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Public Information Statement, Comment Request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Eli Jacks
Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments until November 4, 2014, on
Expanded Experimental Impact Based Warnings

NWS is accepting comments beginning Tuesday, March 25, 2014, and continuing through November 4, 2014, on an expansion of its Experimental Impact Based Warnings. All 38 NWS Central Region (CR) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs), 5 NWS Southern Region WFOs (Norman, OK; Tulsa, OK; Jackson, MS; Lubbock, TX and San Angelo, TX); 1 NWS Eastern Region WFO (Blacksburg, VA); and 2 NWS Western Region WFOs (Great Falls, MT and Glasgow, MT) will issue enhanced convective warnings.

This is an expansion of the NWS CR Experimental Impact Based Warning demonstration in 2012 and 2013:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/pns13ibw.txt>

Based on feedback from the CR 2013 Experimental Impact Based Warnings, the 2014 demonstration will include some changes. The most significant change for the 2014 national experiment is that the impact statements for "CONSIDERABLE" and "CATASTROPHIC" serve as markers of confidence of tornado occurrence, with both reflecting an "elevated tier" of tornado damage and risk. The term "CATASTROPHIC" will only be used when a tornado is actually striking a community.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning (SVR), Tornado Warning (TOR) and Severe Weather Statement (SVS) products will be stratified into categories distinguishing extreme cases from base convective warnings. Additional enhanced wording will be included to convey information about associated impacts, specific hazards expected, and recommended actions, both within the bullet statements and as part of the tag line codes.

Additional information and product examples are online at:

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

A Product Description Document (PDD) outlining the products is online at:

<http://products.weather.gov/viewliste.php>

Please submit comments to:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=IBW>

Based on demonstration results, the Impact Based Warnings are being considered for implementation on a national basis. After the experimental period is completed and the comment period closes, NWS will evaluate all comments to determine whether to implement the Experimental Impact based warnings as operational products.

For more information, please contact:

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National Public Information Notices are online at:

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

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