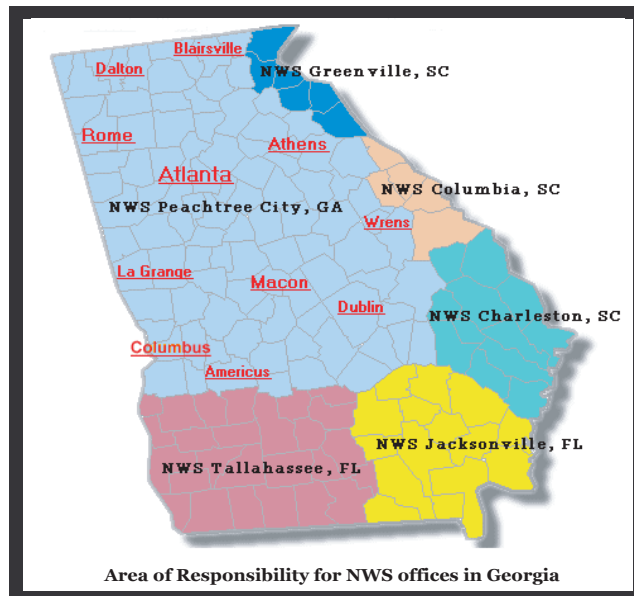


About our Office

The WFO is staffed 24 hours a day, every day of the year. There are always at least two meteorologists on duty and HMTs cover 16 hours each day. During severe weather, staffing is increased to handle the event properly.

The Peachtree City WFO is responsible for hydro-meteorological (i.e. weather and water) forecast and warning services for 96 counties in north and central Georgia (see map below).



Products created by the Peachtree City WFO are available to the public through commercial TV and radio, private services, and the internet (weather.gov). Most TV and radio stations contract with private companies that collect NWS data and then distribute the data to their customers. Some media relay our local forecasts to their viewers or listeners exactly as we have issued them. Others will modify our forecasts as they see fit. Severe weather warnings, however, are almost always relayed exactly as they are issued by our office, even though the TV or radio personality may not clearly indicate they came from us. We rely on our media partners to help us get out the word of threatening weather. In short, the National Weather Service is the often unseen engine behind all weather forecasts and warnings you see in the media.

Our Staff

Our staff includes 17 meteorologists, several of whom have advanced degrees. At full staffing, the Peachtree City WFO is comprised of:

- 1 - Meteorologist in Charge (Supervisor & administrator)
- 1 - Warning Coordination Meteorologist (Liaison to external customers.)
- 1 - Science and Operations Officer (Science and training leader.)
- 5 - Senior Meteorologists
- 7 - General Meteorologists
- 1 - Service Hydrologist
- 1 - Data Acquisition Program Manager (Administrator of data collection programs.)
- 5 - Hydrometeorological Technicians (HMT) or Interns.
- 1 - Administrative Support Assistant.
- 1 - Electronics Systems Analyst.
- 1 - Integrated Technologies Officer
- 4 - Electronics Technicians.
- 1 or 2 Student Interns.

The Peachtree City WFO is fortunate to be assisted by many volunteers. During severe weather, amateur radio (HAM) operators take up position in the WFO and communicate with NWS-trained spotters watching storms in the field. Also, a network of over 100 "cooperative observers" dutifully record weather data each day and then send us the data. These volunteers are crucial to the success of the Peachtree City WFO forecast and warning program.

To contact us:

National Weather Service

4 Falcon Drive

Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Phone: 770-486-1133

Fax: 770-486-9333

E-mail: lans.rothfusz@noaa.gov

weather.gov or www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc

To report severe weather

(tornadoes, wind damage, flooding, or hail the size of dimes or larger)

call us toll-free at:

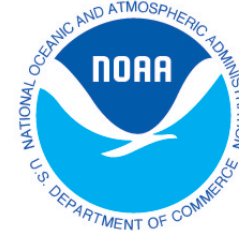
866-763-4466

Peachtree City Weather Forecast Office



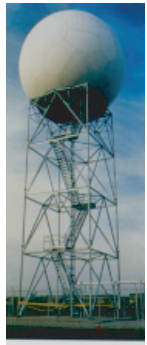
Mission Statement

The National Weather Service in Peachtree City is committed to providing the best possible climate, forecast and severe weather warning products for residents in North and Central Georgia.



Our Technology

The WFO uses an impressive array of technology to accomplish its mission.

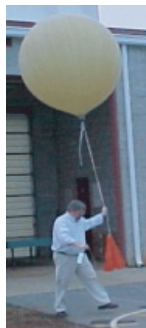


The Weather Surveillance Radar -1988 Doppler (WSR-88D) is the cornerstone of our warning operations. Being a Doppler radar, it allows us to "see" wind motion in storms which can signal the early stages of tornadoes, damaging winds and large hail. Use of the WSR-88D has significantly improved the warnings issued by the NWS. Although its name implies it was built in 1988, its software and hardware are continuously upgraded to keep pace with current technology and science.

The Peachtree City WFO forecasters use the Advance Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) to display satellite, radar, numerical model, surface weather observations, and other data. These and other tools are used daily in the WFO to provide forecasts and warnings for the public.



The Peachtree City WFO is one of only 90 sites in the country that launch weather balloons for the NWS. Sensors attached to these balloons measure temperature, humidity, pressure and wind as they rise through the atmosphere. Data from these sensors are collected and incorporated into numerical models which are the basis for weather forecasts throughout the nation.



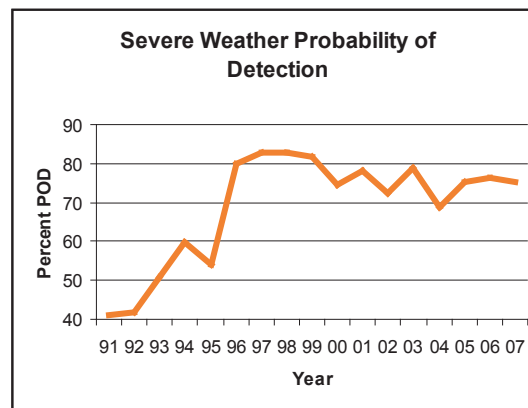
Public products created by the WFO can be heard on NOAA Weather Radio (NWR), a special radio which receives weather information continuously broadcast by the National Weather Service. NWR receivers cost \$20 and up, depending on features. Some have



audible alarms which can be triggered by the NWS when a warning is issued. Models with "S.A.M.E." technology allow you to program them to alarm only for the counties you want to hear warnings for. NWR broadcasts for 16 transmitters originate from the Peachtree City WFO.

Our Performance

The truest measure of the quality of our service is in the confidence people have in us. While a meteorologist's reputation has always been subject to light ribbing, the truth is that day-to-day weather forecasting skills are quite good. In fact, the only forecasts remembered by the public are those infrequently missed because of the inexactness of our science. To quantify the abilities of the Peachtree City WFO, the chart below shows the WFO's annual severe weather "probability of detection" (POD) scores since 1991. The POD indicates the percentage of times warnings were issued for severe thunderstorms (hail > 3/4 inch or wind > 58 mph) and tornadoes before they occurred. Peachtree City's scores have improved steadily over the years showing that 8 out of 10 severe storms now have warnings issued for them. Another measure is our False Alarm Ratio (FAR) which indicates how often we issue warnings for storms that turn out to be non-severe. Our annual false alarm rates are around 50% and have been improving with time. Although we're not perfect, we're working hard to get there!



Products & Services

The Peachtree City WFO issues products each day for public, aviation and internal coordination purposes. Routine products intended for the general public include:

- Short-Term (0 - 6 hour) Forecasts.
- Forecasts for each of the WFO's counties in text and graphical formats.
- State Forecasts containing a generalized, 5-day forecast for Georgia.
- Area Weather Summaries containing an overview of existing conditions.
- Climatological Data describing the observed, record and average weather data.
- Hazardous Weather Outlooks describing the prospects for dangerous weather that day.

Aviation products issued by the WFO are used in support of general and commercial aviation in the area. Terminal forecasts are issued for Atlanta, Peachtree/DeKalb, Athens, Macon, Columbus and Cobb County-Mc Collum Field airports.

Non-routine products issued by the WFO include watches, warnings and statements for a variety of weather types. A few examples:
Watches, warnings & statements for

- Tornadoes
- Severe Thunderstorms
- Flash Floods
- River Floods
- Winter Weather

Non-Precipitation Weather Hazards including high winds, excessive heat, dense fog, blowing dust, etc. Winter Weather Advisories (snow, ice, blowing snow, etc.)

The WFO also provides services to area communities. For example, severe weather preparedness seminars are provided free of charge to schools, businesses and any interested groups. Tours of the WFO by small groups are always welcome. Call the WFO to arrange a tour. Also, free weather information from around the country is available during business hours by calling 770-486-1133 .