



Aware

Aware is published by NOAA's National Weather Service to enhance communications between NWS and the Emergency Management Community and other government and Private Sector Partners.

January 2016

NWS Steps During Historic December Flooding in Pacific Northwest

By [NWS News Staff](#), Silver Spring, MD

Record rainfall impacted the Pacific Northwest from December 7 - 11, heavily impacting northwest Oregon, southwest Washington and the greater Portland metropolitan area.

Portland received 2.67 inches of rain on Monday, December 7, a calendar day record for December. Some coastal mountain regions of the Pacific Northwest received up to 18 inches of rainfall during the event. The storm caused small stream and river flooding, coastal flooding and multiple landslides.

NWS Portland provided extensive Decision Support Services (DSS) for this event, including daily partner email briefings, webinars and social media messages. As a result of these DSS briefings, the U.S. Coast Guard and Columbia Bar Pilots were able to allow a few ships to pass when seas and winds temporarily subsided, reducing the impacts to shipping and commerce. NWS Portland and Seattle conducted live interviews with The Weather Channel to keep the public up to date. These



Record Flooding in the Pacific Northwest turned roads into rivers.

NWS offices issued numerous flood-related warnings and advisories, wind advisories/warnings and marine warnings.

Briefings provided by NWS Seattle resulted in an evacuation of a low-lying juvenile detention center near Grays Harbor, WA. As a result of a combination of high tides, heavy runoff from the Chehalis River and high surf, water covered the center's parking lot and reaching the doorstep. Ocean Shores, WA, experienced coastal flooding and erosion. A damaged abutment left part of the city vulnerable to high tides and high surf. Pre-arranged DSS email briefings provided key information when high water conditions were met, enabling authorities to mitigate the threat at the vulnerable site.

The event demonstrated the value of DSS provided by the NWS leading up to and during an episode of historic rainfall and flooding. Briefings, forecasts and other DSS provided by WFOs Portland and Seattle, assisted in evacuation decisions and life and property being saved. These WFOs worked with their emergency management partners and communities to build a Weather-Ready Nation.

Learn about NDPTC/NDPC Training Courses at Jan. 20 Webinar

By [Rob Dale](#), Emergency Manager / Meteorologist, Ingham County, MI, Emergency Management

The IAEM-USA Climate, Water and Weather Caucus is offering a free [webinar](#) with the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC) on Wednesday, January 20, 3:00 p.m. EST. The caucus is part of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) and provides many weather, climate, and natural hazards-related training courses.

Additionally, the caucus offers training in social media usage, damage assessment, and related topics. As always with FEMA NDPC classes, these sessions are free. The webinar will give a brief introduction about NDPTC/NDPC, describe the courses, course scheduling/delivery procedures, AEM/CEM credits, instructors and then close for questions. Some of the course offerings include:

- ◆ Climate Adaptation for Emergency Services (Certification Pending)
- ◆ Coastal Community Resilience (AWR-228)
- ◆ Coastal Flood Risk Reduction (PER-305)
- ◆ Hazardous Weather Preparedness for Campuses (AWR-332)
- ◆ Hurricane Awareness (Certification Pending)
- ◆ HURRIPLAN Resilient Building Design for Coastal Communities (PER-306)
- ◆ Natural Disaster Awareness for Community Leaders (AWR-310)
- ◆ Social Media for Natural Disaster Response and Recovery (PER-304)
- ◆ Tornado Awareness (AWR-326)
- ◆ Tsunami Awareness (AWR-217)
- ◆ Volcanic Crises Awareness (AWR-233)
- ◆ Winter Weather Hazards: Science and Preparedness (AWR-331)



You can check out the list of courses in the Training Catalog and request training if you see something of interest.

Webinar info: <http://tinyurl.com/ndptc-webinar>

WebEx Meeting number: 627 123 498

Meeting password: gr2cMySZ

Join by phone: [1-650-479-3208](tel:1-650-479-3208) Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

Access code: 627 123 498

Ambassador Program Becomes Metric in Disaster Exercise

By [Judy Levan](#), WCM, NWS Buffalo, NY

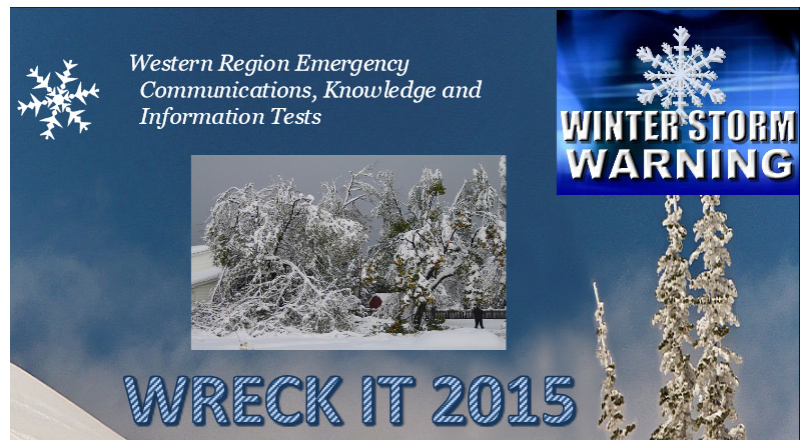
During the first week of October 2015, the New York State Department of Health and Office of Emergency Management sponsored a functional exercise dubbed “WRECK IT,” the Western [New York] Region Emergency Communications, Knowledge and Information Tests. NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologists Judy Levan, Buffalo, NY; and Dave Nicosia, Binghamton, NY; helped plan and implement the exercise, a 9 month endeavor.

The weather scenario was based on a March 1991 ice storm that paralyzed western and northern New York. During that storm, 18 counties were declared State Disaster areas. President Bush signed a Federal Disaster Declaration for 12 of the counties.

Daily mock weather briefings, statements, forecasts and conference calls were all part of the exercise.

Over 475 federal, state, county and private agencies took part in the exercise, which encompassed all 18 of the impacted counties in New York. NWS forecasts and related products were sent to participants through traditional means, as if it were a live event.

How that information was then filtered down to the participants was critical. Information sharing was a top priority of the exercise goals. Because a co-sponsor of the exercise was the NY Health Department, many of the



participants were non-traditional partners of the NWS. During three pre-exercise planning meetings (March, June and September), these partners were introduced to NWS products, services and Web pages. NWS staff had the opportunity to promote the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador program and had it added as one of the exercise metrics.

Fast Fix 8 Taps NWS Resources

By [Krissy Hurley](#), WCM, NWS Nashville, TN

NWS Nashville had the unique opportunity to provide weather support to the Tennessee Department of Transportation via briefings and short term updates during the Nashville “Fast Fix 8” for Interstate 40.

The “Fast Fix 8” project used accelerated construction to replace eight bridges on the west side of Interstate 40 in downtown Nashville. The project required the state to periodically close Interstate 40, a major highway, between June and November 2015.

NWS Nashville provided the main weather briefing on the Wednesday before each of the 13 weekends during this project.

During two of the weekends, there was active weather, including thunderstorms. NWS Nashville provided specific impact-decision support services in real-time to ensure the project was safely halted until thunderstorms passed.



A [time lapse video](#) captured of one of the weekends during the Fast Fix 8 project.

Aware

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