Spokane Aviation Outreach Program

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Outline

- Spokane County Warning Area (CWA)
  - Who are our aviation customers?
  - Weather Hazards

- Vision for the outreach program
Aircraft operations: avg 1200/day *
97% commercial
2% air taxi
<1% local general aviation
<1% military
* for 12-month period ending 31 December 2018

Aircraft operations: avg 187/day *
68% commercial
12% transient general aviation
11% air taxi
7% local general aviation
3% military
* for 12-month period ending 01 January 2019
Waterville Plateau

Columbia Basin

Palouse

Snake River
Most Common Hazards

- **Winter Season**: fog and low stratus – not uncommon for long stretches of IFR or even LIFR conditions

- **Summer Season**: fire weather – where are the large fires/will smoke impact terminals?
Wildfires

Wenatchee Complex

September 24, 2012
Next Steps: Meteorology to Outreach

- Communicating our products/hazards
  1) Getting out and providing talks
  2) Going to events and setting up a booth

- Being proactive in our approach
  - Contact pilot groups
  - Contact the airport managers
  - See where that leads...
Associations/Airports Contacted

➢ Power points ready to go
➢ Covering a range of topics
➢ Aviation Booths

Fog/Stratus Convection NWS Products Mountain Waves

➢ Cycle through events every 1-3 years
➢ Include hazards specific to that area

Prepared Presentation Material
Aviation Booth Example

Three Stations

Station 1 – Big Board (eye candy)
✓ NWS Resources
✓ Hazardous Weather Information
✓ Pictures

Station 2 – Tangible Material/Literature
✓ Balloon/Radiosonde, Family Activities
✓ Pamphlets (Roles of NWS, Local Office)

Station 3 – Web Based Resources
✓ AWC/CWSU/WFO pages
✓ Digital Aviation Services (DAS)
✓ Observations
✓ Model Data
✓ Soundings
Freezing Precipitation Pattern

Typically after an Arctic Intrusion

Key Takeaways

Warm frontal precipitation overruns much colder air at the surface.

Best set up for widespread freezing precipitation is after modified Arctic air settles in over the Inland Northwest.

Low level jet will funnel up through the Columbia Gorge, across the Columbia Basin.

Valleys in the lee of the Cascades are the last to mix out and modify with subfreezing temperatures at the surface.
In Conclusion...

- Here is Spokane, we are taking a proactive approach to aviation outreach

- Plenty of opportunities have been found by reaching out to pilot associations and airport managers
  - These discussions lead to a better understanding of our aviation customers

- Creating a resource of discussion topics and strategies for hosting a booth at events will more likely get other forecasters involved

Thank You!