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### **Bridging the Gap: Investigating the Integration of Weather Information into Emergency Management**

Around the country, hazardous weather events pose complex challenges that require Emergency Managers to make swift, critical decisions. At the University of Oklahoma's Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, researchers aim to better understand how EMs use NWS data, products, and decision support tools when preparing for and addressing high impact weather events. Of particular relevance to the IAEM community are two ongoing projects at IPPRA: the Extreme Weather and Emergency Management Survey (WxEM) and an Emergency Manager Workflow project. The WxEM survey, developed in collaboration with the NWS and the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory, created a first of its kind database of EMs around the US. Since its launch, approximately 1100 EMs have participated in 7 survey waves, asking questions relating to various meteorological topics. Additionally, IPPRA's Emergency Management Workflow project seeks to better understand the workflows and needs of EMs, focusing on how EMs access, utilize, and in some cases disseminate, NWS forecast information. This poster will present findings from the waves of the WxEM survey, and offer recommendations drawn from the EM Workflow project for enhancing NWS support for EMs before and during hazardous weather events. It will also foster discussion and invite feedback

from EMs on how these projects can improve communication and collaboration between the EM community and NOAA/NWS offices.

**Presentation Theme:** The theme of this presentation is integration, collaboration, and innovation. These research projects use qualitative as well as quantitative analysis to better understand the workflows and needs of EMs, focusing specifically on how EMs access, utilize, and in some cases disseminate, NWS forecast information. It will showcase both survey and interview data from EMs all around the United States to hopefully improve communication and collaboration between the EM community and NOAA/NWS offices.

**Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:** Anna Wanless, David Hogg, Sam Stormer, Joseph Ripberger, Makenzie Krocak.