

Integrated Warning Team

What is our perspective on the role of the IWT?

- 1) Depending on the event we are sometime the first to get the information back to the appropriate individuals
- 2) We must be proactive not reactive to a severe weather event it is our place to provide accurate information
- 3) We must have our staff and volunteers educated to the highest level of trusted training before we feel comfortable in deploying them to the field

What do we do as Emergency management Offices do to protect the public during severe Weather Events?

Storm Ready Criteria

As of January 15, 2009 , there were **1413** StormReady® Sites in **50** states, Puerto Rico & Guam:
738 Counties, **607** Communities
32 Universities, **6** Indian Nations, **14** Commercial Sites, **8** Military, **7** Government Sites
63 TsunamiReady Sites in **10** states, Puerto Rico and Guam
75 StormReady Supporters

- 1) We provide information to
 - a) NWS
 - b) Media
 - c) Schools and Institutions
 - d) Local responder
 - e) First sometimes to get the Brunt of the Storm in the Metro region
- 2) We deploy resources to be our eyes and ears of the field
 - a) 60 volunteers
 - b) 3 Volunteer Fire depts.
 - c) Law enforcement
- 3) We are ready to be deployed at the first indication of threaten severe weather
 - a) We are notified we severe weather threatens Leavenworth County 125 miles from the County
 - b) We deploy our teams at least if time allows 45 minutes before the storm arrives
 - c) We provide updated weather information provided to us via radio, as conditions get closer to the County.

Perceived Challenges, constraints, concerns and opportunities for working with forecasters and media?

- 1) Accurate information to follow on for rapid notification
 - a) NWS different information or other storms they are concentrating on
 - b) Media calling to verify damage or events
 - c) Is the information we provide the right way to send it out? Email, Twitter.com, cell phones, pagers, reverse call back :

- Are Weather Radios the way to reach the generation we live in today?
- 2) The ability to reach the public to make them aware of danger, make the general public be responsible of their own well being

Experience, knowledge and opinions about building better relationships with each and better serving the general public

- 1) Make a conservative effort to deliver the same message to the public
- 2) Take the information we are provided and make judgment decisions
- 3) Make time for our partners to explain why we do things we do on a regular basis
- 4) Communicate as a team not independently we all should be serving the public for the same reason to protect from harms way!

What do we want out of this workshop or wish we could do better?

- 1) Seek new ways to provide the public valuable or urgent information
- 2) To get the public to react to warnings
- 3) To get an understanding of what can we do to support our media partners to make the response from the public a success
- 4) Understand that we are not at this alone and have our partners continue to plan for public awareness as one voice.
 - a. Through our schools
 - b. Through our special needs
 - c. Through our communities