

8th Conference and Exposition of the
National Hydrologic Warning Council

May 18-21, 2009
Vail Marriott ~ Vail, Colorado



Call for Abstracts

TITLE SPONSORS:

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Southwestern Association of ALERT Systems
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ALERT Users Group
Southwestern Association of ALERT Systems



ABOUT THE 8TH NATIONAL HYDROLOGIC WARNING COUNCIL CONFERENCE

THE EIGHTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE and exposition of the National Hydrologic Warning Council (NHWC) will be held in stunning Vail, Colorado from May 18 to 21, 2009. The conference is the largest in the United States devoted specifically to real-time hydrologic warning systems and how these technologies assist local officials with storm readiness, emergency response, and disaster recovery.

The theme for this conference is “*Exploring New Hydrologic Warning Frontiers*”—befitting the Rocky Mountain location and the advancements being made in protecting lives, property and the environment with hydrologic warning systems. The conference is intended for a multi-disciplinary audience including field personnel, flood engineers, hydrologists, forecasters, water resource managers, and emergency management officials that operate hydrologic monitoring systems or use the information that they provide.

Highlights of the conference will include:

- ◆ **NEW!! FOR 2009!** — training/testing for the ASFPM Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam at the conference (separate fee for the exam). Existing ASFPM members can earn 12 continuing education credits by attending
- ◆ **NEW!! FOR 2009!** — training/testing for Hydrologist Certification through the American Institute of Hydrology
- ◆ An exceptional slate of invited speakers, including Steven Stockton, Director of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bill Read, Director of the NOAA/NWS National Hurricane Center, Jack Hayes, NOAA/NWS Director, Duane Smith, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and Chairman of the Western States Water Council, Colorado State Supreme Court Justice Greg Hobbs, and Jack Riessen, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- ◆ A wide range of technical sessions to assist water managers whose communities are just getting started with hydrologic warning systems, floodplain management and water conservation, or those with advanced needs
- ◆ Diverse training opportunities with workshops on drought mitigation, severe storm prediction, instrumentation operation, and more
- ◆ An opportunity to see and discuss the latest hydrologic warning equipment, products, and services

The National Environmental Satellite Data Information Services (NESDIS) Technical Working Group (TWG) will again meet concurrently with the conference. The TWG is a meeting of all interested GOES Data Collection System (DCS) users with the GOES DCS management and technical staff.



CONFERENCE FORMAT

The conference will feature an opening plenary sessions of invited speakers followed by four concurrent tracks based on the Conference's western theme:

Track 1: Exploring New Partnerships — Circling the Wagons. This track will explore partnerships in assessing, funding, and implementing hydrologic warning systems for floods, droughts, landslides, and coastal surge.

- ◆ Designing and operating local and regional flood detection networks and warning systems
- ◆ Integrating water-quality into existing networks
- ◆ Multi-layered governmental cooperation
- ◆ Federal, State, and international hydrologic warning initiatives
- ◆ Funding real-time hydrologic warning systems
- ◆ System innovations
- ◆ Evaluation of the effectiveness of networks
- ◆ Planning and operating procedures
- ◆ Statewide and regional cooperative programs

Track 2: Navigating the Technology Frontier — Tools to Get the Correct Bearing. This track will focus on the instrumentation, forecasting techniques, and communication tools that are available for more accurate monitoring, prediction, and response to serious hydrologic events and disasters.

- ◆ Latest academic research
- ◆ Climatological trends and patterns
- ◆ Litigation impacts on flood preparedness
- ◆ Equipment maintenance and calibration
- ◆ Data quality assurance and archiving methods
- ◆ Data use for environmental management
- ◆ Training and certification of field personnel
- ◆ Data communication alternatives
- ◆ System failure evaluations
- ◆ Quantitative precipitation forecasting
- ◆ Probabilistic forecasting
- ◆ Radar capabilities
- ◆ Flood, flash flood, and drought forecasting

- ◆ Forecast runoff models & GIS applications
- ◆ Hurricane and tsunami model applications

Track 3: Braving the Communication Wilderness — Tales Around the Campfire. This track will investigate the need for the proper communication of hydrologic information between emergency management officials, partner agencies, the media, and the general public.

- ◆ Educating and communicating with the public
- ◆ Strengthening the link between system operators and emergency managers
- ◆ The role of the media, Internet and intranets
- ◆ Data needs for emergency managers
- ◆ Issuance of warnings and watches
- ◆ Automated signs and barriers
- ◆ Data visualization methods
- ◆ Real-time flood inundation mapping
- ◆ Sociological and economic impact of hydrologic events
- ◆ Success stories and learning opportunities from past hurricane seasons
- ◆ Lessons learned from the Southeast Asia tsunami, Chinese earthquake flooding, recent historic floods in the Midwest, recent hurricanes, and droughts in the U.S. and worldwide

Track 4: New Hydrologic Warning Horizons— Smoke Signals in the Distance. This track will focus on the future for the hydrologic warning community — new technologies, threats, and improved ways of doing things.

- ◆ Drought monitoring and water availability
- ◆ Landslide and dam failure warning systems
- ◆ Coastal, tsunami and hurricane surge warning
- ◆ Population growth, global climate change and hydrologic hazards
- ◆ Snowpack and fire burn monitoring systems
- ◆ New preparedness initiatives and technologies, including ALERT-2 protocol and two-way GOES.
- ◆ Relation between water quantity versus quality
- ◆ Effect of deteriorating national water infrastructure



FURTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Full conference registration for NHWC members is \$450 prior to April 15, 2009 and \$500 after April 15 (Non-members: \$550 prior to April 15, 2009, \$600 after). Students can enjoy the full conference for a flat rate of \$225 (current student ID is required at check-in).

Special hotel rates of \$129 + taxes per night (well below Federal per diem rates) are available at the Vail Marriott. Hotel reservations can be made online from the NHWC webpage. Reservations can also be made by calling (800) 648-0720 and referencing "National Hydrologic Warning Council" to secure the group rate. The hotel will honor this rate for 3 days before/after the conference.

The conference will offer many other professional and social events including a golf scramble (green fees extra), tours, evening social events and the awards banquet on the last night.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS

1. Abstracts should be in Word format and not exceed one page in length. Document should be in Times New Roman 12-point font.
2. Abstract must identify the conference track in which it fits (see Conference Format). Specific audio-visual needs, including Internet access, should be stated clearly.
3. A concise biography of all authors must be provided, including job title, employer, phone number, mail and e-mail address of each author. The presenter(s) should be clearly identified.
4. Abstracts and biographies must be submitted by December 15, 2008 to e-mail address abstracts@hydrologicwarning.org.
5. Authors will be notified of their acceptance by the NHWC agenda committee no later than January 15, 2009.
6. The length of the presentation should be 30 minutes, including a Q&A period. Presentations must focus on professional content and not include specific promotion of a product or company. Presentations should be delivered via CD or USB key at time of check-in at the registration desk. Presentations can also be e-mailed to abstracts@hydrologicwarning.org prior to arrival.

Preparation of a complete paper is highly encouraged but is not a requirement for presenting at the conference. By submitting a presentation or paper, authors agree to its distribution at the conference and to subsequent reproduction in conference proceedings, newsletters and on the NHWC website.