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### NON-COMPETITIVE

#### Enhancing National Weather Service Partner Relationships through Development of Regional Tropical Training Exercises

An Integrated Warning Team (IWT) consists of individuals who are committed to preparing the public for hazardous weather and providing resources and education in order to protect life and property. Some of the stakeholders include the National Weather Service (NWS), federal, state or local emergency managers, public service officials, broadcast meteorologists, private organizations and other public safety decision makers. The goal of this team is to test incident action plans and to strengthen relationships between the organizations before extreme weather events occur. Here we present an overview of the 2023 NWS Eastern Region Tropical IWT that brought together a diverse, multi-state group of stakeholders from both inland and coastal areas to collaborate on current and future approaches for keeping the public safe during landfalling tropical cyclones. In addition to the IWT, the workshop offered training opportunities, which included official FEMA training certification for emergency management partners. Strategies the NWS employs for weaving in this critical training component for both internal forecast staff as well as external partners are discussed. This allows forecasters who are most likely to deploy for on-site decision support to sharpen communication and briefing skills and

ensures partners understand the meaning and utility of probabilistic forecast products.

**Presentation Theme:** The goal of this presentation is to demonstrate experience and best practices of NWS exercises to help prepare public safety partners and build relationships with them.

**Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:** John Quagliariello, Warning Coordination Meteorologist from the Columbia, SC National Weather Service Forecast Office.