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Pacific Region Weather Forecast Office Hydrologic Operations

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R. J. LaDouce Date
Director, Pacific Region

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1. Introduction. This directive specifies the national instructions for hydrologic operations at Pacific Region weather forecast offices (WFO), weather service offices (WSO) and data collection offices (DCO). This supplement identifies unique customer/partner requirements for hydrologic service areas (HSA) within the Region. This directive and supplement cover the operations conducted to produce those products and other services contained in NWS Instruction 10-922.

2. Hydrologic Forecast and Warning Operations. Operational responsibility for the hydrologic products identified in NWS Instruction 10-922 resides with the WFO. WFOs are responsible for the quality of their hydrologic products and services, and customer outreach. The WFO may delegate authority to generate some of these hydrologic products to the WSOs within their HSA in accordance with local policy. This delegation may be a blanket delegation, such as will be given in Micronesia when the WSO staff, training, and equipment will support that delegation, or it may be given for a particular event by the lead forecaster in consultation with the staff of the WSO. Customer outreach may also be shared with or delegated to the WSO as part of each WFO's operations plan. WFOs or WSOs may suggest hydrologic product and service changes to the Region, but they shall not make those changes until the recommendation has been coordinated and approved and customers are notified.

3. Hydrology Program Leadership Activities. While the leadership activities performed by the WFO service hydrologist or hydrology focal point include coordination, training, post event surveys, and data network maintenance for the WFO's hydrology program, the program leader may request support for these activities from other members of the WFO staff, from the WSOs, from the Alaska - Pacific River Forecast Center, or from the Region as appropriate.

4. Role of the WSO. Most WSOs in the Pacific Region have the unique distinction of being local observation and forecast offices within the National Weather Service structure while at the same time serving as the foundation of the national weather services of their individual countries. As they evolve to their end state in staffing, training, and equipment, they will take on greater individual responsibility for their forecast areas.
The WSOs in each WFOs hydrologic service area will provide an active watch on local conditions during their hours of operation. After staff, training, and equipment are in place, staff at the WSO will use guidance from the parent WFO or observations acquired on site to issue hydrologic outlooks, flood watches, flash flood warnings, and flood statements for their area of

responsibility. *WFO products issued by the WSO will use the standard product format and WMO header, but the CCCC should indicate it was issued by the WSO.* The WSO will also participate in customer outreach and in working with local observers.

5. Role of the DCO. DCOs primary responsibility is the collection of local upper air and surface observations. They will also participate in interactions with the cooperative observation networks in their local areas. Thus, they may collect and send observations to the WFO. *These observations, if sent through any communications channels external to the NWS should use the WMO Header and CCCC of their parent WFO.* DCOs will also support their parent WFO in customer outreach activities, assist the WFO with hydro meteorological watch responsibilities, and collect spotter and verification reports for their respective areas of responsibility.