

## Notes from Dec 2024 Integrated Warning Team Workshop

### Links and Resources

- [Integrated Warning Teams](#)  
A collection of recent IWT meeting notes and pictures. Notes and pictures from Rio Grande IWT coming soon!
- Situation Reports  
Sent ahead of and during significant weather events across South-Central Texas to discuss expected impacts, timing, and uncertainty. If you are not on our email distribution list for Situation Reports and would like to be added please email [Paul.Yura@noaa.gov](mailto:Paul.Yura@noaa.gov)  
  
Note: If you registered for the IWT, your email address has been added to the distribution list.
- [iNWS](#)  
Receive customizable text message and e-mail alerts for NWS products that you care about.
- NWSChat  
Not on NWSChat? Please consider signing up and joining the information sharing during weather events. Contact [Paul.Yura@noaa.gov](mailto:Paul.Yura@noaa.gov) for questions about access to NWSChat.
- [South-Central Texas Briefing Dashboard](#)  
This is best viewed on a laptop or desktop. Currently viewing on a mobile device can be cumbersome. If you have any comments on either streamlining or adding additional features and information please send them to [Jason.Runyen@noaa.gov](mailto:Jason.Runyen@noaa.gov)
- [IDSS Forecast Points Page](#)  
Get daily or hourly forecasts out to 7 days to help with your decision making.
- [Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)  
A graphical look at threat risks for various hazards over the next 7 days.
- [SPOT Forecast Page](#)  
Request a tailored forecast to support wildfire, HAZMAT events, and other incidents.
- [Probabilistic Precipitation Portal](#)  
View reasonable upper and lower bounds of liquid and snowfall forecasts as well as exceedance probabilities out to 72 hours.

- [Heat Risk Tool](#)  
An experimental color-numeric-based index that provides a forecast risk of heat-related impacts to occur over a 24-hour period. HeatRisk takes into consideration: How unusual the heat is for the time of the year, the duration of the heat including both daytime and nighttime temperatures, if those temperatures pose an elevated risk of heat-related impacts based on data from the CDC
- [Winter Storm Severity Index](#)  
Graphical depiction of anticipated overall impacts to society due to winter weather.
- [Safety and Preparation](#)  
Links for free seasonal weather safety and hazards materials (social media plans, infographics, etc.)
- [Weather Radio Nation Ambassador](#)  
WRN Ambassadors serve as change agents and leaders in their community. They inspire others to be better informed and prepared, thus helping to minimize, mitigate, or avoid the impacts of natural disasters. Links to great outreach and messaging materials are provided. Great Information for Public Information Officers.
- [SKYWARN and FloodAware](#)  
Local severe weather and flood training programs offered at your location or virtually. Email [Paul.Yura@noaa.gov](mailto:Paul.Yura@noaa.gov) to schedule.
- [National Water Prediction Service](#)  
New dashboard style website for everything river flood related.
- [Flood Inundation Mapping](#)  
Event-driven flood inundation mapping that serves as a high value source of actionable information for emergency and water resource managers to prepare, mitigate, and respond to flood impacts. For more information email [Christopher.Morris@noaa.gov](mailto:Christopher.Morris@noaa.gov)

## Panel Discussion

### Uvalde ISD

- Small community - closures of schools can cascade down and affect other businesses (i.e. weather delay or closure and parent works at hospital and now has to stay home to provide child care). This is considered in the decision making of closures.
- Communication takes place with surrounding school districts on conditions and closures.
- Have some bus routes that go through low water crossings - interested in Flood Inundation Mapping.
- Staff and partners drive routes early in the morning around 5 AM to see road conditions. They generally will continue school based on current conditions, not necessarily forecast.
- They will also take advice from Uvalde OEM (Forrest) - ex flooded roadways just outside city - delay start
- Won't push through if out of bad weather days - safety is most important
- UIL competition - will communicate with athletic director, coaches, band directors and look at weather impacts across other regions of the state

### AEP

- AEP has their own meteorologists
  - Utilize to see what types of materials and resources may be needed to stage
  - Utilize to identify staging areas and hotel rooms
- Utilizing drones to more quickly survey damage
- ERCOT will play a role in AEP decisions - telling AEP to curtail usage or shed load in certain areas
- Works closely with EMC, counties, TDEM
- Focus on reliability
- The biggest issue is tree limbs coming down on lines vs load from wind or ice on lines. Tree trimming is a big push.
- Smart meters help them find out quickly where the outages are.
- Data centers (crypto, AI, etc) can have as much power demand as a small town.
- [AEP Outage Map](#)

### TxDOT

- Questions they need to know to make decisions:
  - When storm will start/end
  - Type of precip
  - Amounts
  - Pavement temps
  - Wind speeds
  - Forecast after the storm

- Pretreat with granular, magnesium chloride, and shad rock - no brine is used in this area
- 2 crews work 12 hour shifts during winter weather driving and treating roads across four different routes
- Highway Condition Reporting System allows the department to collect, process, and disseminate accurate and timely highway condition information for all roads on the state highway system
  - Closures at <https://drivetexas.org/>

## Open IWT Discussion

- Improving communication to Spanish speaking populations
  - [weather.gov/translate](https://weather.gov/translate)
  - Recommendation to send weather messages directly to Spanish speaking radio stations - some along border listen more to those radio stations than are on the internet
  - Recommendation to utilize TxDot signs with Spanish
  - IPAWS was discussed but likely not a way to reach more vulnerable populations
  - WEA - do vulnerable populations have access to this technology?
    - Some state funded projects to get vulnerable populations cell phones, but not smart phones
    - **Do WEA messages work only on smart phones? - Checking into this**
- Improving communication to Senior population
  - STEER program (mainly for evacuations ahead of hurricanes)
  - Meals on Wheels - may have some limited access
    - Have had some success signing people up on STEER through this
- Improving communication to Rural populations
  - Again radio stations was discussed as an option
  - Reach out to the Middle Rio Grande Development Council for ideas?
  - Uvalde newspaper was discussed, but print version is only once a week
  - Partner with organizations that serve underserved and rural populations like Food Bank