



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910-3283**

**Operations Manual  
Letter 04-00**

Date of Issue: July 17, 2000

Effective Date: July 17, 2000

In Reply Refer To: W/SP

File With: A-06

Subject: Guidelines for Support of Special Events

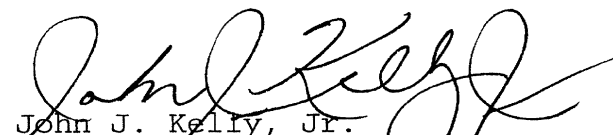
References: WSOM Chapter A-06, "Policy and Guidelines Governing NWS and Private Sector Roles" Issuance 93-08, dated July 30, 1993.

This OML clarifies Section 5 of Weather Service Operations Manual (WSOM) Chapter A-06 containing guidance for weather briefings and other related weather services to support special events.

It is NWS policy not to provide special forecasts and direct forecasting services to outdoor event organizers, with the exception of certain international events listed in Section 5 of Chapter A-06, which may continue to be supported directly. However, it is NWS policy to (1) publicize the various methods, both public and private, where official NWS forecasts and warnings can be accessed for the benefit of the general public including outdoor event organizers and participants; (2) promptly inform emergency managers and/or event organizers when local weather conditions may threaten life or property during such events; and, (3) where appropriate, inform emergency managers when weather conditions may impact emergency management decisions during such events.

Responsibility for implementing this policy rests with regional and center directors, meteorologists in charge, and hydrologists in charge.

This is not a new policy direction for the NWS: A June 7, 1996, memorandum (attached) from the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services reminded NWS Directors of the policy and providing additional guidance. Ensure the attached Memorandum is appropriately reflected in every office's Station Duty Manual and filed along with this OML with WSOM Chapter A-06.

  
John J. Kelly, Jr.  
Assistant Administrator  
for Weather Services

Attachment

WSOM-A-06-04-00

ATTACHMENT  
OML 04-00



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
1325 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283

JUN 7 1996

W/IM:ACE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Directors, All Headquarters Offices  
Directors, All NWS Regions  
Director, National Centers for Environmental  
Prediction  
Director, National Data Buoy Center  
Director, NWS Training Center  
Federal Coordinator for Meteorology

FROM: *Susan A. Friday, Jr.*  
Elbert W. Friday, Jr.  
Assistant Administrator  
for Weather Services

SUBJECT: NWS Field Office Support to Special Outdoor  
Events

As in the past, NWS personnel need to respond judiciously to all requests for forecasting support from outdoor event organizers. However, there will be no further direct forecasting support to organizers of events such as balloon races, golf tournaments, horse races, parades, etc. In many cases, I believe that our short-term public forecast updates available on NOAA Weather Radio and the NOAA Weather Wire Service can satisfy many of these needs. Event organizers can be referred to The Directory of Private Weather Services available on the Internet (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/IM/>) or from the Office of Industrial Meteorology (IM) for site-specific and time-specific forecasts.

At the same time, NWS Offices can and should work with the private weather vendor chosen by event organizers to assure access to local weather warnings and forecasts that affect life and property.

Finally, NWS personnel can continue educational support to special events highlighting our mission to save lives and protect property. This indirect support would include staffing of booths at fly-ins or boat shows where we explain our mission, products and services. Hard copy or Internet displays of NWS products and services are also appropriate. However, NWS personnel would not deliver weather briefings.

As a service agency and part of a successful public-private partnership, NWS will respond to requests from outdoor event organizers in a positive manner. As in the past, we want to work with the private sector to provide the Nation with optimum weather services.

IM is always available to answer questions from outdoor event organizers and will work closely with you to monitor NWS adherence to the principles of the public-private partnership.



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