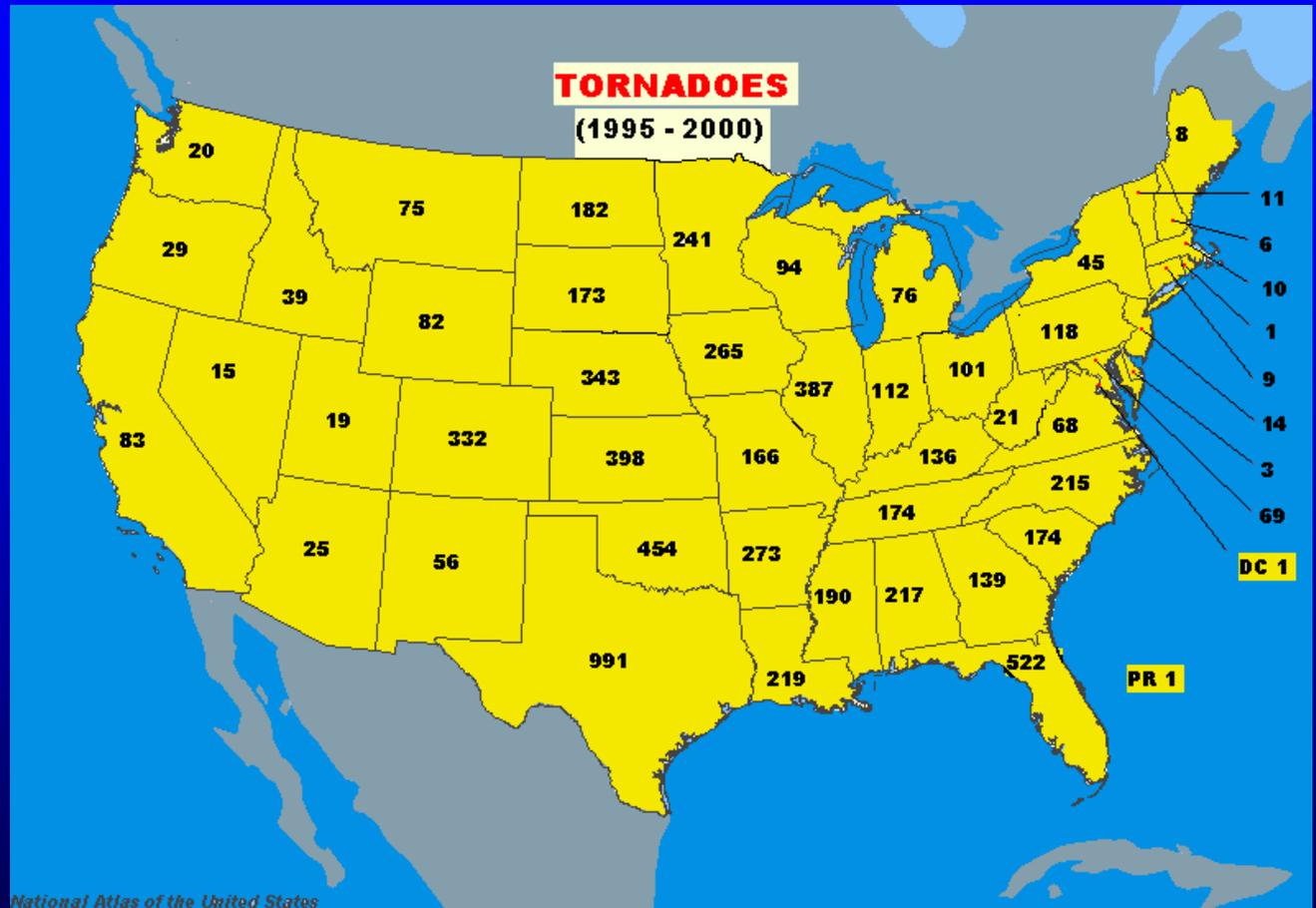
SR 3,236

CR 2,987

ER 874

WR 305

TOT 7,402



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Regional Operations Center

- Shifts regional resources to events
- Conducts briefings with NWS offices and EM community
- Source for NWS interviews when WFOs are active



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WFOs Improve Lead Time

April 1974 Super Outbreak

- Single largest 24 hour tornado outbreak
- 148 Tornadoes
- 330 Fatalities
- Up to 5 Minute Lead Time

May 2003 Outbreak

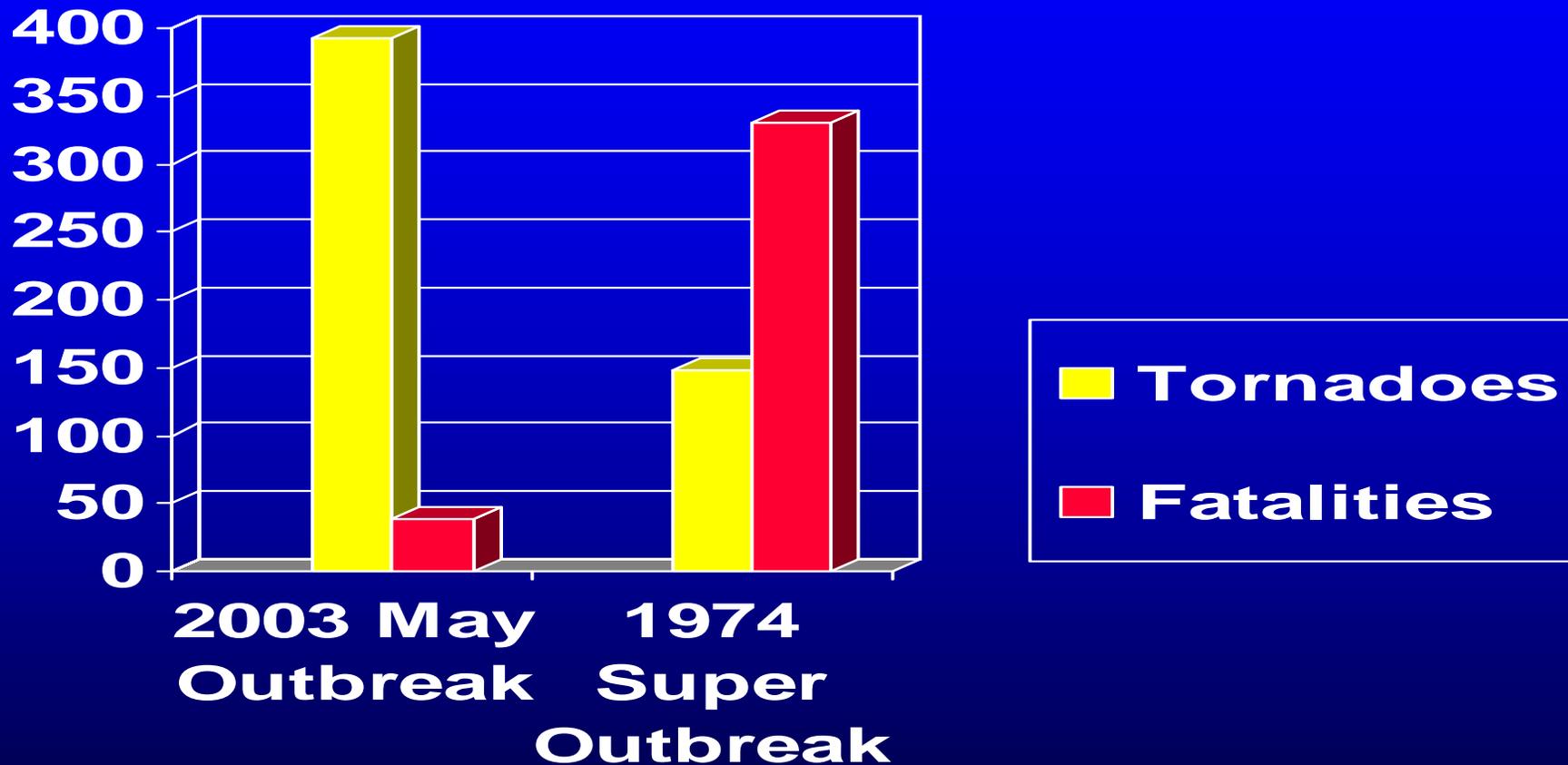
- Unprecedented in size & time (9 days)
- 340 Tornadoes
- 39 Fatalities
- Averaged **19 Minute** Lead Time



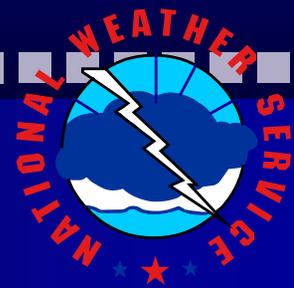
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Local WFOs Save Lives

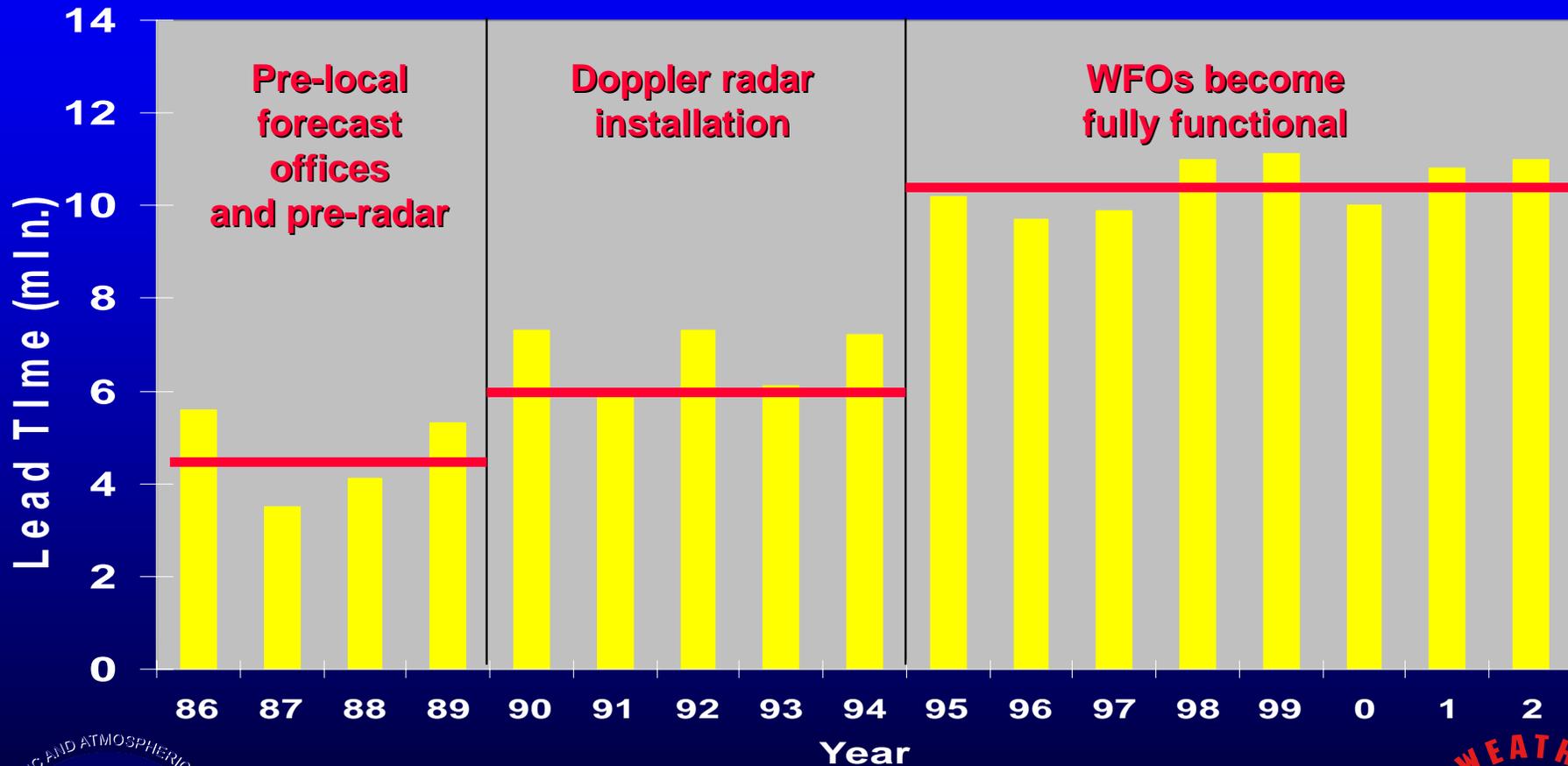


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Local WFOs Save Lives

Tornado Warning Lead Time

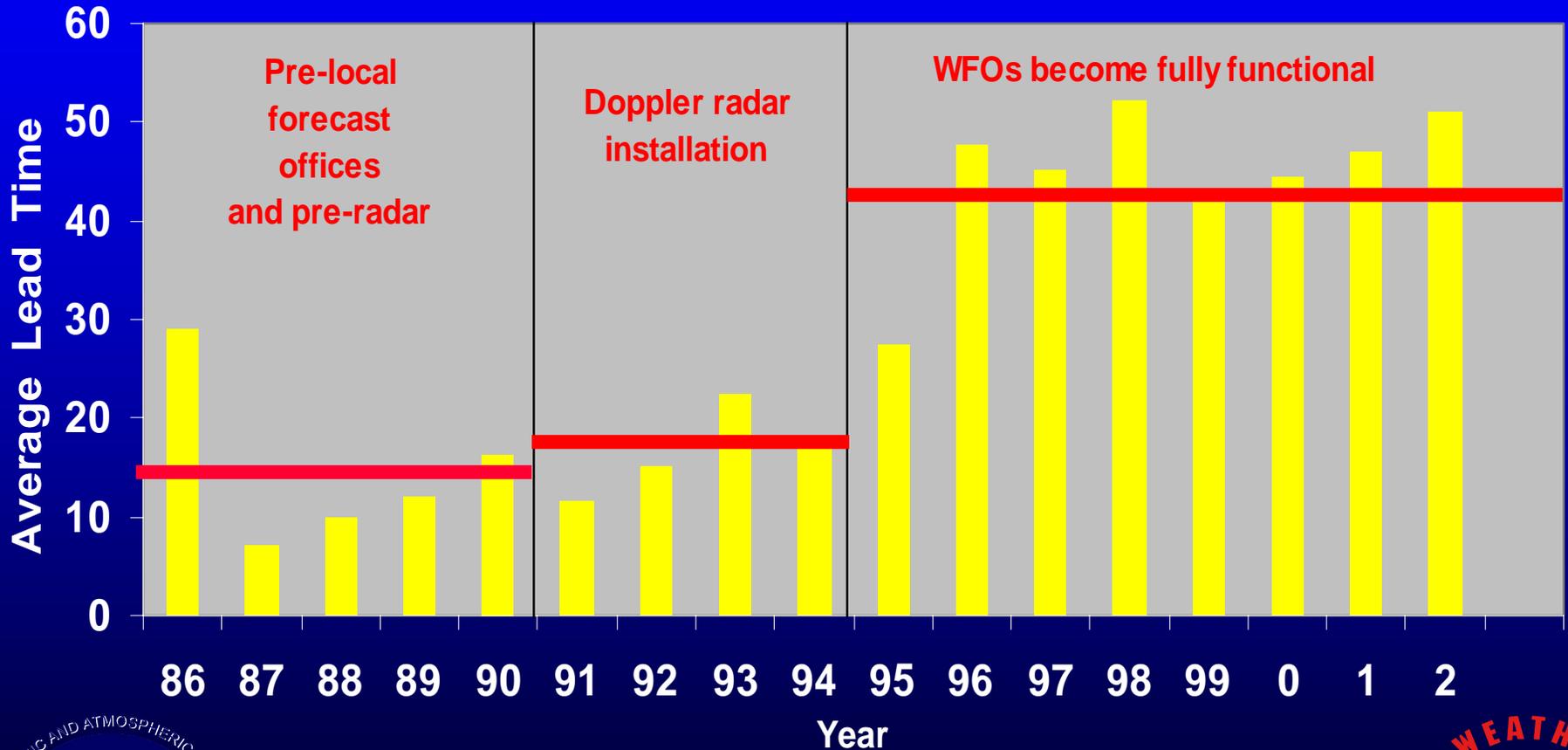


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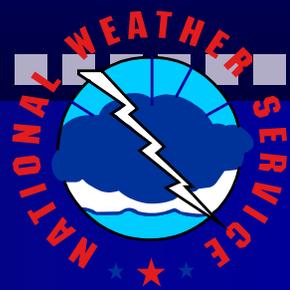


Local WFOs Save Lives

Flash Flood Warning Lead Time



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Your Local WFO Internet Site

- Serves as a one-stop source of weather information.
- Developed with the both - partners and general users - in mind
 - *Easy navigation*
 - *Data given in the manner you need it.*
- Increases public visibility of NWS mission and services



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NWS SR Internet Site

www.srh.weather.gov

- Forecasts obtained by either **postal zip code**, **city/state search**, or by **point and click maps**
- Weather Information in clear, concise format
- Emphasizes local weather expertise



NWS SOUTHERN REGION
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NWS Internet Pinpoint Forecasts

Quick Forecast Information

Current Weather Conditions

Latest Weather Advisories

Quick Forecast Text

Radar and Satellite

Local Climate Services

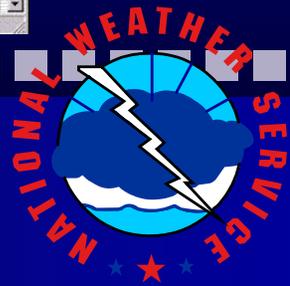
The screenshot shows the National Weather Service website for Bell, Texas. The page is titled "Your National Weather Service forecast" and is for Heidenheimer, TX. The main content includes a "Forecast at a Glance" section with a 7-day forecast table, a "Detailed 7-day Forecast" section with text descriptions for each day, a "Hazardous Weather Outlook" section, a "Current Conditions" section for Fort Hood / Gray U. S. Army Airfield, and "Radar and Satellite Images" section. The 7-day forecast table is as follows:

TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	TUESDAY NIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy Hi 78°F Lo 55°F	Partly Cloudy Hi 82°F Lo 65°F	Partly Cloudy Hi 85°F Lo 68°F	Mostly Cloudy Lo 68°F	T-storms Possible Hi 85°F Lo 68°F	T-storms Possible Hi 85°F Lo 68°F	T-storms Possible Hi 82°F Lo 68°F	T-storms Possible Hi 82°F Lo 68°F	Chance T-storms Hi 82°F Lo 68°F

The "Current Conditions" section for Fort Hood / Gray U. S. Army Airfield shows: Partly Cloudy, 68°F (20°C), Humidity: 37%, Wind Speed: SE 9 MPH, Barometer: 30.26" (1024.1 mb), Dewpoint: 41°F (5°C), Heat Index: 77°F (25°C).



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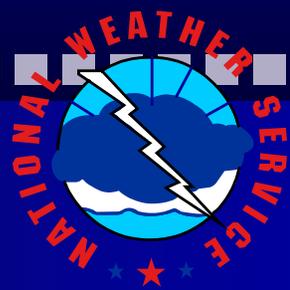


Radar Images

- Available as a time loop for all Weather Service Radars in the U.S.
- Provides real time storm development, movement, and precipitation information



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StormReady®

- Grass roots start in Tulsa - 1998
- National expansion in 2000
- 707 nationwide sites
- Significant factor in improving nation's weather preparedness



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Turn Around Don't Drown™

- Flood and Flash Flood Safety Campaign
- Over 30 partners representing local, regional, and national organizations
- Launched in May 2003 by NWS Southern Region for the Nation



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Click on this logo

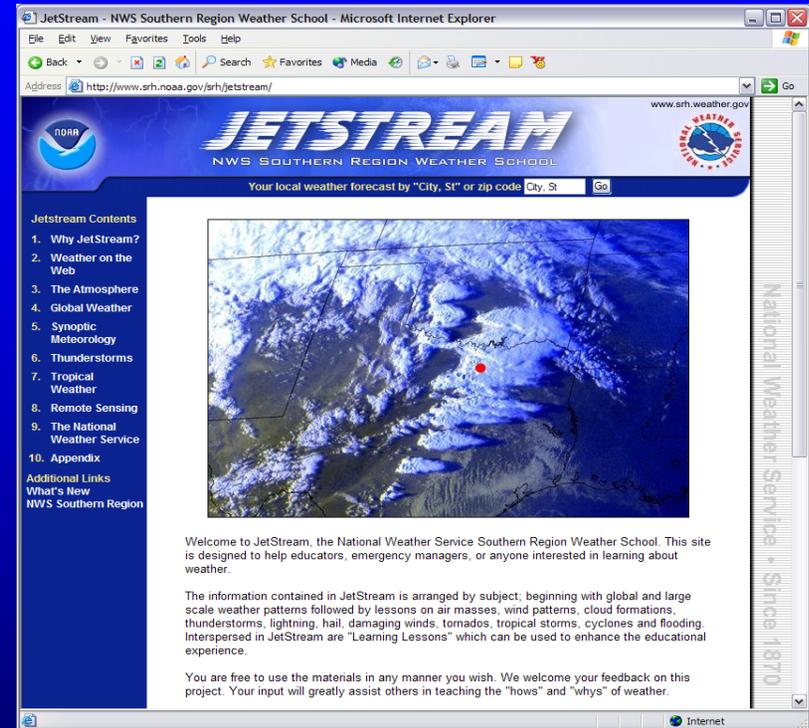


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Project Jetstream

- Designed to educate on weather, it's dangers, preparedness, safety tips, etc.
- Touches on different areas of weather, from thunderstorms to tropical weather
www.srh.weather.gov



Click on the Jetstream logo



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RIP Currents

- Program conceived at WFO Miami
- RIP Current Awareness Campaign Implemented
- Outreach campaign included to warn public of hidden dangers
- Program spread nationwide due to popularity

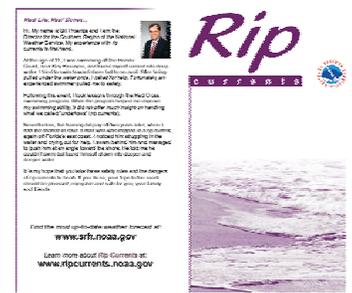
Rip Currents are killers. How you respond could make the difference between life and death.

How a Rip Current forms

Rip Currents form when water, piled against the shore, begins to return to deeper water. Typically, the wind pushes the water over a sandbar. Eventually, this excess water starts to flow seaward through low areas in the sandbar, "ripping" an opening.

Rip Currents occur at all surf beaches including those along both coasts, the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes. Some rip currents last from a few minutes to a few hours, while more permanent ones, associated with groves and jetties, may last days.

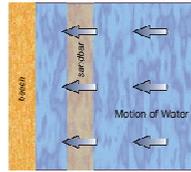
Other common names for rip currents: rips, rip holes, and ripsolo.



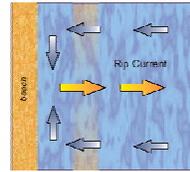
How to spot a Rip Current

Rip Currents are usually narrow near the beach (30 - 60 feet wide), increasing as they extend into deeper water. They can be seen from the shore by the color of the water. If the current has recently formed, you will see murky water (as compared to the surrounding water), as a result of sediment mixing. Longer lasting currents, having already scoured a path in the sandbar, will appear darker than the surrounding water.

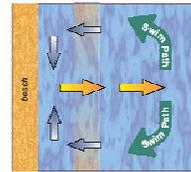
Rip Current wave heights are lower and choppier. Look for objects or foam moving directly seaward. Warning: polarized sunglasses can aid in locating the currents by cutting the glare. Also, look for posted flags or signs warning you of the danger.



Mind pushes water toward the shore over submerged sandbars.



The weight of the water piled near the shore will rip an opening in the sandbar allowing water to rush seaward.



If caught in a rip current, swim parallel to the shore to escape the flow of water, then diagonal toward the shore.

How to survive a Rip Current

Know how to swim. Always swim at guarded beaches and heed the beach patrol.

Remain calm and swim parallel to the shore if caught in a rip current. Attempts to swim directly toward shore can be fatal. Its force is too strong even for the strongest swimmers. Since rip currents are relatively narrow, you should be able to swim across them quickly. If you cannot break free of the current's pull, float until it dissipates, then swim diagonally toward the shore.

Use a flotation device if you attempt to rescue someone from a rip current.

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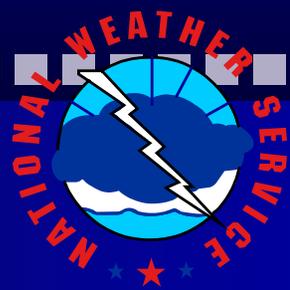
The Future of the NWS

“Forecast improvement will be through mesoscale (*local scale*) decision making.”

- Watch Decentralization from SPC to the WFOs (in progress)
- With use of local models and expertise, we will be able to meet increasing public and private partner needs for accuracy
- Warning Decision Support System 2 (3-5 Yrs)
- Phased Array Radar (6-10 Yrs)



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National Weather Service

**“...government closest to the people,
governs best.”**

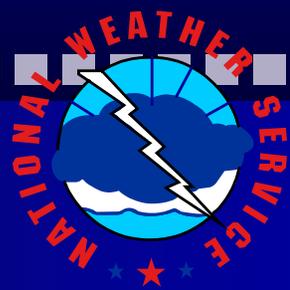
- President George W. Bush

Applied to the NWS:

**Government closest to the people,
serves best**



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Questions?

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(817) 978-1000

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Welcome from the Director

At Left Margin Click on:

“Severe Wx Workshop”



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