

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 20-101***

***February 13, 2008***

***Training and Education***

***Training and Education, NWSPD 20-1***

***USE OF WEATHER EVENT SIMULATOR***

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

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***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:*** This directive supersedes NWSI 20-101, "Use of Weather Event Simulator," dated July 29, 2002. Changes are: (1) Adds flexibility at the local level on when to administer Weather Event Simulator (WES) simulations (2) Adds language for WES support and (3) Adds a web link to access the WES Implementation and Operations Plan.

Signed

January 30, 2008

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Date

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Use of Weather Event Simulator

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1. Purpose. The purpose of this Instruction is to provide information on the number of Weather Event Simulator (WES) simulations which must be completed each year, define Significant Weather Seasons, and establish responsibilities for WES support.

2. Professional Development. Each Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Meteorologist-in-Charge (MIC) will fully integrate the WES into office professional development activities with a goal of enhancing staff forecast and warning skills. The MIC will ensure all WFO staff with forecast and warning responsibilities complete at least four WES simulations per year. As part of the four, one appropriate WES simulation must be completed prior to the start of each significant weather season.

3. Defining Significant Weather Seasons. The MIC will define significant weather seasons for the WFO. These are the periods where the office focuses their internal preparedness activities, such as drills and heightened awareness, for major forecast and warning challenges. They may vary among offices and can include periods characterized by severe convection, winter weather, heavy rainfall, fire weather, aviation weather hazards, and so on. At a minimum, all offices will define at least two significant weather seasons.

4. Weather Event Simulator (WES) Support. The Warning Decision Training Branch will develop, maintain and support the WES hardware and software as specified in the WES Implementation and Operations Plan (<http://www.wdtb.noaa.gov/tools/wes/admin/WES-IOP-Final.pdf> ). Regional WES Focal Points at the Regional Headquarters will provide guidance on how the WES is connected to local networks and associated security policies.