

Flood Warning Issues

Golden Age of Forecasting

- We are in a Golden Age of Forecasting
 - Confluence of key advances in planning, technologies and policy
 - Planning & response
 - Preparedness planning
 - Uniform incident command procedures
 - Technologies
 - Weather forecasting, watershed systems modeling, communications
 - Policies
 - Floodplain management
 - Community Rating System

Golden Age of Forecasting

Examples

- Colorado 1976 - 2013
 - Big Thompson Canyon ~ 140 lives lost
 - Sept 2013 ~ <10 lives lost
- Cyclone Phailin - India
 - <100 lives lost
 - last time >10,000 lives lost
 - Cell phones were key
- Super Typhoon Haiyan
 - ~6,000 lives lost
 - >800,000 people evacuated to safe shelter

Flood Warning Systems Work

- Front Range Flood Warning Systems are prime example.
- Many of you in this room contributed to that success. Your work is credited with saving hundreds of lives.
- Yet, there's a lot of work left to do.
- Our objective today is to build on your success.
- We offer a forward looking workshop. It's defined by "what's next?" What's on the horizon that can help you take your FWS to the next level.

What's next?

Today's speakers will cover:

- Weather forecasts
- Flood prediction
- Forecasting floods in movable channels
- Data delivery systems
- Communications
- Putting it all together to make decisions

Challenge to Speakers

- Make it real for the Front Range Communities.
- Why are these advances important to you?
- How can they help your community?

Challenge to you

- During Q&A and Panel Discussion this afternoon
- Ask tough questions.
- Ask why.
- Ask how.

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Conference Team

- Jean Vieux, Conference Chair
- Chris Crompton, NHWC Treasurer
- Devin Post, staff
- Glenn Austin, Conference Coordinator
- OneRain staff

Call to Action

- From my experience: The key to a successful flood warning system - A local advocate with a burning passion to make FWS success.
- Sees the vision that FWSs work. Lives and property can be saved.
- I ask each and everyone one of you to be that person.