



Aware

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OneNWS Network: Faster, Stronger Weather-Ready Nation Foundation

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

The NWS now has a unified information dissemination network: the OneNWS Network. OneNWS pairs the magnitude of the NWS network's bandwidth and reliability with the richness of data NWS will absorb from NOAA's newest technologies, such as GOES-R. Every NWS office, from the field and regional offices and national centers (NCEP), will experience new efficiencies, from data sharing to technical support. The NWS National Centers, Alaska Region and the Pacific Region are already transitioned to OneNWS. By early FY 2018, all offices and centers will operate under the new Network. OneNWS improvements include:

- ◆ Faster download/upload speeds and higher bandwidth, allowing more data and faster software upgrades: 100 Mbps for all WFOs, 200 Mbps for River Forecast Centers (RFC), 2 Gbps for Regional HQs.
- ◆ Network Diversity: all offices in the Alaska and Pacific regions, the NCEP, Regional Headquarters, and all RFCs, and 30-40 percent of NWS local offices will have two diverse circuits.
- ◆ Increased Accountability: NCEP Central Operations will be solely accountable for 24/7 operational support and monitoring.
- ◆ Underlying network infrastructure: Forecast offices will use new dissemination services critical for Impact-Based Decision Support Services



By the end of September, 11 NWS local forecast offices had completed OneNWS network upgrades. The NWS Weather-Ready Nation strategic vision is for the nation to be ready, responsive, and resilient to the impacts of extreme weather. This outcome begins with accurate, timely and actionable weather forecasts that motivate communities to maximize their safety in the face of hazardous weather conditions. But first, NWS must be information-ready: ready, responsive and resilient to the masses of information it must process to develop those forecasts. OneNWS Network provides NWS with world-class efficiencies in information dissemination, providing a faster and stronger foundation for us to build a weather-ready nation.

For more information about OneNWS, contact Integrated Dissemination Program Manager Michelle Mainelli at michelle.mainelli@noaa.gov.

NWS Offices Support Bicentennial Torch Relay

By [Michael Lewis](#), WCM, NWS Northern Indiana

In celebration of Indiana's Bicentennial, the state organized a Torch Relay that traveled to all 92 Indiana counties. The torch symbolized in the middle of the state flag represents liberty and enlightenment, and the rays illustrate their far-reaching influence.

The torch relay started on September 9 at the state's first capital, Corydon, and moved through all 91 remaining counties, ending in Indianapolis on October 15. But NWS preparation for the relay began a year earlier. In November 2015, WCM **Michael Lewis**, NWS Northern Indiana and WCM **David Tucek**, NWS Indianapolis, coordinated NWS support with the Emergency Management (EM) event organizers.

Over the ensuing months, the relay team provided guidelines for weather-related trigger points and associated actions the relay would take to assure the safety of the participants. EM partners requested twice daily briefings at 6 am and 6 pm. Each NWS office serving Indiana (Paducah, KY; Louisville, KY; Wilmington, OH; Northern Indiana: Chicago, IL; and Indianapolis) provided one week of briefing support during the relay. In all, 35 NWS meteorologists supported the event.

NWS offices helped develop an Operations Plan, a PowerPoint Briefing Template, support procedures and a notification processes. All of these resources were shared via a Google site.

The team also recruited extra help from NWS Sacramento, CA, which had experience developing route forecast graphics for each point along the way. These forecast graphics were coordinated and approved by the relay partners and became a popular part of the twice daily briefings.

Situational awareness was made easier by using the Central Region Event Support initiative. Each of the Relay Route Points was added to the Event Support Database, which displayed the daily and weekly events within NWS software systems. By adding range rings and overlaying radar, lightning and observation data, the NWS offices maintained active weather watch and notified partners appropriately.

As stated by Sergeant Terry Treon, "Having driven in the caravan for the first 9 days I can tell you there is not much time to check/respond to e-mails. The weather briefings have been extremely useful. We experienced a storm in Vernon on Friday and had to delay the route. With the forecast you provided, we were prepared to handle the situation." He continues, "As for the content, we are getting all of the information we needed in a format which is easy to use. The timing of the briefings works well as we have the day's forecast for our morning briefing, which is usually conducted between 0730-0800 hours."

The NWS offices serving during this event demonstrated they could deliver services consistently, collaboratively and collectively.



Briefing Template example of some of the available slides. This template was developed by providing the ITR Partners with several examples from the serving NWS offices. Using partner feedback drove the final briefing format and content.

Prescribed Burn School Helps Responders Prevent Wildfires

By [Dennis Cavanaugh](#), WCM, NWS Little Rock, AR

From October 3-6, meteorologists with specialized fire weather training from NWS Little Rock helped train future planners for prescribed burning at Camp Robinson, AR. Prescribed burning is an important component of land and wildlife management. These controlled fires are used to greatly reduce the risk of wildfires by burning off dry fuels that would normally carry a wildfire. The goals of the school are to facilitate communication between landowners and service providers and to provide reliable and consistent information on the tools and use of prescribed fire in Arkansas.

The NWS role at the school is to provide training on how weather plays a critical role in fire behavior. NWS training teaches students how local fires can affect and dominate the near fire weather environment. NWS instruc-

tors also show how weather conditions are conducive and restrictive for planned burns. The training goes over some of the legal requirements for burn plans and how weather conditions must be considered before starting a burn due to environmental laws. The primary objective, however, when teaching a fire weather course is to show how to execute the burn and stay safe by carefully considering weather conditions before burning and by monitoring weather conditions during the burn.

Outside of the classroom, NWS meteorologists go out on the fire line and provide students with hands-on training by demonstrating how to take manual and automated weather observations from the field. During the training, students wear a belt weather kit, including a sling psychrometer, and take an automated weather observation using a hand held weather station. The training teaches safety skills when executing prescribed burns, and it strengthens relationships with our core partners across the state.



Dennis Cavannaugh, WCM, at NWS Little Rock, AR, teaches a weather class at the Arkansas prescribed burn "school."

NWS and Partner Helps Makes Preparathon a Success

By [Alex Tardy](#), WCM, NWS San Diego, CA



Storm Ranger NBC7 Doppler on Wheels was a featured attraction at WeatherFest Rally.

To support National Preparathon month in September, NWS San Diego organized a WeatherFest Rally. The Weather-Ready Nation event featured Owlie Skywarn, the NBC7 Storm Ranger, and the Young Meteorologist Program (YMP) games. More than 600 guests attended and 100 partners staffed 40 booths and displays.

For kids, there was a separate game tent with laptops loaned by San Diego County libraries where kids could earn their YMP certificate. There were several city, county and federal fire engines. Ocotillo Wells State Park brought a flash flood damaged vehicle for attendees to explore. Partners from northern California included FEMA (PrepareAthon event) and the California Geological Survey.

WFO San Diego gave tours of its operations to nearly 200 attendees. Live media coverage included KUSI San Diego morning show, NBC7 weather team (with Storm Ranger Doppler on Wheels) and ABC 10 news.

San Diego Gas and Electric featured their mobile emergency command unit, a popular attraction. There were also researchers from weather and climate centers at University of California, San Diego; and Scripps; California Data Information Program; and the Western Science Center. The event was a collection of partners from cities, counties, state and federal agencies, first responders, researchers and media showcasing their services to the public and highlighting natural hazard threats such as fire weather and floods.

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