

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 20-103
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Training and Education

FORECASTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TRAINING

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

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive replaces Operations Manual Letter (OML) 5-91, dated March 22, 1991, entitled “Sequence of Forecaster Development Training”.

signed
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9/25/02
Date

1. Purpose

The National Weather Service (NWS) Forecaster Development Program (FDP) provides a structured training program for meteorologist interns (referred to as “interns” hereafter). Successful completion of this training will help to ensure proficiency as a full performance forecaster at a Weather Forecast Office (WFO), or equivalent position at a National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Service Center, or other NWS office.

Much of the training associated with the FDP will also be relevant for employees new to the NWS who are hired for forecaster positions. Hydrometeorological Technicians (HMTs) who are working toward “cross-over” to a meteorologist (forecaster) position should complete the FDP training, in addition to satisfying the educational requirements (“X-118 standards”) established by the Office of Personnel Management. Other employees (for example, hydrologists) are encouraged to take advantage of available FDP-related training which is relevant to their jobs or interests.

2. Overview of FDP Training

The FDP training is organized into a three-phase process utilizing the Professional Development Series (PDS) model, a set of materials which define the skills, knowledge, and abilities necessary to fulfill a major job responsibility. More detailed information on the PDS model can be found at:

<http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/nwstrn/d.ntp/pds.html>

Career progression through the FDP requires interns to demonstrate they have completed the training associated with the first two phases, or have otherwise achieved the knowledge and skills provided by the training. The supervisor is responsible for ensuring the completion of each phase, along with any additional applicable training. At WFOs and NCEP Service Centers, the Science and Operations Officer is expected to provide oversight for FDP training.

The NWS Training Center (NWSTC) FDP website provides specific information regarding subjects and training materials associated with each phase of the FDP. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/nwstrn/d.ntp/fdp/index.html>