



Joint Statement from the National Weather Association and the International Association of Emergency Managers

September 17, 2025

United in Safeguarding Communities from Weather-Driven Disasters

The National Weather Association (NWA) and the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) pursue a shared objective: safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of our communities amid increasingly frequent, weather-driven disasters that require robust collaboration, sustained investment, and unwavering commitment between our agencies. We make this joint statement today to reaffirm our commitment—to our mission and to those who depend on us.

The reality is clear, **nearly 75-80% of disasters worldwide are weather-related**, further magnifying how deeply connected our professions have always been. Meteorologists and emergency managers work hand in hand 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide critical information to the public in order to warn and prepare the common stakeholders we serve. Our missions are inseparable, and the stronger our partnership, the safer our communities.

Today, that partnership is more critical than ever. Communities are experiencing more frequent, more intense, and more wide-reaching weather-driven disasters that test the resilience of our people, our infrastructure, and our response systems. **We are entering an era where the challenge of anticipating the unprecedented is becoming part of daily operations.** Meeting this challenge requires more than individual expertise. It demands unity, trust, and action across disciplines, sectors, and borders.

Our organizations, representing thousands of professionals across the globe, are united in the belief that being prepared, trained, and equipped for the next disaster is just as crucial as the ability to respond to them. This requires:

- **Investment** in science, technology, and workforce development to strengthen forecasting, communication, and disaster response capabilities.
- **Collaboration** between meteorologists, emergency managers, policymakers, educators, and communities to ensure accurate information leads to effective action.
- **Leadership and support** for the institutions that form the foundation of disaster resilience, ensuring they have the resources and stability to fulfill their vital missions.

We are deeply concerned by recent discussions that jeopardize this foundation, whether through reductions in scientific research, disaster response and preparedness funding, or staffing within the meteorological and emergency management fields. Weakening these systems not only increases risk but undermines the progress that has been made in safeguarding communities from preventable tragedies.

We cannot let ourselves become complacent, we must continue to persevere.

Thus, **the NWA and IAEM stand together to call on leaders, stakeholders, and citizens to:**

- **Reaffirm the crucial role of meteorologists and emergency management professionals** in safeguarding communities from weather-driven disasters.
- **Support sustained investment** in the tools, people, and institutions that enable accurate forecasts, timely warnings, and effective emergency response.
- **Strengthen partnerships** at the local, national, and international levels to foster seamless communication, coordination, and public engagement.
- **Advance policies that reduce risk and enhance resilience**, recognizing that disaster preparedness is both a humanitarian responsibility and an economic imperative.

Weather knows no borders. Disasters respect no jurisdictions. Our collaboration must be just as boundless.

The NWA and the IAEM stand ready to work together — and with others — to meet the challenges ahead and protect communities across the globe.