

## PREFACE

Communication systems and environmental monitoring and analysis capabilities have improved dramatically over the past decade. These advances provide opportunities for communities who wish to develop or enhance their flood warning programs in order to maximize protection against devastating floods. The National Weather Service (NWS), through its Hydrologic Services Program, contributes to these efforts by cooperating with flood-affected communities that are developing and maintaining Local Flood Warning Systems (LFWS).

This Handbook on Automated Local Flood Warning Systems, Weather Service Hydrology Handbook No. 2 (WSHH#2), is designed to be maintained in a loose-leaf notebook format in order to efficiently incorporate changes. We have attempted to include all relevant topics pertaining to the understanding and implementation of LFWSs. For some users, there may be too much detail; for others, too little. ***We remind readers that WSHH#2 is a technical reference for users and is not intended to be used as a policy instrument.***

All users are encouraged to submit suggestions for improvements in the Handbook and the material presented. Additional information in existing or new topic areas is welcome as well as suggestions that may clarify any point.

Revisions will be issued as needed, but we anticipate that they may occur on an annual basis. Handbook suggestions or questions should be forwarded to the following address:

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