

NWS IDSS for Special Events and Services Provided by Weather/Water/Climate Enterprise Partners

If you are a public safety official charged with protecting the public or are planning a special event, one of your biggest concerns is likely the weather. Whether you are an emergency manager, a private citizen, or an event organizer planning an activity or are taking measures to mitigate the impacts of a known severe weather event, support for dealing with the impacts of weather is available and is easily accessible. No one can guarantee good weather, but the National Weather Service (NWS) can help you prepare for hazardous conditions that may put individuals in harm's way. We want to build a Weather-Ready Nation (WRN), and you play a key role in ensuring the safety of those you serve. Our Weather/Water/Climate Enterprise partners¹ can also play an important role by providing incredibly diverse services to meet the specific needs of their clients.

What is Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS)?

In addition to providing a wealth of weather information to the general public, (described below), NWS works directly with our core partners to provide relevant information and interpretative services to enable their decisions when weather, water, or climate has a direct impact on the protection of lives and livelihoods. NWS core partners include the emergency management community, water resources management community, other government partners and the media. However, our primary IDSS focus is on supporting government partners who share similar mission objectives of protecting lives and property.

NWS provides episodic IDSS to support a specific event or incident, and recurring IDSS throughout the year, to improve partner mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery, as well as support routine-high value decisions.

What kinds of weather information are available to me from NWS?

The NWS is a government agency which provides weather, water, and climate information for the general public, including warnings to protect life and property. Some standard ways to receive NWS forecasts and warnings include NWS web pages, NOAA Weather Radio, and experimental XML/CAP feeds. Much of the information produced by the NWS is delivered on a regular schedule, while some are produced as conditions warrant, e.g., tornado warnings. The NWS also can provide you with a wealth of educational information about keeping safe during hazardous weather.

To inform our core partners' decision-making in support of public safety, NWS IDSS may include text and email alerts, specialized webinars and email briefings, or participation with core partners in preparedness training and exercises. We work with core partners to understand how weather impacts your operations and may even deploy on-site to support your operations center during an incident/event.

If you inform the NWS about the event or incident you are planning for, we can work with you on how you can obtain the latest NWS forecasts and warnings and how NWS provides support for hazardous weather. The NWS can also let you know if the level of support needed is beyond what NWS routinely provides.

¹ The Weather/Water/Climate Enterprise includes all entities in the public, private, nonprofit, research, and academic sectors that provide information, services, and infrastructure in the areas of weather, water, and climate. The private sector component includes all elements of the private sector (including media, consultants, equipment providers, etc.) which provide services to the public in the areas of weather, water and climate, broadly defined (e.g., includes all NWS service program areas). The term does not exclude foreign-owned companies which provide services to the American public..

What additional services can be provided from Enterprise partners?

If the support needed is beyond what NWS routinely provides, such as customized or highly localized information, you should consider an Enterprise service provider. Our Enterprise partners can provide customized weather information, alerts, weather radar, communication devices, and consulting services. Enterprise partners can help their customers assess weather-related risks; evaluate the effects of weather on their sales, and use of this intelligence to maximize the effectiveness of their marketing and advertising; develop specific action plans to keep employees and customers safe; and predict and mitigate the effects of weather on their supply chain, business operations, and distribution system.

NWS does not endorse any particular service provider, but does maintain a list of those available at <https://weather.gov/enterprise>.

Some examples of specialized services available from Enterprise partners are :

- Site-specific support for manufacturers, retailers, and resorts
- Routing and dispatching support for trains, trucks, airlines and ships
- Detailed venue-specific support for outdoor events such as marathons, concerns, and races
- Equipment for observing, collecting and analyzing weather information
- Thousands of “apps” for general use, as well as for specific groups like hikers, boaters, and pilots

If I hire an Enterprise service provider, will NWS work with them?

Absolutely. The NWS is especially concerned that you are prepared for hazardous weather, and will be available to talk with your Enterprise service provider well before an event or incident to coordinate roles in case a weather warning becomes necessary. Your service provider may also want to talk to NWS about availability of local weather information.

Will the NWS deploy staff on-site to support my operations?

Upon request, and as resources allow, NWS can work directly with federal, state and local and tribal government officials, such as emergency managers, to help ensure public safety. The NWS also can provide outreach and education services (e.g., booth displays) at special events. NWS often deploys forecasters directly to provide support such as within an Emergency Operations Center or on-site to support fire operations.

Working Together to Protect the Nation

NOAA’s Weather-Ready Nation is about building community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather. By doing this, the country will better prepare for, respond to and recover from weather-related impacts. The National Weather Service relies on the contributions of Weather/Water/Climate Enterprise partners to play a critical and growing role in building a truly weather-resilient society. Together can support decision making of public safety officials, businesses, and the general public, to minimize the impacts associated with hazardous weather.