

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-22***

***March 30, 2016***

***Operations and Services***

***READINESS***

**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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**OPR:** W/OCOO (S. Lenihan)

**Certified by:** W/ OCOO (J. Murphy)

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***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:*** This directive supersedes NWSPD 10-22, “Readiness,” dated June 8, 2007. Changes made to reflect the NWS Headquarters reorganization effective April 1, 2015.

1. NWS readiness is defined as the ability of the NWS to effectively deliver its products and services without delay. Readiness is essential for the accomplishment of the NWS mission. This directive establishes policies that enable NWS units to achieve, maintain, and sustain readiness.
2. The NWS will develop plans to fulfill NOAA’s National Homeland Security Program Office’s responsibilities to include policies, plans, procedures, and readiness measures that enhance the ability of the U.S. Government to mobilize for, respond to, and recover from a national security emergency. The NWS Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans detail National Weather Service activities necessary to ensure National Weather Service essential functions are sustained without interruption in the event normal operations are compromised.
3. The NWS will establish and maintain service backup operations to continue its products and services in the event of communications outage, equipment or facility failure, natural disaster, or hostile action on or near field unit locations resulting in delays of product and service delivery.
4. The following authorities and responsibilities are established:
  - 4.1 COOP.
    - 4.1.1 The NWS COOP Manager will establish policies and procedures for NWS COOP to ensure organizational and management continuity.
    - 4.1.2 The COOP assures the capability exists within the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of Government to continue essential mission functions uninterrupted across a wide range of potential emergencies, including localized acts of nature, accidents, and/or terror related emergencies.

4.1.3 The NWS Headquarters Offices, all Financial Management Centers, Regional Offices, the National Water Center, and the National Centers for Environmental Prediction will ensure their organizations have the capability to develop, implement, maintain, activate and execute NWS COOP policies and procedures.

4.2 Service Backup.

4.2.1 The Office of the Chief Operating Officer (OCOO) will establish national policies and procedures for service backup operations.

4.2.2 The NWS Headquarters Offices will:

- a. Ensure the ability to invoke service backup of their operational systems in the event of equipment or facility failure, natural disaster, or hostile action.
- b. Assist in developing national service backup procedural directives.
- c. Ensure service backup exercises are performed routinely to demonstrate readiness.

4.2.3 The NWS Regional Offices will:

- a. Ensure Weather Forecast Offices, Weather Service Offices, River Forecast Centers, Center Weather Service Units, and Tsunami Warning Centers are organized, trained, and equipped to activate and operate service backup.
- b. Develop service backup supplements to national procedural directives.
- c. Ensure service backup exercises are performed to demonstrate readiness.

4.2.4 The National Water Center and National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will:

- a. Ensure NCEP Service Centers are organized, trained, and equipped to activate and operate service backup.
- b. Develop service backup supplements to national procedural directives.
- c. Ensure service backup exercises are performed to demonstrate readiness.

5. This policy directive is supported by the references and glossary of terms listed in Appendix A.

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Signed  
Dr. Louis W. Uccellini  
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

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3/16/16  
Date

**APPENDIX A**

REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Instructions

10-2201 Backup Operations  
10-2202 Continuity of Operations  
10-2203 Critical Weather Day

Federal Preparedness Circular (FPC 65). Federal Executive Branch Continuity of Operations, June 15, 2004

Executive Order (EO) 12656, Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities, November 18, 1988 as amended.