

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-13***

**September 27, 2002**

***Operations and Services***

***Surface Observing Program (Land)***

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives>

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**OPR:** W/OS7 (R. Dombrowsky)

**Certified by:** W/OS (G. Mandt)

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1. The National Weather Service (NWS) is responsible for providing forecasts and warnings. The first step in the process is the assimilation of weather observations. Observations may be obtained from automated sensors, volunteer observers, and other established surface reporting systems. This directive governs NWS activities to providing surface weather observations in support of the NWS forecast and warning process.
2. The objective of the NWS surface observation program is to provide policy and standards for observing, monitoring, and acquisition and dissemination of data in support of the NWS and its customers.
3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
  - 3.1 The Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS):
    - a. establishes national policy and procedures;
    - b. consolidates, evaluates, analyses, and oversees national performance and effectiveness indicators for the surface observation program;
    - c. conducts outreach efforts to promote the surface observation program with customers and partners.
  - 3.2 The Office of Science and Technology (OST):
    - a. plans, develops, demonstrates, and integrates scientific techniques and system capabilities for the observing services program;
    - b. formulates and maintains a comprehensive research and development plan in support of the observation services program;

c. oversees associated applied research and development.

3.3 The Office of Operational Systems (OOS) provides system engineering, software management, facilities engineering services, communications, and logistical services for operational weather systems supporting NWS forecast and warning services.

3.4 NWS Regional Headquarters offices are responsible for ensuring Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) are organized, trained, and equipped to provide surface weather observations. The NWS Regional Headquarters are responsible for ensuring WFOs are in compliance with established policies and procedures; coordinating with OCWWS on meteorological instruments and methods of observation requirements; developing Supplements to Procedural Directives and coordinating them with OCWWS; ensuring Supplementals are compatible across regional boundaries; providing technical assistance to WFOs; and evaluating performance and effectiveness indicators of the surface observations program.

3.5 WFOs are responsible for providing accurate and timely observation services in compliance with national and regional policies. WFOs will conduct customer outreach within their area of responsibility, to promote and assess surface observation and monitoring services.

4.0 The NWS measures the effectiveness of the observing program policy using the following mission-critical performance measure: delivery of accurate surface observation data to the NWS and its customers. The overall goal of this policy is to provide quality real-time observations to the NWS and its customers.

5.0 This Policy Directive is supported by references and supporting information listed in Attachment 1.

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_ September 27, 2002

John J. Kelly, Jr.

Date

Assistant Administrator  
for Weather Services

**Attachment 1**

**REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Instructions**

***10-1301 Surface Observing (Land)***

***10-1302 Instrument Requirements and Standards for the NWS Surface Observing Programs (Land)***

***10-1303 Inspection Procedure Guideline - Surface Observation Sites***

***10-1304 Certification of Observers***

***10-1305 Observational Quality Control - General***

***10-1306 Supplementary Aviation Weather Reporting Station Program***

***10-1307 Cooperative Observing Program***

***10-1308 Surface Observing Programs at Federal Aviation Sites***