

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-13

September 27, 2002

Operations and Services

Surface Observing Program (Land)

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

OPR: W/OS7 (R. Dombrowsky)

Certified by: W/OS (G. Mandt)

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1. The National Weather Service (NWS) is responsible for providing forecasts and warnings. The first step in the process is the assimilation of weather observations. Observations may be obtained from automated sensors, volunteer observers, and other established surface reporting systems. This directive governs NWS activities to providing surface weather observations in support of the NWS forecast and warning process.
2. The objective of the NWS surface observation program is to provide policy and standards for observing, monitoring, and acquisition and dissemination of data in support of the NWS and its customers.
3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
 - 3.1 The Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS):
 - a. establishes national policy and procedures;
 - b. consolidates, evaluates, analyses, and oversees national performance and effectiveness indicators for the surface observation program;
 - c. conducts outreach efforts to promote the surface observation program with customers and partners.
 - 3.2 The Office of Science and Technology (OST):
 - a. plans, develops, demonstrates, and integrates scientific techniques and system capabilities for the observing services program;
 - b. formulates and maintains a comprehensive research and development plan in support of the observation services program;

c. oversees associated applied research and development.

3.3 The Office of Operational Systems (OOS) provides system engineering, software management, facilities engineering services, communications, and logistical services for operational weather systems supporting NWS forecast and warning services.

3.4 NWS Regional Headquarters offices are responsible for ensuring Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) are organized, trained, and equipped to provide surface weather observations. The NWS Regional Headquarters are responsible for ensuring WFOs are in compliance with established policies and procedures; coordinating with OCWWS on meteorological instruments and methods of observation requirements; developing Supplements to Procedural Directives and coordinating them with OCWWS; ensuring Supplementals are compatible across regional boundaries; providing technical assistance to WFOs; and evaluating performance and effectiveness indicators of the surface observations program.

3.5 WFOs are responsible for providing accurate and timely observation services in compliance with national and regional policies. WFOs will conduct customer outreach within their area of responsibility, to promote and assess surface observation and monitoring services.

4.0 The NWS measures the effectiveness of the observing program policy using the following mission-critical performance measure: delivery of accurate surface observation data to the NWS and its customers. The overall goal of this policy is to provide quality real-time observations to the NWS and its customers.

5.0 This Policy Directive is supported by references and supporting information listed in Attachment 1.

Signed by _____ September 27, 2002

John J. Kelly, Jr.

Date

Assistant Administrator
for Weather Services

Attachment 1

REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Instructions

- 10-1301 Aviation and Synoptic Observations
- 10-1302 Requirements and Standards for NWS Climate Observations
- 10-1304 Certification of Observers
- 10-1305 Observational Quality Control - General
- 10-1307 Cooperative Program Management and Operations
- 10-1310 Claims for One-the-Job Injuries to Contract/Cooperative Observers
- 10-1311 Supplementary Observations and Complementary Data Sources and Networks
- 10-1313 Cooperative Station Service Accountability (CSSA)
- 10-1314 Cooperative Observer Awards
- 10-1315 Cooperative Station Observations