



Aware

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NWS Recognizes Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors of Excellence

By [Doug Hilderbrand](#), NWS Weather-Ready Nation Lead

Sharing great ideas or spreading best practices to others within your organization seems like a no-brainer. Practically speaking, it can be challenging to connect that great idea or best practice directly to the right person. The NOAA/NWS flagship strategic initiative, Weather-Ready Nation (WRN), recognizes government can't strengthen communities from extreme weather events by itself. We must rely on organizations of all kinds to help out.

In 2014, NWS launched the WRN Ambassador initiative to formally recognize organizations committed to helping build a nation that is ready, responsive, and resilient to weather, water and climate events. Almost 4 years and more than 6,300 ambassadors later, the initiative continues to foster great collaborations and value to communities across the country. WRN Ambassadors have been put to the test recently with Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and most recently, Nate.

As a way to spotlight the great work being done by WRN Ambassadors, and to help share great ideas and best practices, this past September NWS launched the "Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors of Excellence" campaign. We asked each NWS Weather Forecast Office to nominate one ambassador organization in its area that was making an exceptional effort to help its local communities.

NWS Headquarters received more than 100 submissions, which were posted as a StoryMap. In this way, viewers can scroll through the recognized Ambassadors of Excellence and learn more about their successes. Success builds on success. The foundational aspect of building a Weather-Ready Nation is the collective willingness to collaborate and engage within and across local communities, something both NWS and local emergency management offices share to meet their missions.



Seattle King County Public Health has enabled NWS to reach some of the area's most vulnerable populations. The organization has translated weather preparedness materials into dozens of languages and used social media to share NWS's high impact weather event briefs. The group has helped reach some of the most at-risk populations: the homeless, elderly, disabled, non-English speaking, refugee and immigrant groups and low-income families.

United Nations Calls for Support for World Tsunami Awareness Day

By [Christa Rabenold](#), Mitigation Specialist, Tsunami Service Program, Silver Spring, MD

Large tsunamis do not happen often, but they pose a significant threat to coastal communities around the world. Since 1900 alone, more than 290,000 deaths have been attributed to 115 tsunamis.

Recognizing that the tsunami hazard poses a global threat that requires international attention and cooperation, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly designated November 5 as World Tsunami Awareness Day. Each year, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction calls on governmental and nongovernmental organizations, as well as individuals, to observe the day by engaging in efforts to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction.



For the second year in a row, World Tsunami Awareness Day will align with the International Day for Disaster Reduction and the “Sendai Seven Campaign.” This year, the two campaigns are focusing on the second target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which aims to “reduce the number of affected people globally” by disasters.

To support World Tsunami Awareness Day and help promote the global culture of tsunami awareness, NWS includes tsunamis in its fall safety campaign. Tsunami-related social media messages that can be adapted to

incorporate World Tsunami Awareness Day are available at the NWS [Fall Safety Campaign](#) site.

Help spread the word about World Tsunami Awareness Day! On the Web, visit the [World Tsunami Awareness Day website](#) to learn more. On social media, use hashtags [#TsunamiDay2017](#) and [#TsunamiPrep](#).

Integrated Warning Teams meet to discuss Flood Preparedness Plans

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

During the last week of August, NWS Hanford, CA, conducted meetings with key partners after experiencing one of the wettest winters on record across central California.

The goal of these meetings was to better understand the roles of each partner and define impacts of high flows on major rivers flowing into the San Joaquin Valley. The meeting focused on three main stem rivers: the Merced, Kings and San Joaquin. All three rivers experienced some level of flooding and dangerously high flows from January to June 2017.

The event offered a great opportunity to highlight NWS Hanford’s hydrology program. More specifically, what our hydro products indicate and how we message high water or flood events. At future team meetings, NWS Hanford plans to detail impacts on local rivers and to focus on consistent messaging with these partners. Meeting participants, including emergency managers, local law enforcement, state water masters and water-related utility companies, responded positively to the meeting and said they look forward to more engagement with the NWS.



WCM Hanford, CA, Jerald Meadows addressing IWT. Photo taken by NWS Meteorologist in Charge Kevin Lynott.

Tabletop Steps Through Mild to Extreme Drought

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

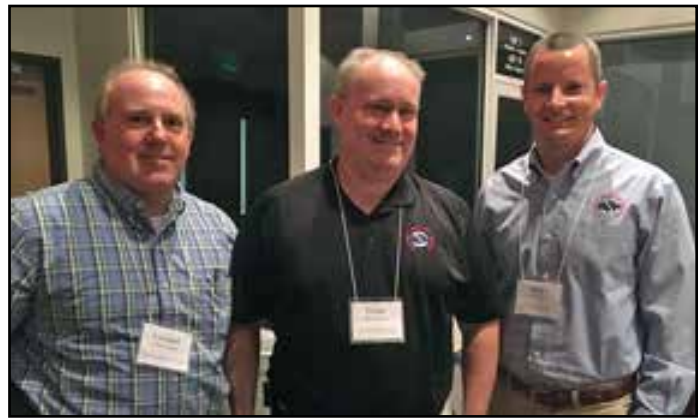
On September 27, NWS Columbia, SC, and staff from NWS Charleston, SC, took part in the first South Carolina drought tabletop exercise. The tabletop exercise took the attendees through an escalating drought situation, from incipient through extreme. Attendees dealt with water resource issues and regulations to better understand the needs and concerns of other players.

The event also highlighted potential issues with neighboring states and water management districts. NWS representatives discussed their Quantitative Precipitation Estimates products as well as the prognostic products

provided by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center. These products help decision makers determine if there is a threat for drought conditions to become severe or if drought relief may be on the way.

The NWS team also summarized how its meteorologists and hydrologists provide technical information on state drought committee conference calls. This NWS data helps members better determine current statewide drought conditions.

The event was hosted by the SC Emergency Management Division and run by the SC Division of Natural Resources the Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments team, a NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments team. Participants included representatives from several water and sewer authorities, industry stakeholders, the American Red Cross, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, the deputy chief of staff for Governor Henry McMaster, and other core partners.



NWS Columbia, SC, Science and Operations Officer Frank Alsheimer, Service Hydrologist Leonard Vaughan and Hydrologic Focal Point Blair Holloway at drought conference

Training Class Targets Managing Reservoirs for Maximum Return

By [Alan Bol](#), COMET staff



Cougar Reservoir, Courtesy, Jamie Sprando, USGS

The Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training (COMET) released a new class: “[Reservoir Pool Elevation: Considerations for Long-term Asset Management and Planning.](#)”

Long-term management of critical water resources infrastructure may benefit from incorporating projected changes to environmental conditions. Reservoirs form the heart of water resource assets. Long-range plans for the repair, replacement, maintenance and renovation of these facilities are often based on anticipated reservoir pool elevations.

Environmental conditions, in turn, dictate the magnitude and timing of inflows and outflows from reservoirs that determine the water surface elevation.

This 20-minute lesson explores the factors that affect reservoir pool elevation and the considerations and challenges that projected reservoir pool elevations pose to managing water resources infrastructure.

The intended audience for the class includes facility managers, design engineers and individuals working on water resource management. Others that may be interested in this topic include project managers, resource specialists, public affairs staff, and those working on environmental resiliency for water infrastructure.

For questions regarding the content, instructional approach or use of this lesson, email AlanBol@ucar.edu. For technical support, go to [Registration and Support FAQ](#).

Aware

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Managing Editor: [Melody Magnus](#), Editors: [Donna Franklin](#), [Nancy Lee](#)
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Subscribe/Unsubscribe: melody.magnus@noaa.gov