Why participate?

- **NWSChat** allows you to get clarifications and enhancements from the NWS during significant weather events.
- Ask questions from the meteorologists who make decisions on watches, warnings, and advisories.
- It gives you a weather and flood situational awareness display.
- Satellite, radar data, storm-based warning polygons and weather spotter reports can all be displayed to support your operations.
- It acts as a bridge between the NWS and the public.
- Information shared on NWSChat can be used by emergency managers to better communicate.

**NWSChat** brings you virtually into National Weather Service (NWS) operations. It is a real-time instant messaging program that allows your local NWS office to communicate weather and flood information with key partners during incidents. It is an important situational awareness tool that should be leveraged by all members of the Integrated Warning Team—emergency management, the news media and the NWS.

**High Impact Events**

At the Austin/San Antonio Weather Forecast Office, meteorologists depend highly on the communication from our partners. During severe weather or any high impact events, a meteorologist is tasked with maintaining an effective and open communication within **NWSChat**. This practice ensures that our partners are receiving real-time, insight into operations. It also gives the NWS a chance to solicit for real-time information from across the region to incorporate into the decision-making process.
Who can participate?

- Members of the emergency management community, including public safety officials from federal, state, tribal or local governments
- Safety and emergency personnel from universities or other large-population entities
- Members of the news media who have a need to actively participate in discussions with NWS Forecast Offices on imminent weather and flood hazards
- Government partners of a NWS office, including (but not limited to) the FAA, DHS, UGGS, USAF and water and land management officials

How do I sign up?

1. Go to http://nwschat.weather.gov
2. Read and agree to terms of use
3. Fill out the username generation form by selecting your affiliation from menu and typing your name (all lowercase)
4. Create a “handle” visible to others
5. For EMAs, include location and name
   Example: anytown-ST-ema-lastname
6. Enter an e-mail address
7. Enter a phone number
8. Enter your affiliation (e.g., EMA-Town)
9. Enter a password for your account that follows the listed requirements
10. Select an office to approve the request (San Antonio/EWX)
11. Click ‘Create Account’

How do I access NWSChat?

- NWSChat Live - https://nwschat.weather.gov/live/
- Provides a browser-based chat room with an interactive map of reports and data
- Visit the above address and enter username, excluding the ‘@nwschat.noaa.gov’
  (e.g., EMA-firstname.lastname)
- Enter password and click ‘Login’
- Passwords MUST be changed every 180 days
- Passwords must be changed via the NWSChat site
- On the NWSChat homepage click “Change NWSChat Password” under “Important Links”
- If your email has changed, contact nwschatadmin@noaa.gov to update your info
- For other support questions, e-mail nwschatbox@noaa.gov

Font Background Color Recommendations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color Name</th>
<th>RGB Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Manager Message Color</td>
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