



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

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Hello Emergency Managers:

We are seeking Emergency Managers to provide input on potential updates and innovations for the Storm Prediction Center convective outlook. If you are interested, please consider applying to participate in one day of the 2022 Convective Outlook Innovations 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. A summary of our project is on the second page of this letter.

Our project will take place virtually the weeks of **October 11-13** and **October 18-20**. We will be selecting 12 emergency managers total, six per week, to participate in a **three-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!](#)

Please fill out the form by **September 2**, 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 to discussions/surveys concerning how you interpret and use new Storm Prediction Center products. 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



## **Convective Outlook Innovations 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 (12 in total). We hope that everyone who feels interested will apply.

**WHEN** – October 11-13, October 18-20

**WHAT** - This experiment will include 12 emergency managers who will complete communication and decision support exercises using the prototype convective outlook innovations. Facilitators will walk participants through multiple severe weather scenarios from days before the event down to the warning scale. During these activities, forecasters will be asked to create communication and decision support materials and then present those materials to evaluators. These evaluators will be made up of EMs and members of the public who have little weather knowledge. We will ask the evaluators to provide feedback to the forecaster participants and the researchers about the ease of use and usefulness of the communication materials, particularly as it relates to the new information provided by the convective outlook innovations. Simultaneously, the forecasters will be asked to think critically about what the innovations added (if anything) to their ability to communicate the day's risk. Surveys and focus group interviews will be used to elicit information about the benefits and challenges of communicating this new information with non-experts.

**WHY** - This HWT experiment will provide evaluation of convective outlook innovations before they are put into operations. Feedback will be used to iterate on the type of information and the display of information in the SPC convective outlook