

Julie Malingowski

Regional Response and Preparedness Specialist, National Weather
Service Western Region HQ

NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

How to Utilize Meteorologists and Hydrologists in Emergency Operations

Weather and water conditions influence a variety of factors from commerce, to transportation of responders and resources, to the likelihood of dry thunderstorm events starting new wildfires, and to the confidence of which a hurricane will hit a particular place. Meteorologists, hydrologists and emergency managers must maintain strong collaborative partnerships throughout all four phases of emergency management (preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation) due to the potential changes meteorological conditions generate before, during, or after an incident. Currently, emergency managers at all levels know how to obtain weather and water information supporting an all-hazards approach and emergency management activities. In the past ten years, meteorologists and in some cases hydrologists have, with increased frequency, become embedded into Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and Incident Command Posts (ICPs), both in-person and virtually, developing an integrated response and recovery approach to operations.

Email briefings, conference call briefings, iNWS, NWSChat, and phone calls are all excellent communication services that the National Weather Service meteorologists and hydrologists can provide that are useful in many

applications, but having a meteorologist or hydrologist from the NWS or other agencies provide specific support to an event or response has been proven to be vital in decision making. This approach allows the emergency manager to remain connected with the proper interpretive service that a meteorologist or hydrologist can provide.

An increasing number of EOCs are staffing full-time meteorologists or hydrologists as part of their team. What are the advantages of having these subject-matter experts as part of your team? This presentation will cover the day to day weather and water intelligence that may be useful in your line of work, and how to embed meteorologists and hydrologists into your emergency operation.

Presentation Theme: The audience will gain insight into how meteorological and hydrological support can help their planning, response, recovery and mitigation for emergency operations. The presenter(s) will show examples of how meteorologists and hydrologists have provided weather and water intelligence in EOC environments in the past, and discuss skillsets that these subject-matter experts can bring to the table and how agencies are interconnected.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: Derek Giardino, West Gulf River Forecast Center