Storm-Based Warnings Will Potentially Save More Lives

- Focuses spotter and first responder resources on the true area threatened by a given storm
- Easily handles storms moving along county borders
- Allows emergency managers to determine what tornado warning sirens to sound
- Limits the area covered by warning only the area (in time and space) under threat
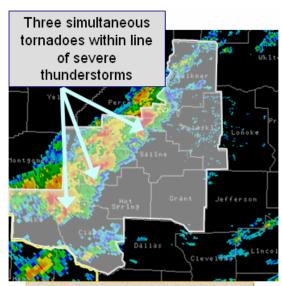- Minimizes the impact on residents outside the threat area

Ushering in a New Era

Storm-based warning data are provided in industry-standard GIS formats, making customization easy for PDAs, cell phones, the Internet and television. This opens the door for the private sector to develop specialized services to help ensure the public receives potentially life-saving information.

See our web site:

http://www.weather.gov/sbwarnings

For Additional Information, Contact:

John Ferree,
Severe Storm Service Leader
NOAA's National Weather Service
405-325-2209
John.T.Ferree@noaa.gov

Storm-Based Warnings

County Based Warnings

Three simultaneous tornadoes within line of severe thunderstorms

County-Based Tornado Warnings
8 Counties under warning
Almost 1 million people warned

- Three smaller warnings
- Increased clarity
- Supports new technology

Storm Based Warnings

Storm-Based Tornado Warnings
70% less area covered
~600,000 fewer people warned

Storm-Based Warnings Help Focus Threat

On October 1, 2007, NOAA's National Weather Service began issuing more geographically specific warnings for <u>tornadoes</u>, <u>severe thunderstorms</u>, <u>floods,</u> and <u>marine hazards</u>.

Storm-based warnings provide more specific information about the location of severe weather and the direction it is expected to move. This reduces the likelihood of needlessly alarming those outside the threat, which builds confidence in the warnings and increases the likelihood that people will take appropriate action.
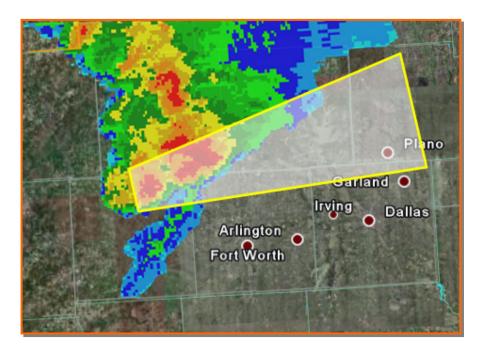
By pinpointing the specific area of a storm instead of the entire county, the National Weather Service can reduce the area warned by as much as 70 percent.

The new storm-based warnings have graphical displays that are extremely adaptable for cell phones, PDAs and other Web-based software.

Text and audio storm-based warnings will reference landmarks such as highways, shopping centers, parks, and portions of counties.

The Emergency Alert System is geared toward counties, so NOAA Weather Radio will still alarm if there is a warning anywhere in the county, but the message will provide more specific information about where in the county and the direction the storm is moving.

Case Study
County-Based vs. Storm-Based Warnings

- In this example, the storm is moving east. The tornado threat exists over only small portions of Tarrant and Dallas counties as shown by the shaded area (threat area).

- A county-based warning would alert over 3 million people in these counties who are not in imminent danger, including people in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. Schools, workplaces and emergency personnel in these areas would be needlessly alarmed.

- A storm-based warning offers the potential to limit the area covered by warnings to those specific regions in which imminent threat exists.