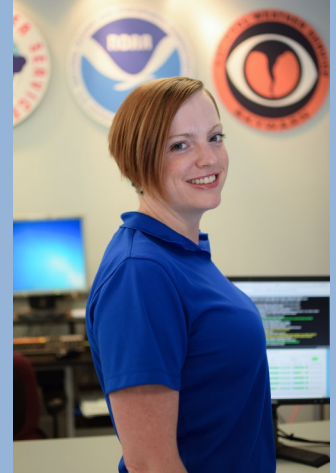


Kathleen Pelczynski Selected NWS Eastern Region Employee of the Month - November 2018

May 6, 2019



By: Jonathan Blaes

Kathleen Pelczynski, one of the Meteorologists at WFO Raleigh, NC, demonstrated how diligent preparation and service-above-self ethos helps save lives and protect property.

Kathleen accepted the leadership of the Hydrology Team after the retirement of the Raleigh Hydrologist. A few months later, Hurricane Florence dumped over 25 inches of rain across portions of the RAH CWA. This resulted in devastating river flooding across eight river systems with a half-dozen locations experiencing major flooding and multiple locations setting all-time records.

Prior to the storm, she coordinated with the Army Corps of Engineers to lower lake levels on several large reservoirs. As the Hurricane approached and impacted the area, she prepared and presented countless hydro-specific briefings. Responding to partner requests, Kathleen created innovative charts and tables analyzing crests from previous hurricanes. Partners loved these products, and they were updated in partner briefings through the rest of the event.

After the event, Kathleen continued to coordinate hydro operations as rivers remained in flood for weeks. She directed a USGS team around flooded roads to find and repair a damaged river gauge in time to document the river crest. Kathleen's preparation for her new role and sacrifices during the 17 consecutive days she served reflects the leadership and positive attitude needed as NWS prepares a Weather-Ready Nation.

Photo Credit: Ryan Ellis



WEATHER READY NATION