

# Information Outlets

## *NOAA Weather Wire Service*

The NOAA Weather Wire Service is considered the primary telecommunications network for disseminating weather information to the mass media, emergency management agencies, and other users. Using a combination of dedicated phone lines and satellite communications, the weather products are placed on the NWWS in a matter of seconds from the time they leave our office.

Every weather product issued by WFO Paducah is identified by a ten-character WMO (World Meteorological Organization) ID (TTAA00 KPAH), along with a six-character AWIPS ID (NNNPAH). For example, a Tornado Warning issued by WFO Paducah carries a WMO ID of WFUS53 KPAH and an AWIPS ID of TORPAH. This guide refers to products using the AWIPS ID. A cross-reference table is provided in Appendix E to convert the AWIPS ID to the equivalent WMO ID and vice versa. For programming purposes, the NWWS uses WMO ID's.

An upgrade to the NWWS occurred in the year 2000 when the Replacement NWWS became operational. At its full capacity, the new R-NWWS provides users with extensive graphics imagery in addition to text products. Coinciding with this upgrade, the NWS will eliminate the current two-code county identification system, which uses both Zone and FIPS codes. The new Universal Geographic Code (UGC) will be a single-code system based on the FIPS codes listed in Part I of this manual. A part of this new code will allow counties to be divided into nine segments (NW/N/NE/W/C/E/SW/S/SE).

For more information on the NOAA Weather Wire Service, visit the NWS web site at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwWS>, or Dyncorp's web site at <http://www.weatherwire.net>. You can subscribe to the NWWS by calling Dyncorp at 1-800-633-2340.

## *Emergency Managers Weather Information Network*

The Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN) is a relatively new low-cost method for receiving National Weather Service weather products in both text and graphics format. Available products include severe weather and flood watches and warnings, forecasts, weather observations, satellite imagery, and a national radar summary. Users also have the capability of setting various alarms to alert them to a variety of information. These alarms can now be programmed to the county level.

EMWIN was designed to be a cost-effective alternative for emergency managers and others that lack access to, or funding for, more costly data services. Because the weather information is free, the only cost is for the receiving equipment and inexpensive commercial software. This digital datastream is available nationwide directly from satellites, and in many locations, in an easier and less costly manner using local radio rebroadcasts and other techniques.

For more information on EMWIN, log onto the EMWIN information page at <http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov/emwin/index.htm>. Here, you will find a helpful list of EMWIN vendors that have many variations of systems, software, and options available to receive NWS products. As an alternative, you may contact WFO Paducah's Rick Shanklin at (270) 744-6440 (x726).

The EMWIN datastream is also available on the Internet via the Interactive Weather Information Network (IWIN) or Internet Weather Source. To access these services, simply visit either or <http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov> or <http://weather.noaa.gov>.

## ***Information Superhighway*** (<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah>)

Whether it's tomorrow's forecast or last month's climate information, WFO Paducah's Internet page features a wealth of information that's sure to fulfill many of your weather-related needs. To provide a quick assessment of current weather information at a glance, links to local forecast and hazardous weather information, radar images, and weather headlines are front-and-center. Also accessible are details on NOAA Weather Radio and SAME, information and photographs from historic weather events, our online newsletter *On the Horizon*, a schedule of SKYWARN spotter training, and links to a variety of computer weather model data. There are also links to the NOAA, NWS, and Central Region homepages.

Of particular interest is the array of current weather information—right at your fingertips! This includes:

- ✓ ***Weather Product Index*** (with links to virtually every product we issue)
- ✓ ***Hazardous weather information*** (outlooks, warnings, storm reports)
- ✓ ***Radar images and satellite pictures*** (including Doppler radar images)
- ✓ ***Forecast Information*** (public, hydrologic, aviation, and fire weather)
- ✓ ***Current observations*** (both general weather and hydrologic)
- ✓ ***Climatological data*** (daily, monthly, and record information)

New to the array of online weather products is graphical forecast information out to 7 days. These graphical forecasts are available for such elements as sky cover, weather conditions, precipitation probability, temperature extremes, temperature, dew point, and wind direction and speed. Forecast images of precipitation and snow amount are also available on a short-term basis.

This new graphical forecast information is at the heart of the new National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD). The NDFD integrates forecast grids generated at each WFO into a national mosaic of forecast weather parameters. Higher-resolution graphical products are also available on a local level. For more information, please visit the NDFD web site at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ndfd>.

## *NOAA Weather Radio*

NOAA Weather Radio is a service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service. As the ***Voice of the National Weather Service***, it provides continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information. Digitally recorded weather messages are repeated every three to five minutes and are routinely revised at least every hour to cover changing weather conditions. NOAA Weather Radio serving the four-state region operates on a 24/7 basis, with the format tailored to the needs of the people within the listening area.

During severe weather, the National Weather Service preempts the routine weather broadcast and substitutes special warning messages. Critical information is broadcast live to get the information to the public as soon as possible. An emergency tone alarm is broadcast before the voice message, allowing specially equipped NOAA Weather Radios to audibly or visually alert the user. SAME-equipped weather radios are also capable of displaying a digital message detailing the weather advisory before the information is disseminated verbally over NOAA Weather Radio. SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) and NOAA Weather Radio work in conjunction with the media and national, state, and local emergency agencies to comprise the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

At this time, an increasing number of NOAA Weather Radio vendors are marketing new radios with the capability of decoding the SAME messages. Owners of these radios can program the radio to alarm for *certain* weather hazards within *specific* counties. To obtain the SAME codes needed to program these radios, you can call 1-888-NWR-SAME or log onto the Internet at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr>.

Commercial radio and TV stations are authorized to rebroadcast any material, especially weather watches and warnings, transmitted over the weather radio, subject only to minimal restrictions stated in FCC Public Notice 70110852876.

Currently, 18 NOAA Weather Radio transmitters serve the 58 counties covered by WFO Paducah. Refer to Appendix F for information on county-by-county transmitter coverage. The broadcasts can be heard as far away as 40 miles from the antenna site, sometimes more. The effective range depends on many factors, particularly the transmitter height, terrain, receiver quality, and present weather. An outside antenna can be very effective in improving reception.

## *Weather Information Now*

W.I.N.—Weather Information Now—is another outlet through which the public, media, or emergency managers may obtain weather data. On both the Paducah and Evansville W.I.N. telephone systems, the weather information is digitally recorded onto specific message paths as soon as new data becomes available.

The products recorded on W.I.N. include:

- ✓ 7-Day Forecast
- ✓ 8 – 14 Day Outlook
- ✓ Climate Information
- ✓ River & Lake Information
- ✓ Road Condition Phone Numbers

The user also has the option of speaking to a forecaster if more detailed information is required. Weather Information Now is accessible 24 hours a day, all year round. Just dial (270) 744-6331 from the Paducah area or (812) 425-5549 from the Evansville area.