



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

National Severe Storms Laboratory
120 David L. Boren Blvd.
Norman, OK 73072

May 4, 2021

Hello Emergency Managers:

We are seeking Emergency Managers to provide input for modernized, rapidly-updating tornado and severe thunderstorm warnings. If you are interested, please consider applying to participate in one day of the 2021 Threats-in-Motion Tabletop Exercise as part of NOAA's Hazardous Weather Testbed (HWT). The testbed is a joint project of the NOAA National Weather Service and the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory to help foster collaboration between research and operations to test and evaluate emerging technologies and science. This year we are funded to test a new warning paradigm. A summary of our project is on the second page of this letter.

Our project will take place virtually the week of September 20-24. We will be selecting 25 emergency managers total, five per day, to participate in a one-day tabletop exercise. As a condition of participating, those who are selected will be asked to agree to allow the researchers to use data collected in the experiment for research and development purposes. More details about the research participation will be provided to those who are selected.

If you'd like to apply, please fill out our online form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzFRt2X4hTyqYZ8_oWghCpSUXK_38IUwbMFrOIBNpvlf5Udw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Please fill out the form by **July 23**, as candidates will be selected shortly thereafter. We are seeking enthusiastic people willing to work through simulated severe weather cases. You do not need to have deep knowledge of current National Weather Service systems or practices to participate and provide input. We are seeking participants with a wide range of experiences and backgrounds. If selected, you will also contribute in discussions/surveys concerning how you interpret new products and how you would use this more rapidly-updating warning to do your job, thus helping us develop a new severe weather warning paradigm. Emergency Managers play a critical role in the warning process, and your input is valuable.

Sincerely,

Kodi L. Berry, Ph.D,

FACETs Program Lead, NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory



Threats-in-Motion Tabletop Exercise in NOAA's Hazardous Weather Testbed

WHO - Emergency managers serve a critical role in the communication of weather warnings. We are looking for a diverse set of emergency managers (25 in total). We hope that everyone who feels interested will apply.

WHEN – September 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

WHAT - The main objective of this Threats-in-Motion tabletop is to learn how a more rapidly-updating warning impacts emergency managers and their decision making. Emergency managers will view animations of and discuss their thoughts and reactions to more rapidly-updating warnings. Researchers will study how the emergency managers interpret and use the warning information. This HWT project will help us as researchers learn participants' needs during the warning process under this potential new paradigm.

WHY - The project investigators hope to gain insights into the ways in which continuous flow of information is received and used by decision makers.

For more information, see our recent conference presentations:

- [American Meteorological Society 13th Symposium on Societal Applications: Policy, Research and Practice](#)
- [American Meteorological Society Fifth Symposium on Building a Weather-Ready Nation: Enhancing Our Nation's Readiness, Responsiveness, and Resilience to High Impact Weather Events](#)