



## Skywarn Recognition Day is Around the Corner

By: NWS Staff

Skywarn™ Recognition Day (SRD) is coming up on December 3. The 24 hours of all things Skywarn starts at 0Z (7pm EST) on Friday, Dec. 2, and runs until 0Z (7pm EST) Saturday, Dec. 3. SRD is run each year during the first weekend of December by the National Weather Service (NWS). Developed in 1999 by the NWS and the American Radio Relay League, it celebrates the contributions that Skywarn volunteers make to the NWS mission, the protection of life and property. Amateur radio operators comprise a large percentage of the Skywarn volunteers across the country. The Amateur radio operators also provide vital communication between the NWS and emergency management if normal communications become inoperative.



All Skywarn spotters provide critical weather information before, during, and after adverse weather strikes. This includes reports of rain and snow, ice and wind, storms and tornadoes, flooding and fire. We encourage everyone to participate, whether you are a Skywarn spotter, interested in becoming a spotter, or just love observing and tracking the weather. This is our 24 hours to recognize all of the Skywarn™ spotters serving our nation! To learn more about Skywarn Recognition Day, go to: <https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>

## NWS St. Louis Hosts First Open House in 8 Years

By: NWS Staff



*Pictured above is a demonstration at one of the stations*

NWS St. Louis hosted their first open house since 2014 on Saturday, October 29, 2022. They welcomed partners such as Emergency Managers to this special open house to thank them for their support and efforts towards a Weather-Ready Nation over the past several years.

Folks started in the parking lot at the Decision Support Services tent, explaining the office and some of the services they provide to their many partners across the region. Guests then moved inside and rotated through a radar station, operational forecast station, hydrological and cooperative observer station. After exiting the

building, guests were able to linger around the poster wall, which showcased impactful weather from the past year and explanations of program areas like Radar and Aviation.

NWS St. Louis was also thrilled to welcome St. Charles County Emergency Management and Eureka Fire Protection District and their mobile command centers. Everyone was able to tour the trucks and hear more about how these entities support their community and region. The open house was a great success and a perfect dry run for a full scale, public open house scheduled for Fall 2023!

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## Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Offers Hazardous Weather and Flooding Preparedness Course

By: Jonathan Guseman, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at WFO State College

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) provides Emergency Management (EM) personnel across the Commonwealth with the opportunity to take the G-271 Hazardous Weather and Flooding Preparedness course. Several classes are normally offered each year throughout Pennsylvania, helping EM professionals obtain their PEMA County Advanced Certification designation.

Meteorologists from NWS offices that serve Pennsylvania helped the State Meteorologist teach each of these 2-day classes. This includes the final course offered in 2022, which was held at PEMA Headquarters in Harrisburg.

Reviews showed how appreciative class attendees were, as well as how valuable the information was: *“Great instructors adding their professional view as meteorologists and encouraging those in emergency management to interact to embrace how severe weather events can be prepared, mitigated, responded and recovered.”*



Senior Meteorologist Mike Dangelo (left) and Meteorologist Rachel Buvala (right) from NWS State College teaching G-271 in Harrisburg, PA

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## Southern Region Hosts First-Ever Women’s Conference, Hosted by NWS El Paso

By: NWS Staff



NWS Deputy Assistant Administrator, Mary Erickson, delivering opening remarks at the first-ever Southern Region Women’s Conference

National Weather Service El Paso hosted the first-ever Southern Region (SR) Women’s Conference virtually on October 31, 2022. More than 150 women and allies from 38 Weather Forecast Offices (WFO), three River Forecast Centers (RFC), three Center Weather Service Units (CWSU), Southern Region Headquarters, and NWS Headquarters attended the conference. The topics covered by the 26 invited speakers allowed attendees to have an open discussion about the unique experiences faced by women working for the NWS and provided leadership tools and strategies to positively affect the local office mission and culture. The goal of the SR Women’s Conference was to provide women with information, opportunities, and shared experiences for better work-life balance and encourage female retention.

The day was kicked off by NWS Deputy Assistant Administrator, **Mary Erickson**; Southern Region Regional Director, **Mike Coyne**; NWS El Paso Meteorologist in Charge, **Jimmy Barham**, speaking to the importance of women within the NWS and encouraged discussions surrounding diversity and inclusion within the NWS and Southern Region.

The morning session featured presentations from:

- NWS Nashville Meteorologist in Charge, **Krissy Hurley**, who talked about “Speaking Up When Something is Wrong”
- NWS Behavioral Health and Wellness Officer, **LCDR Valarie Gardner**, and Southern Region Deputy Regional Director, **Jen McNatt**, who spoke on the health effects and management of “Work-Life Balance”

- NWS Tallahassee Meteorologist in Charge, **Felecia Bowser**, led a panel discussion on “Females in Leadership - How to Get There and Why You Should”; panelists included Tropical/Marine Program Manager for Southern Region **Katie Nguyen**, NWS New Orleans Electronics Systems Analyst **Melissa McIntier**, CWSU Memphis Meteorologist in Charge **Barb DeClerck**, Lower Mississippi RFC Senior Hydrologist **Gina Tillis-Nash**, and NWS Huntsville Science and Operations Officer **Katie Magee**
- Master instructor with the NWS Learning Academy and NWS Mentor Program Coordinator, **Christina Crowe**, spoke on the “Importance of Mentorships” and the opportunities available within the NWS
- **Amaryllis Cotto**, NWS Houston Meteorologist, ended the morning with a session on the “Effects of Language”

The afternoon featured 10 specialized breakout sessions designed to create a space for women and allies to learn from each other, share, and connect. Breakout sessions included topics such as “Feeling Alone in a New Office,” “Building a Family around Shift Work,” and “Resumes, Interviews and Imposter Syndrome.” Breakout sessions also included presentations on “FMLA and Parental Rights Basics” from the Office of Human Capital Services and Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment (SASH) from the NOAA Workplace Violence Prevention and Response program.

The day finished with a presentation on *Women Supporting Women* from NWS El Paso Lead Meteorologist, **Laren Reynolds**, followed by a discussion on what else can be done to build a community of women in Southern Region by the newly appointed SR Federal Women’s Employment Program Manager and NWS Huntsville Warning Coordination Meteorologist, **Jessica Chace**.

Those who registered for the conference were able to submit a woman who inspired them, which was placed in a slide show that was presented during conference breaks. You can view the *Women Who Inspire Us* slideshow on the [conference website](#).

This conference was successful thanks to participants' input as well as the tireless work of the SR Women’s Conference Planning Committee, who organized this conference in just a few short months: **Felecia Bowser**, WFO Tallahassee; **Tim Brice**, WFO El Paso; **Amaryllis Cotto**, WFO Houston; **Jessica Chace**, WFO Huntsville; **Barb DeClerck**, CWSU Memphis; **Eleanor Dhuyvetter**, WFO El Paso. **Angie Enyedi**, WFO Jacksonville; **Laura Kasper**, WFO Key West; **Katie Magee**, WFO Huntsville; **Alana McCants**; West Gulf RFC; **Melissa McIntier**, WFO New Orleans; **Jennifer McNatt**, Southern Region HQ; **Marissa Pazos**, WFO Atlanta; **Laren Reynolds**, WFO El Paso; **Katie Slusher**, WFO El Paso; and **Gina Tillis-Nash**, Lower Mississippi RFC.

You can view the agenda with recordings of the morning sessions (as links) [here](#).

NWS El Paso is excited to host this meeting annually and looks forward to exploring how this meeting can grow in 2023. For questions regarding the conference, please contact the NWS El Paso’s Local Planning Committee:

- Laren Reynolds: [laren.reynolds@noaa.gov](mailto:laren.reynolds@noaa.gov)
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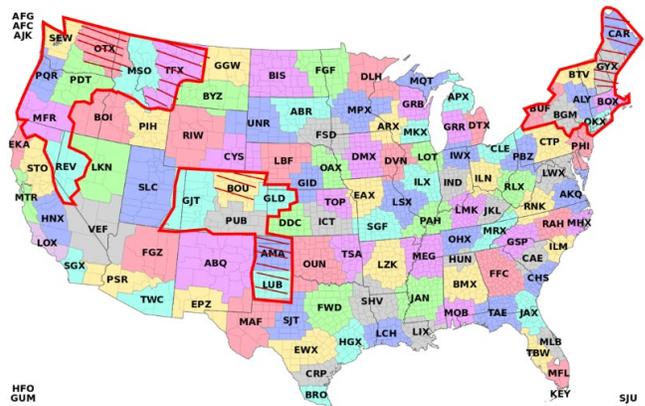
*NWS Nashville Meteorologist in Charge, Krissy Hurley, delivering the keynote address on “Speaking Up When Something is Wrong” at the 2022 Southern Region Women’s Conference*

# The Latest on the Collaborated Winter Storm Watch

By: NWS Staff

The National Weather Service will execute an operational exercise of the proposed Collaborated Winter Storm Watch process this upcoming winter season (2022-2023) using a suite of tools that include the [Experimental Winter Storm Outlook](#), the [Experimental Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index](#), and ensembles that inform probabilistic scenarios. This builds upon the Collaborative Winter Watch Proof-of-Concept Exercises that were conducted last season.

The goal of this exercise is to demonstrate a process that attempts to increase lead time while improving consistency in issuance timing, geographical footprint of winter watches, and key messaging using streamlined collaboration. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) and select Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) from each region will focus collaboration on winter watches during the day shift using a winter watch call script carefully coordinated with the Winter Watch Team and the ROCs. The overall focus for WPC-led Google Meet conference calls this winter will be on situations in which NEW Winter Storm Watches may be needed for 3 or more adjacent WFOs.



Map depicting the three exercise pods, with Hazard Services sites denoted by hatching



A test proposed Watch within WFO OKX's forecast area

The Collaborated Winter Storm Watch operational exercise will inform the next steps for the proposed process, which will be included in the eventual Winter Collaborative Forecast Process. The Winter Watch Team will continue to explore ways to enhance existing regional winter storm collaborative workflows to maximize consistency in timing, location, and messaging. For more information, please contact:

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