



Billy Zwerschke, CEM®

Past President
119 Saluria Place
Port Lavaca, TX 77979-4937
361.552.7788 Home/Office
billyz@cableone.net

IAEM Headquarters:

111 Park Place
Falls Church, VA
22046-4513 USA
Ph. 703-538-1795
Fax 703-241-5603
iaem@aol.com
www.iaem.com

June 24, 2003

*National Weather Service
1325 East West Highway
Silver Springs, MD 20910*

To all interested parties and agencies:

I want to thank anyone and everyone with this great idea that will finally bring the so very important NHC/TPC advisories including discussions and other information out to the general public in a way that other means did not accomplish. To be able to bring NHC/TPC Tropical Cyclone text advisories, aircraft reconnaissance messages, and TAFB text forecasts and discussions to Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) capable cellphones and Portable Digital Assistants (PDA) is a big step in the right direction to fill the gap that emergency managers nation-wide struggle with in times of threat from the "Tropical Terrorist", the tropical cyclone.

As someone that sees the need to be able to reach out with emergency information that can affect the general public, this service coming directly from the source is what I have struggled for many years. The citizens pay taxes to the federal government and expect something back in protection from disaster. This will become a great tool that can be used for just that purpose. It doesn't need to be driven for profit but for the common good of all. So many times in the past, private entities have cried foul whenever they feel that the government has stepped on their fingers as they reached for that dollar from the American public. In this case, it is clear indeed that in times such as a threat from tropical cyclones, when the National Tropical Prediction Center is issuing information that could save human lives and personal property, there is a need for one common voice to the public and that should come from the true experts, the forecasters and support staff of the National Hurricane Center. By using this tool to reach the threatened public, it is not doing anything out of the ordinary that the NOAA Weather Radio has done for years, but now it's reaching those out of ear shout of normal radio and TV.

Thanks again for a job well done.

Yours truly,

A

*W.R. 'Billy' Zwerschke, CEM®, CFM, TEM®
Consultant Emergency Management
Past President of IAEM
Port Lavaca, TX 77979*