



NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Western Region Notes

February 24, 2005

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Kudos to WFO San Diego for Weatherfest: WFO San Diego recently received a thank you letter from the San Diego Chapter of the American Meteorological Society for their help with this year's Weatherfest. Weatherfest had a record level of attendance (more than double last year's). The following is an excerpt from the thank you letter.

"It was a pleasure to co-chair the Weatherfest local host committee with you. Thank you very much for all your help; please express my respect and appreciation to Brandt, Miguel, Phil, Scott, and the rest of the office who contributed their time. Please give my especial thanks to Mark Moede and to Ed Clark; their efforts were major and critical. Without your team, I am convinced that San Diego's Weatherfest would have been a disappointment rather than a resounding record-setting success."

Western Region Headquarters Receives Team Training: The staff at Western Region Headquarters is participating in a team building workshop provided by the Training Center in Kansas City. The 2-day training, which is taking place at WRH covers topics such as creating effective teams, managing team meetings, conflict resolution, and planning. Half of the staff took the training this week, and the remaining staff will take the training next week.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: During the period of February 17-22, Southern California was inundated with heavy rain and mountain snow. Over the coastal counties of Santa Barbara County southward, the coastal and valley locations received 4 to 9 inches of rain, with 10 to 20 inches of rain in the mountains. Flooding and flash flooding was extensive, while heavy snow fell in the higher elevations. WFOs Los Angeles and San Diego did an excellent job with this prolonged severe weather event. Between the two WFOs over 30 flash flood warnings were issued along with countless other products. This week's Statement of the Week is an outlook product issued by WFO Los Angeles by lead forecaster Dave Gomberg alerting the public to the impending threat. Our congratulations are extended to the entire staffs (forecasters, HMTs, ASAs, electronic techs/ITOs etc) for their outstanding public service.

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LOS ANGELES/OXNARD CA
400 AM PST THU FEB 17 2005

CAZ034>041-044>047-051>054-059-087-088-180000-
ANTELOPE VALLEY-CATALINA ISLAND-CUYAMA VALLEY-
400 AM PST THU FEB 17 2005

...MORE RAIN EXPECTED FOR SOUTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA THROUGH THE WEEKEND...

A STORM CENTERED OFF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST WILL CONTINUE TO SPREAD SUBTROPICAL MOISTURE INTO SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA. EARLY THIS MORNING...SATELLITE IMAGERY SHOWED AN AREA OF ENHANCED RAINFALL AND POSSIBLE THUNDERSTORMS TO OUR SOUTHWEST. INCREASING MID LEVEL MOISTURE AND INSTABILITY WILL BRING A THREAT OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS TO THE REGION LATER TODAY AND THIS EVENING.

LATER TONIGHT...RAINFALL IS EXPECTED TO BECOME STEADIER AND MORE WIDESPREAD ACROSS THE REGION. PERIODS OF RAIN WILL THEN CONTINUE THROUGH SATURDAY NIGHT...WITH A CHANCE OF SHOWERS LINGERING INTO SUNDAY. THE HIGHEST RAINFALL AMOUNTS WITH THIS STORM WILL BE FOCUSED SOUTH OF POINT CONCEPTION...WHERE RAINFALL TOTALS THROUGH SUNDAY ARE GENERALLY EXPECTED TO RANGE BETWEEN ONE AND THREE INCHES ACROSS COASTAL AND VALLEY AREAS...AND THREE TO SIX INCHES IN THE FOOTHILLS AND MOUNTAINS. THE HIGHEST RAINFALL TOTALS ARE EXPECTED ACROSS SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST FACING MOUNTAIN SLOPES AND FOOTHILLS. THESE OVERALL RAINFALL NUMBERS HAVE BEEN INCREASED SOMEWHAT DUE TO CURRENT SATELLITE TRENDS AS WELL AS PROJECTED INCREASES IN LOW LEVEL SOUTHERLY FLOW. AREAS NORTH OF POINT CONCEPTION ARE GENERALLY EXPECTED TO RECEIVE BETWEEN ONE HALF AND TWO INCHES OF RAIN...WITH LOCAL AMOUNTS OVER THREE INCHES ACROSS HIGHER TERRAIN.

RAINFALL INTENSITIES ARE GENERALLY EXPECTED TO REMAIN UNDER ONE THIRD OF AN INCH PER HOUR ACROSS LOWER ELEVATIONS...BUT RATES UP TO ONE HALF INCH PER HOUR WILL BE POSSIBLE AT TIMES ACROSS SOUTH FACING MOUNTAIN SLOPES AND FOOTHILLS. URBAN AND SMALL STREAM FLOODING WILL BE LIKELY DUE TO THE PROLONGED RAINFALL DURATION. A FLASH FLOOD WATCH MAY NEED TO BE ISSUED ACROSS THE BURN AREAS IF IT BECOMES MORE CERTAIN THAT HIGHER RAINFALL INTENSITIES WILL MATERIALIZE. THERE WILL BE HEIGHTENED CONCERN FOR MUD AND DEBRIS FLOWS...AS WELL AS AN INCREASED THREAT OF ROCK AND MUD SLIDE ACTIVITY NEAR STEEP TERRAIN AND BURN AREAS.

THE SNOW LEVEL IS EXPECTED TO START ABOVE 7000 FEET TODAY AND TONIGHT...THEN LOWER TO AROUND 6000 FEET FRIDAY THROUGH SATURDAY. SIGNIFICANT SNOWFALL ACCUMULATIONS OF 12 TO 24 INCHES WILL BE POSSIBLE ACROSS THE HIGHER MOUNTAIN PEAKS ABOVE 7000 FEET.

ANOTHER STORM SYSTEM COULD BRING ADDITIONAL RAINFALL TO THE REGION ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY HAS ISSUED A LANDSLIDE AND DEBRIS FLOW ADVISORY FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA THROUGH MONDAY...FEBRUARY 21 2005. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON DEBRIS FLOW AND LANDSLIDE HAZARDS...VISIT THE FOLLOWING USGS WEBSITE...

[HTTP://LANDSLIDES.USGS.GOV](http://landslides.usgs.gov)

PEOPLE IN AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO FLOODING OR PLANNING TRAVEL THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS SHOULD CHECK PREPAREDNESS AND STAY INFORMED ON THIS DEVELOPING WET WEATHER PATTERN.

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GOMBERG



Rick Winther, WFO Pocatello Lead Forecaster, discusses weather operations with a Pocatello Chamber of Commerce member.

WFO Pocatello Participates in “Business After Hours”:

While the weather outside was frightful, WFO Pocatello co-hosted “Business After Hours” with the Pocatello Regional Airport Authority. The “Business After Hours” program provides a way for local Chamber of Commerce members to get together and acquaint themselves with different businesses in the community. WFO Pocatello recently joined the group.

Despite the howling winds and blowing snow, approximately 60 people visited the forecast office, and over 200 members visited the terminal building where food and drink were provided by the Airport Authority. Drought conditions, digital forecasting

techniques and graphics, and NOAA Weather Radio were displayed at the Airport Terminal as well as the WFO.



Mike Smith, WFO Sacramento IMET, waves from the driver's seat of a San Diego fire truck.

Sacramento IMET Praised for S-290 Course

Work: WFO Sacramento Incident Meteorologist (IMET) Mike Smith's S-290 work was recently showcased at the 2005 Firehouse World Exposition and Conference in San Diego, January 31 - Feb 1. Several years ago, Mike and Pat Shreffler (retired USFS and former Kern County Battalion Chief), worked together to update the antiquated S-290 course and develop a version more applicable to

California wildland fires. The California Training Officers Association nominated this work as "the best of the best" for presentation at the conference. As a result, Mike and Pat were invited to teach the revised course at the conference. Mike spent many hours on this task and his materials are now being used across California. Great job Mike!



Art Horton, San Diego Forecaster, staffs the booth at Heli-Expo.

San Diego Forecasters Support "Heli-Expo":

Mark Moede and Art Horton, both forecasters at WFO San Diego, helped staff a NOAA booth at the "Heli-Expo", held February 6-8 in Anaheim. "Heli-Expo" is the world's largest trade show dedicated to the civil helicopter industry. The 400,000 gross square feet of exhibit hall space housed 486 exhibiting company displays. In addition, there were forums, symposia, workshops, and social gatherings for industry professionals to meet and share information, professional development courses, and open meetings.



Steve Brueske, WFO Great Falls MIC, presents an update of the drought in Montana during the Governor's Conference on Emergency Management

Montana NWS Offices Support Governor's Conference:

The four Montana National Weather Service offices participated in the 38th annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management, held February 16 in Helena, Montana.

During a plenary session, Steve Brueske, WFO Great Falls MIC, provided an update on the drought that has impacted the state for more than six years. Members of each office used the conference as an opportunity to discuss local and statewide issues with emergency managers and their county commissioners.

Among the topics receiving the most attention were a new state Emergency Alert System plan, continued and intensifying drought, the all-hazards NOAA Weather Radio network, new digital services, enhanced Web Page capabilities, and fire weather services. Members from the four offices also met for several hours to discuss local issues impacting National Weather Service operations.



WFO San Joaquin Valley Participates in Ag Expo:

WFO San Joaquin Valley staffed a booth at the World Ag Expo in Tulare, CA. The event is the largest agricultural equipment show of its kind and attracts over 100,000 visitors annually. The WFO staffed a booth during all 3 days of the expo. Pictured at left are CPM Paul Jones and DAPM Martin Veloz speaking with a visitor.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Advanced Warning Operations Course (AWOC):

Update as of Feb 17

Region	WFO ID	Description	IC Completions
WR	MSO	MISSOULA WFO	153
WR	PQR	PORTLAND WFO	140
WR	BOI	BOISE WFO	121
WR	TWC	TUCSON WFO	117
WR	BYZ	BILLINGS WFO	110
WR	MTR	SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WFO (MONTEREY)	109
WR	EKA	EUREKA WFO	108
WR	MFR	MEDFORD WFO	108
WR	PDT	PENDLETON WFO	105
WR	TFX	GREAT FALLS WFO	100
WR	FGZ	FLAGSTAFF WFO	98
WR	LOX	LOS ANGELES WFO (OXNARD)	98
WR	VEF	LAS VEGAS WFO	82
WR	PSR	PHOENIX WFO	79
WR	REV	RENO WFO	78
WR	OTX	SPOKANE WFO	74
WR	SEW	SEATTLE WFO	74
WR	SGX	SAN DIEGO WFO	74
WR	PIH	POCATELLO WFO	71
WR	HNX	SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WFO (HANFORD)	69
WR	LKN	ELKO WFO	63
WR	STO	SACRAMENTO WFO	59
WR	SLC	SALT LAKE CITY WFO	58
WR	GGW	GLASGOW WFO	57
Total IC Completions for Western Region			2247
Total IC Completions for NWS			10905

There are 6 Instructional Components per person for the AWOC Core series. The offices near the top of the list are making great progress. The statistics are courtesy of the Warning Decision Training Branch.

AWOC Training Deadlines: It is important that offices keep up with the training schedule. In WR, we have broken the two track deadlines up into first and second half of FY05. Completion will be tracked by LMS and reported in the WR Professional Development and Training plan.

March 31, 2005 – Complete Core Track (WFO and CWSUs)
August 31, 2005 – Complete Severe Weather Track (WFO and CWSUs)
August 31, 2005 – Complete Hydrology Core Track (RFC's only)
TBD (probably March, 2006) – Winter Weather Track (WFO and CWSUs)

For more info on AWOC and LMS go to: <http://wdtb.noaa.gov/courses/awoc/index.html>.

Winter Storm Reconnaissance Program: The Monterey Forecast Office is again serving as the Western Region Focal Point for this season's Winter Storms Reconnaissance (WSR) Program. The basic idea of the program is to deploy spatially and temporally targeted dropsondes well out over the Pacific from aircraft flying out of Honolulu and Anchorage -- with the objective of improving the NCEP model forecasts in critical weather situations and when there is significant model disagreement or uncertainty. For the western U.S., the constraints of the program are such that the forecast event of interest would typically have to be identified 60-96 hours in advance (for a request to be made for targeted obs).

The procedure to follow if we receive such a request from any WR office: Requests must be sent to the SDM at NCEP before 9:30 am EST (6:30 am PST).

The Winter Storms Program for 2005 will conclude on or before March 15.

For significant additional detailed information on the current WSR program, see: <http://wwwt.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/gmb/targets/target/wsr2005.html>.

Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop: The Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop will be held March 4-5, 2005, at the NOAA Western Regional Center campus at Sand Point in Seattle, Washington. This annual conference, sponsored by the National Weather Service, University of Washington, and Puget Sound Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, covers recent developments in weather forecasting and observational technologies, major weather events of the past year, and topics dealing with Western U.S. meteorology.

Pre-registration is required for all attendees. We encourage you to visit the web site at: www.atmos.washington.edu/~cliff/PNW2005.html for latest information and on-line registration.

For more information contact: Brad Colman/Chris Hill, NWS Forecast Office (206.526.6095 x 224/222, brad.colman@noaa.gov or chris.hill@noaa.gov), or Clifford Mass, Dept of Atmospheric Sciences, Box 351640, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195 (206.685.0190, cliff@atmos.washington.edu).

Budget Cuts and new NWS Training Schedule: The budget cuts resulted in a reduction in the number of training courses offered for FY05. Mark Mollner has summarized the new training schedule and affected course assignments into a single

document. This includes the most recent changes as announced by NWSHQ. The training course spreadsheet can be accessed on the WR intranet at: http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/FY05trainingslotsWR_TC.htm

Suspension of University Assignment Program (UAP) call for new proposals:

Unfortunately, due to budget cuts this year, the University Assignment Program (UAP) is being suspended for the next academic year.

Suspension of COMET Outreach 2005 RFP: Due to budget cuts, the COMET Outreach Program's FY2005 Cooperative Project Request for Proposals (RFP) is being suspended. Funding for Outreach Partners Proposals has also been suspended. For more information, visit the COMET web site at <http://www.comet.ucar.edu/>.

Teletraining Session for March: The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) and the Integrated Sensor Training Professional Development Series (ISTPDS) sessions are listed below. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu.

The teletraining calendar is at: <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/ecal.asp>.

The sessions for March are:

- NEW - Predicting Supercell Motion in Operations
(Intermediate, March 2, 10, 15, 23, 31)
- Modern Severe Weather Parameters
(Basic/intermediate, March 16, 29)
- Forecasting Convective Downburst Potential Using GOES Sounder Derived Products
(Basic, March 1, 10)
- Using GOES to Forecast Winter Storms Parts 1 & 2
(Intermediate, March 2, 3)
- RSO imagery with other Remote Sensor Data for Diagnosing Severe Weather across the CONUS (RSO 3)
(Intermediate, March 8, 9, 24, 25)
- Mesoscale Analysis of Convective Weather Using GOES RSO Imagery
(Basic, March 4)

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

Safety: Slips, trips, and falls cause many injuries, sometimes serious. Thousands of disabling injuries, and even death, occur each year as a result of slips, trips, and falls. So, how do we prevent slips, trips, and falls?

- * Keep walkways, aisles, and stairs free of tools, materials, and other hazards.
- * Clean up any leaks or spills on floors, stairs, and entrance ways.
- * Repair or report floor problems, such as broken planks, missing tiles, etc.
- * Block off and mark floor areas that are being cleaned or repaired.

- * Keep cords, power cables, and the like out of walkways.
- * Place trash promptly in proper containers.
- * Keep drawers closed.
- * Report missing or broken stair rails and slippery or damaged treads.
- * Walk, don't run, on stairs (hold onto stair rails when going up or down).
- * Don't carry a load you can't see over.

Question to ponder..... Is every accident preventable?

ASOS Training: Kevin Bolton assisted the Seattle WFO in ASOS training. He is visiting several ASOS sites with the technicians and is attending a relocation meeting of the Olympia ASOS.

EPM/EMRS Conference: Joe Lachacz attended the National EPM/EMRS conference in Dallas Fort Worth. Numerous EMRS and electronics topics were covered.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Position Selections:

Ryan Kittel has been selected for the Meteorologist Intern position at the WFO in Phoenix, Arizona