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When will severe weather hit my jurisdiction?

Emergency Managers (EMs) need actionable forecast information to prepare for high-impact severe weather events. This study explores how the new Storm Prediction Center (SPC) timing graphics can be leveraged to add local specificity to forecast information the National Weather Service (NWS) provides to their core partners.

Through workshops and tabletop exercises with NWS forecasters, EMs, and other core partners, we learned how the SPC timing graphics could be made easier to understand and use. Having visual representation of the tornado, wind, and hail risks over time, for specific, named locations in and around an EM's jurisdiction, provides more context to how a severe weather event will unfold and helps to make more informed, timely decisions.

Presentation Theme: The theme of this presentation is to discuss how the new SPC timing graphics can be leveraged to provide local specificity to forecast information the NWS provides to EMs. EMs have said in early testing that these graphics inform better decision-making and assist in clearly communicating with their stakeholders ahead of severe weather.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: Dr. Daphne LaDue (OU CAPS) and Matthew Elliott (SPC).