

Abstract

The WEBCEM- An Automated Dissemination Method for issuing Non-Weather Related Hazardous Warnings via the Web

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This paper will detail the development of a cost efficient and more timely and accurate approach to disseminating non-weather related warning information. The current process for emergency managers to disseminate non-weather related emergency messages is for the emergency managers to call or fax civil emergency information to the local National Weather Service (NWS) office. A NWS employee transcribes the message and then disseminates it via the NWS AWIPS program through the EAS system to the media and NOAA Weather Radio(NWR).

The purpose of this project was to develop a method that would reduce the amount of time that it takes to disseminate civil emergency and other related non-weather related hazardous messages from local emergency management offices through the NWS to the media and public. This nearly complete automation of these non-weather related warnings will reduce the warning dissemination time of these products from around seven minutes to less than two minutes.

The WEBCEM program allows EMA directors the ability to visit a password protected web site to disseminate non-weather related hazardous warning information directly to a local National Weather Service office. This web based program allows for the EMA director to choose the non-weather related hazard, type in the necessary information needed within the warning text and disseminate the warning message in a matter of seconds.

The WEBCEM method for issuing non-weather related hazardous warning information has been successfully tested with the end-to-end warning dissemination process being less than two minutes. This dissemination process will allow the NWS and EMAs the ability to utilize existing programs, computer servers and equipment to disseminate the warning message in a timely and accurate manner, therefore allowing for very minimal additional cost.