

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-5

February 6, 2018

Operations and Services

PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSPD 10-5, *Public Weather Services*, dated October 4, 2011. Changes made to reflect NWS Headquarters reorganization effective April 1, 2015. The following additional revisions were made to this directive:

- 1) Addition of heat, cold, and air quality as weather- and weather-related hazards (Section 1);
- 2) Removal of the Certification & Accreditation (C&A) term (Section 3.3);
- 3) Relocation of IT security tasks, stipulated in NWSPD 60-7, to the ACIO (Section 3.3),
- 4) Addition of procedural directives implementing this policy (Attachment 1).

1. As the Nation grows, more segments of society are becoming increasingly dependent upon information concerning weather- and weather-related hazards such as tornadoes, high winds, winter storms, heat, cold, and air quality. Timely and accurate weather forecasts and warnings are used by the public for critical decisionmaking and personal planning purposes. This directive governs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Weather Service's (NWS') provision of public weather services to its users and partners.

2. The objectives of the Public Weather Services Program are to provide public weather forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property, and to provide weather information for the Nation's economic well-being. Public weather services will be established in accordance with NWS Policy Directive 1-10, [*Managing the Provision of Environmental Information*](#).

3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

3.1 The Analyze, Forecast, and Support Office (AFSO) will:

- a. Establish national policies and procedures for the provision of consistent NWS public forecast and warning services based on public weather requirements.
- b. Consolidate, analyze, and oversee national performance and effectiveness indicators of public weather services.
- c. Provide outreach to national users to promote public weather services.

3.2 The Office of Science and Technology Integration will plan, develop, demonstrate, and

integrate scientific techniques and system capabilities for the Public Weather Services Program.

3.3 The Office of the Assistant Chief Information Officer will:

- a. Provide management, awareness, and oversight for Information Technology (IT) security systems that support the Public Weather Services Program. This includes compliance through Assessment & Authorization (A&A) security activities.
- b. Ensure that NWS IT Operational Systems are implementing and conducting all IT security tasks, as stipulated in NWSPD 60-7, Information Technology Security Policy, in support of the Public Weather Services Program.

3.4 The Office of Planning and Programming for Service Delivery will:

- a. Provide systems engineering, facilities engineering, and logistical services to sustain operational weather systems that support the Public Weather Services Program.
- b. Manage, operate, and supply software and data support for operational systems essential to the dissemination of public warnings, forecasts, guidance, and observational data.
- c. Procure, operate, administer, and maintain communications networks.

3.5 National Weather Service regional headquarters offices will:

- a. Ensure NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) are organized, trained, and equipped to fulfill the Public Weather Services Program.
- b. Provide technical and operational assistance.
- c. Provide public weather requirements to AFSO.
- d. Develop supplements to procedural directives.
- e. Ensure WFOs comply with Public Weather Services Program directives and regional supplements.
- f. Evaluate performance and effectiveness of the public weather services.
- g. Review WFO geographic areas of responsibility in their region to improve the effectiveness and balance of warning and forecast assignments.

3.6 WFOs will:

- a. Provide decision-makers with detailed, accurate, timely, and reliable weather decision support services, particularly in association with high impact events.
- b. Provide public weather warnings, forecasts, statements, summaries, and related products for local service areas in compliance with Public Weather Services Program directives and regional supplements.
- c. Ensure public weather products are timely, accurate, and meteorologically consistent with surrounding WFOs.
- d. Provide outreach to users to promote and assess the success of their Public Weather Services Program.

3.7 The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will produce guidance, outlook, and discussion products to support the Public Weather Services Program.

4. The NWS measures the effectiveness of the Public Weather Services Program through a verification process. Verification is accomplished by comparing: (a) routine forecasts to observations, and (b) severe weather (e.g., tornado, severe thunderstorm, winter storm, etc.) watches and warnings to officially certified severe weather events. Additionally, the NWS utilizes assessments of high impact events and customer satisfaction feedback to evaluate program effectiveness. For more information on verification and evaluation processes, refer to policy and procedural directives in the NWS Directives System 10-16 Performance series at <http://www.weather.gov/directives/010/010.htm>.

5. This Policy Directive is supported by the glossary of terms in Attachment 1. Procedural directives are listed under references in Attachment 1 and will be issued to implement this policy as needed and determined by the Director of the Analyze, Forecast, and Support Office.

<u>Signed</u>	<u>1/23/2018</u>
Louis W. Uccellini	Date
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services	

Attachment 1

REFERENCES AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

References

- NWSI 10-501 WFO Statements, Summaries, Tables Products Specification
- NWSI 10-502 National Statements, Summaries, Tables Products Specification
- NWSI 10-503 WFO Public Weather Forecast Products Specification
- NWSI 10-504 National Public Weather Forecast Products Specification
- NWSI 10-505 Public Zone Change Process
- NWSI 10-507 Public Geographic Areas of Responsibility
- NWSI 10-511 WFO Severe Weather Products Specification
- NWSI 10-512 National Severe Weather Products Specification
- NWSI 10-513 WFO Winter Weather Products Specification
- NWSI 10-514 National Winter Weather Products Specification
- NWSI 10-515 WFO Non-Precipitation Weather Products Specification
- NWSI 10-516 National Non-Precipitation Weather Products Specification
- NWSI 10-517 Multi-Purpose Weather Products Specification
- NWSI 10-519 WFO Air Quality Products Specification

Glossary of Terms

Public Weather Services Program - The collective activities undertaken by NWS Headquarters, regional headquarters, and field offices (i.e., WFOs and the NCEP) to support and provide public weather services in the form of warnings, forecasts, and associated products for the Nation.