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Public Information Statement  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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TO: Subscribers:  
-Family of Services  
-NOAA Weather Wire Service  
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
-NOAAPORT  
-Other NWS Partners, Users, and Employees

FROM: Iftikhar Jamil  
NWS Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: NWS Presence on Twitter

NWS is exploring use of Twitter to provide microblogging services. Twitter is a commonly used social networking service that allows participants to share information with other users. Microblogging services like Twitter serve as an important source of real-time news updates. The short nature of updates allows users to post news items quickly, reaching their audience in seconds. Because microblogging services are two-way, readers of posts can reply to posts with various responses, such as a weather report with location, time and images/videos. For the NWS, aggregate analysis of this data provides information on storm evolution, and partner/public perceptions and response.

NWS has already experimented with collection of storm reports via Twitter (<http://www.weather.gov/stormreports/>) and is now beginning to explore the potential for use of Twitter to communicate weather information. Because exploration of possible use of Twitter cannot be done outside of the public Twitter environment, our prototyping efforts will be publicly visible.

Over the next several weeks, prototype Twitter feeds will be established for the following sites:

NWS Norman OK  
NWS LMRFC (Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center)  
NWS Pleasant Hill MO  
NWS Salt Lake City UT  
NWS Charleston SC  
NWS Western Region  
NWS Honolulu HI  
NHC Atlantic | NHC Pacific - The National Hurricane Center will run 2 accounts, basin specific.

Work on these Twitter feeds is in preparation for an experimental service that will be open for public comment and

review. The period of prototyping, expected to last approximately through September 30, 2011, will enable NWS staff to become proficient at maintaining a useful presence on Twitter and will allow a period of service adjustments as staff determine the level of automation needed, type of information to post, and how to effectively address problems. NWS will provide more information and initiation of a public comment and review period when a decision is made to offer this service on a more consistent basis.

Please note that as a prototype service, these Twitter feeds may be discontinued at any time, the amount and content of information provided may change, and the frequency of "tweets" may vary and is not guaranteed.

Tweets will be posted on a time-available basis and may be extremely limited during periods of severe weather. In addition, users should not rely on this service as the primary means of receiving NWS alerts and warnings of hazardous weather. NWS alerts and warnings are available on NOAA Weather Radio and our official website:

<http://www.weather.gov/>

Disclaimers regarding NWS use of social media services can be found at:

<http://www.weather.gov/disclaimer.php>  
<http://www.weather.gov/credits.php#socialmedia>

If you have comments or questions regarding this public information statement, please contact:

Ronald C. Jones  
National Weather Service  
1325 East West Highway  
Silver Spring Maryland 20910  
301-713-3513 x 110  
[ronald.c.jones@noaa.gov](mailto:ronald.c.jones@noaa.gov)

For technical questions regarding the Twitter prototype, please contact:

Darone Jones  
National Weather Service  
125 S State Street Room 1235  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1102  
801-524-4000  
[darone.jones@noaa.gov](mailto:darone.jones@noaa.gov)

National Public Information Statements are online:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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