



Resources for Emergency Managers

NWS Chat

Instant messaging or “chat” is used to create two-way communication between NWS forecasters and key partners (including the emergency management community) to enhance decision-making.

- ▶ Visit <https://nwschat.weather.gov> to sign up for this service.
(Click Documentation/Help for FAQ’s and NWSChat Live demo)
- ▶ NWSChat Live <https://nwschat.weather.gov/live>
(Web based/mobile friendly NWSChat access, NWSChat account required)
- ▶ NWSChat Bot <http://weather.im/iembot/> NWS product feed only
(Select Chicago under Available Rooms; **no account needed**)



iNWS

Emergency managers may receive text information direct from the NWS via email and/or text message to cell phones or pagers.

- ▶ Visit <http://inws.wrh.noaa.gov> to sign up for this service.



NWS Chicago Weather Watcher Website

This site can serve as a “one stop” for hazardous weather information for self-briefing. Note that this page does NOT auto-refresh.

- ▶ Visit http://weather.gov/lot/wx_watcher



Experimental NWS Mobile Widget

An experimental site optimized for mobile devices

- ▶ Visit <http://innovation.srh.noaa.gov/NWSwidget>



Severe Weather Conference Calls

Prior to potentially high impact weather events, NWS Chicago will hold a conference call or webinar for emergency managers, the media and other key partners. Typically held in the late morning or early afternoon, the call acts as a briefing for the impending threats. Participants are notified electronically (via email and/or text message) of the time and number for the call.

- ▶ **Contact Mike Bardou to sign up for this service.**

Monthly Emergency Manager E-mails

These messages are a way for NWS Chicago to share information and obtain feedback. Information may be related to new products and services, training opportunities or recent Significant weather events. This is separate from the severe weather conference call notification e-mail.

- ▶ **Contact Mike Bardou to sign up for this service.**

Storm Spotter Training: In-person training

Storm spotter training is conducted annually. NWS Chicago will designate and announce available dates around the first of the year. It is best if county and community Emergency Managers work together to schedule a class to obtain a large venue and maximize attendance. A small group of non-NWS trainers may also be available to conduct a class.

- ▶ **County Emergency Managers and others who have hosted classes will be contacted regarding scheduling spotter classes around the 1st of the year.**



Storm Spotter Training: On-line training

Prospective spotters who are unable to attend an in-person training class or would like to obtain training outside of spotter training season can complete an online training course. Participants can opt to have NWS Chicago notified of their completion at which point we will send them local supplemental training material. The online course also serves as a good refresher for those who have previously taken spotter training.

- ▶ **Visit:** https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23

StormReady

StormReady is a program designed to aid Emergency Managers and community leaders in strengthening local safety programs as well as to provide recognition for these efforts. There is a application and renewal process which assess the meeting of several requirements which include:

- Establishment of a warning point
- A hazardous weather plan
- Multiple ways to receive and forward hazardous weather information
- Placement of NOAA Weather Radios in County/Community/University owned public facilities
- Spotter training
- Community outreach on weather preparedness activities

- ▶ **Contact Mike Bardou for detailed requirements and an application**

Weather Ready Nation Ambassador (WRN) Initiative

An effort to formally recognize partners who are improving the nation's readiness, responsiveness and overall resilience against extreme weather, water and climate events. The Ambassador initiative helps unify these efforts across government, non-profits, academia and private industry. Many emergency management agencies, media outlets and even businesses have become Ambassadors to highlight their commitment to promoting hazardous weather preparedness. While StormReady recognizes your own preparedness efforts, the WRN Ambassador initiative recognizes your efforts to help others prepare.

- ▶ **Visit** <http://weather.gov/com/weatherreadynation/ambassadors.html> **for more information and an application or contact Mike Bardou with questions**



Mike Bardou

Warning Coordination Meteorologist

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mike.bardou@noaa.gov

www.weather.gov/chicago

Ham Radio: WX9LOT

NWS Chicago Phone Numbers

(800) 681-2972 Storm Reports (unlisted)

(815) 834-0651 Operations # for EMs (unlisted)

(815) 834-0600 x763 Media (unlisted)

(815) 834-1435 General Public (listed) 8am-8pm