



# 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.

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## NWS Holds WRN Deployment-Ready Train Derailment Exercise

By [Tanja Fransen](#), MIC, NWS Glasgow, MT

From a massive winter storm, to a train derailment spewing gases and leaking crude oil, NWS Glasgow was put to the deployment-ready test in a mock exercise designed by NWS Glasgow Science and Operations Officer Tom Clemmons and Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) Patrick Gilchrist.

Seven operational staff were led through a scenario that included two disaster and emergency services coordinators, Stat Air Ambulance employees, a volunteer fire fighter, a county safety officer, the county health department and the director of the local transportation service.

The exercise was hosted at the Stat Air Ambulance hanger across from the NWS office at the airport, the alternate Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for the county. Employees learned what it is like being rapidly deployed to an alternate site, setting things up, and what it means to be an EOC resource.

The 5 hours flew by. Every staff member gave two briefings, one for the incident operations staff and the second for the planning meeting. NWS Glasgow staff are completing an after-action report and working on ways to make the deployment process even smoother in the future.



*Deployment-ready exercise in action.*

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## NWS Provides Weather Briefings for Core Partners During Foggy Air Show



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

It took a team effort to make the second annual Breitling Huntington Beach Air Show safe last fall. Working directly with the Huntington Beach Emergency Manager, three NWS San Diego forecasters provided onsite briefings from Friday through Sunday at Huntington City Hall.

Briefing participants included fire and rescue, emergency managers, first responders and pilots. The forecast posed numerous problems. The first two days,



*Weekend attendance on the pier and beach, after fog and low clouds departed.*

the training day and Day 1 of the show, dense morning fog blanketed the area. Although morning low clouds are common in this region, dense fog is not. The fog burned off after 9 am but returned just as thickly from 11 am to 4 pm, forcing organizers to cancel the show on Friday.

The fog returned Friday night but then lifted Saturday morning, allowing the show to go on as scheduled. Once the low clouds dissipated Saturday afternoon, more than 500,000 people turned up for the weekend events.

NWS provided weather information to help emergency personnel ensure aviation and public safety. The Blue Angels flew directly over the crowd and pier, making visibility crucial. NWS San Diego also staffed a booth for the 3-day event to provide preparedness and scientific information, answer questions and interact with attendees.

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## Staying on Message: Integrated Warning Team Meeting Takes New Tact

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

On November 29, 2017, emergency managers, local media, and staff members from NWS Caribou met in Bangor, ME, to refine communications. The meeting was held at the Penobscot County Courthouse and overviews of IWT roles were provided by the EM community, the media, featured a group discussion focused on how to stay on message during low confidence forecasts with large potential impacts.

The participants were then split up into groups in a “what would you do scenario” to understand everyone’s thought processes, timeframes and outside influences. Once this exercise was completed each group summarized their thoughts and we all learned the timeframes needed to respond appropriately and hopefully can work better in the future.

The final talk of the day was provided by Jeanette Sutton from the University of Kentucky on communicating effective warnings. Dr. Sutton specializes in communications during disasters to effectively warn the public. The group thoroughly enjoyed her presentation. Several topics were identified to discuss at our next meeting. The feedback provided from each participant is that this is an excellent use of resources and will dramatically improve our partnerships in order to better protect the public.



*IWT meeting focuses on low confidence events.*

**Aware**

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