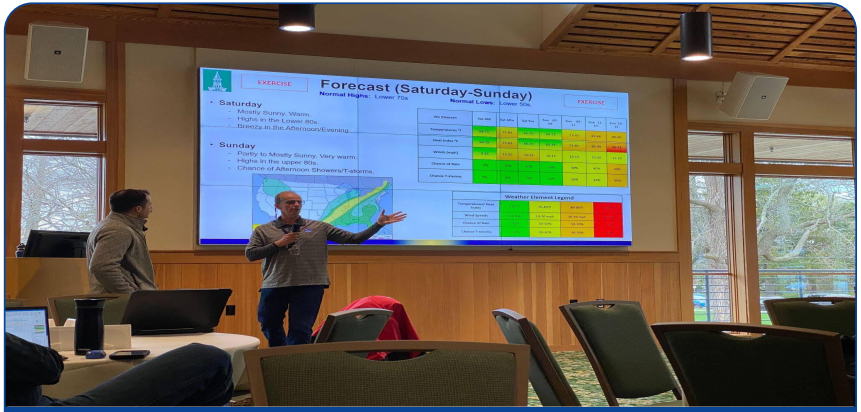
5 Steps for Emergency Managers to Increase Weather-Readiness

Partnering with the National Weather Service (NWS)

Tyler Danzig - NWS Burlington

Partnering With The National Weather Service



Weather Support

The NWS provides critical weather support to emergency managers to protect life and property.

By integrating NWS resources and building relationships, local governments can enhance situational awareness and build weather-ready communities.



Proactive Readiness

A strong NWS partnership ensures that your community is never caught off guard by rapidly evolving hazardous weather events.

5 Actionable Steps To Increase Weather-Readiness



Decision Support Services

What *weather information you need,*
When *you need it,*
In a ***format*** *you can understand.*

Overview & Action Steps

This presentation outlines five actionable steps to build a partnership with the NWS and increase your community's weather readiness before hazardous weather.

1. Establish direct 24/7 communication channels
2. Sign up for hazardous weather email briefings
3. Request weather support in the interest of public safety for large gatherings
4. Request spot forecasts for emergency situations and wildfires
5. Ensure you have multiple ways to receive weather warnings

1: Establish Direct Communication With NWS BTV

The Foundation for Weather Readiness

Step 1

Building a relationship with your local National Weather Service is the foundation of weather readiness.



Partner Meeting

Request a **Partner Meeting with NWS BTV** to establish a relationship, and to discuss local vulnerabilities, critical thresholds, and best methods of communication.

Email Rebecca.Duell@noaa.gov to request a meeting.



24/7 Phone Line

(802) 658-0150

Save this NWS phone number. Call anytime you need more information on the forecast.

(Number unlisted, for emergency managers and partners only)



24/7 Email Access

nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov

Goes directly to the forecaster on duty 24/7.

Either method (phone or email) will immediately reach a forecaster.

2: Sign Up To Receive Hazardous Weather Emails

"Heads Up" Emails

Step 2

Stay ahead of high-impact weather by subscribing to NWS Burlington's Heads-Up Email list.

3 to 5 Days Notice

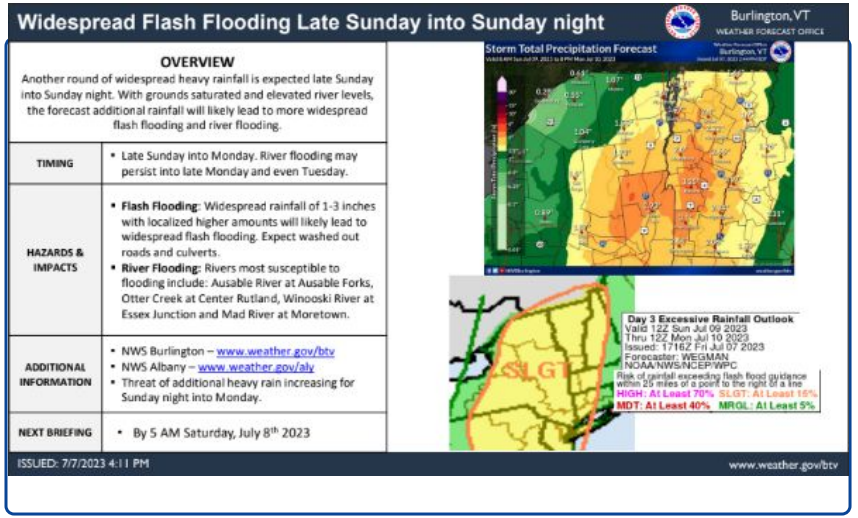
Provide advanced notice of potential threats, typically starting 3 to 5 days out.

Detailed Briefings

Include the key messages of the hazard, potential impacts, timing, and forecast trends.

Issued Twice A Day (During Hazardous Weather)

Approximately 3 AM and 3 PM, incorporating the latest forecast.



Email nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov to get added to the list. These are intended for emergency managers and partners only.

Request NWS Decision Support Services for Large Outdoor Events

For large community gatherings like outdoor concerts, marathons, state fairs, or large graduations, ***emergency managers*** can request specialized weather support from the NWS.

Site-Specific Weather Support

- NWS can provide site-specific **weather planning emails** leading up to the event.
- and/or NWS can provide a **radar watch** during the event.

Direct Support

- Direct support from a meteorologist **on site or remote** is an option for very large gatherings, especially vulnerable events that would require extra time to be evacuated safely in the event of hazardous weather.



Online Decision Support Request form at www.weather.gov/btv/dssrequest

4: Familiarize Yourself With Spot Forecasts

Learn How To Request Spot Forecasts for Emergency Situations and Wildfires

Step 4

Spot Forecast Definition: A highly detailed, site-specific weather forecast issued for wildfires, HAZMAT spills, or search and rescue operations. ***Must be requested by Emergency Managers or Federal, State, or Local Agencies***.

1. Request Online or Phone Our Office

Emergency managers can request these through the NWS Spot webpage: ***https://spot.weather.gov/new-request***

2. Provide Incident Data

You provide site location, incident type, and specify the requested weather variables needed.

3. Receive Critical Data

Forecasters will provide a detailed, customized site-specific forecast.



5: Have a Plan To Receive Weather Warnings

Step 5

Ensure You Have More Than One Way To Receive Severe Weather Warnings

Redundancy is critical for emergency alerts. Don't rely on a single system to receive warnings.

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

Provides continuous weather broadcasts directly from the nearest NWS office with mandatory battery backup support.



Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

Delivers critical location-based emergency messages directly to mobile devices without requiring app installation.



Sign up for VT or NY Alerts

State notification system used by responders to notify the public of emergencies, weather advisories, and local hazards.

VT-ALERT

NY-ALERT
Kathy Hochul
Governor

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

One Option To Receive Weather Warnings

Step 5

Key Features & Best Practices for Emergency Managers

1. Continuous Direct Broadcasts

Broadcasting official NWS warnings, watches, and hazard information direct from local offices 24 hours a day.

2. Mandatory Battery Backup

Ensures continuous operation and active alert alarms even during widespread power outages and grid failures.

3. SAME Technology (Specific Area Message Encoding)

Program your radio to alert ONLY for your specific county, preventing unnecessary middle-of-the-night false alarms.



Standalone Reliability

Functions independently of cellular networks and internet infrastructure, providing critical fail-safe redundancy for life-safety warnings.

Wireless Emergency Alerts

Ensure Your Phone Receives Them!

Step 5

Steps to Enable Emergency Alerts on Your Device

iPhone (iOS)

Settings ➜ Notifications ➜ Scroll to **Emergency Alerts**

Toggle all alert types to **ON**.

Android & Samsung Galaxy

Settings ➜ Safety and emergency ➜ Wireless Emergency Alerts

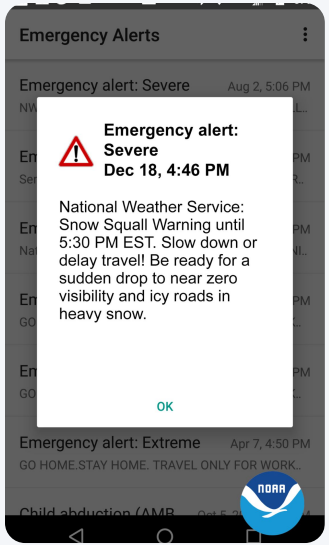
Enable **Allow Alerts**, Extreme Threats & Severe Threats.

Older Android Models

Open **Messages ➜ Message Settings ➜ More (⋮) ➜ Settings ➜Emergency Alert Settings**

Turn **ON** alerts for Extreme and Severe Threats.

Live WEA Alert Example



Summary: 5 Steps to Become Weather-Ready

STEP 1
Communication
Establish direct communication with your local NWS.

STEP 2
Email Briefings
Sign up for hazardous weather heads-up email briefings.

STEP 3
Public Safety
Request public safety weather support for large gatherings.

STEP 4
Spot Forecasts
Request spot forecasts for emergency situations & wildfires.

STEP 5
Receive Warnings
Ensure you have multiple ways to receive weather warnings.