



# 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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## Pathfinder Road Weather Program Cruising Across the Country

By [Mike Moritz](#), WCM, NWS Hastings, NE

Pathfinder is a shared effort between the Federal Highway Administration, NWS, state departments of transportation (DOTs), and private companies to translate road weather forecasts into consistent transportation impact statements for the public.

The [Pathfinder Implementation Plan](#) lays out a multi-step process on *what* information to share and *when* and *how* to share this information before, during and after high-impact weather events such as winter storms. These statements provide the public with consistent and actionable messages on potential impacts to the transportation system.

To support this effort, several NWS Central Region and Headquarters meteorologists recently attended the 2018 Road Weather Management Stakeholder Meeting in Louisville, KY. The conference offers a venue for peer exchange between the transportation and weather communities including state DOTs, local agencies, academia, public and private weather service providers and consultants.



*From left are Pathfinder Conference attendees Mike Moritz, Hastings, NE; Andy Bailey, Kansas City, MO; JP Martin, Bismarck, ND; Kelly Serr, Aberdeen, SD, Brian Schoettmer, Louisville, KY; Ryan Knutsoig, Fargo, ND; and Mark Tew and Roham Abtahi, NWS Headquarters.*

According to NWS' DOT Liaison, at least 15 states have implemented the Pathfinder program or begun the process. NWS is working to expand into many more states in the next year, including California, Texas, Maryland, the Dakotas, Missouri and Kansas to name a few. NWS Hasting, NE, WCM Mike Moritz spoke at the conference about how Pathfinder is being implemented across Nebraska, beginning with a kick-off meeting in June 2018 through the official start date of October 15, 2018. He highlighted the need for strong DOT leadership as well as an organized collaborative effort among all partners.

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## United Nations Calls for Reducing Economic Impacts of Tsunamis

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

Large tsunamis do not happen often, but they still pose a significant threat to coastal communities around the world. Since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, 48 tsunamis have caused roughly \$300 billion (2018 dollars) in damage around the world, according to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information/World Data Service, [Global Historical Tsunami Database](#).



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 third 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 third target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which aims to reduce economic losses associated with disasters.

The often-reported damage estimates from a disaster do not tell the full story of economic loss. These estimates typically only report direct market costs (i.e., losses to physical assets with market value, things that can be purchased, like buildings and infrastructure). Direct nonmarket costs and indirect costs (e.g., business interruption, loss of livelihood), which are much more difficult to estimate, are also significant components of an event’s total losses, the effects of which can last for years. Estimating economic loss is complicated and inexact, but to ease recovery, it is important to understand and address all types of potential losses before disaster strikes.

To support World Tsunami Awareness Day and help promote the global culture of tsunami awareness, NWS includes tsunamis in its annual 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 #TsunamiDay and #TsunamiPrep.

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## NWS Supports Public Safety Interoperability Exercise

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

NWS Nashville took part in the 2018 Tennessee Public Safety Interoperability Exercise on August 13-17, 2018, at the Tennessee Army National Guard facility. Information Technology Officer Mike Davis provided amateur radio mesh networking, communications and briefings for the entire event. Warning Coordination Meteorologist Krissy Hurley offered a 2-hour informational session where partners explored NWChat, radar, forecast models and weather briefing communications.

The intensive 4-day event was designed to exercise and train on deploying assets, equipment and personnel to support emergency disaster operations in the state. Communication professionals from over 50 local, state and federal jurisdictions, as well as the private sector, including the Tennessee Advanced Communications Network, Emergency Management Agency, state



*Communication professionals from over 50 local, state, and federal jurisdictions, as well as the private sector took part in the exercise.*

National Guard, and U.S. Northern Command, gathered to test equipment and communications while building partnerships.

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## Biennial U.S. Drought Monitor Forum, March 19-21, 2019

for more information: [Richard Heim](#), NESDIS

The NWS Climate Prediction Center will hold the biennial U.S. Drought Monitor Forum March 19-21, 2019, at Western Kentucky University. The forum is jointly sponsored by the NWS Climate Prediction Center, the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, National Centers for Environmental Information, the Kentucky Climate Center at Western Kentucky University and the Kentucky Division of Water.

Registration is free and will open later this year, at which time we will post a draft agenda

and offer hotel suggestions. If you are interested in speaking or presenting at the forum, contact [Richard.Heim@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.Heim@noaa.gov); slots are limited.



Trinity Lake, CA, dry lakebed, 2015, Photo: USGS

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## New COMET Course Focuses on Lightning Detection with GOES-16

For more information: [Vanessa Vincente](#), COMET

The COMET Program is pleased to announce the publication of the new lesson, “[GOES-16 GLM Case Exercise Buenos Aires Tornado and Hail Event](#).”

The Global Lightning Mapper (GLM) flies aboard the new GOES-R series satellites. The GLM’s continuous lightning monitoring capability is a valuable asset to detecting and monitoring developing thunderstorms 24 hours a day. This 30-minute lesson introduces learners to the benefits of using GLM observations in assessing convection.

Learners will explore a severe weather event near Buenos Aires, Argentina, and practice using GLM observations to determine initial convection, supplement other data tools in estimating tendencies in storm strength, and evaluate the potential for severe weather.

The intended audience for “GOES-16 GLM Case Exercise: Buenos Aires Tornado and Hail Event” includes operational forecasters, researchers, and others interested in the value of GOES-R series GLM products for operational weather support.

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