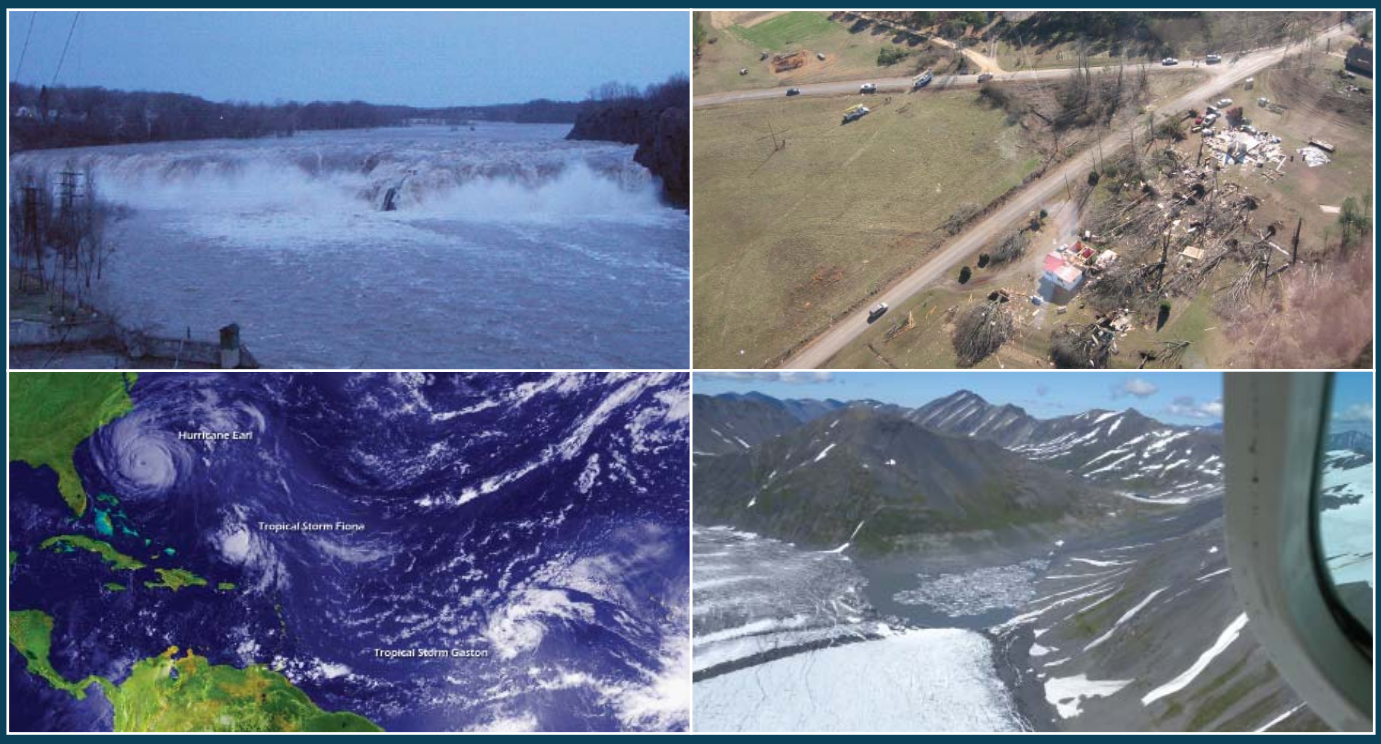
National Plan for Disaster Impact Assessments: Weather and Water Data



Office of the Federal Coordinator for
Meteorological Services and Supporting Research

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Cover Images

Top Left: USGS streamgage (bottom center left) Mohawk River at Cohoes, NY; 800 ft downstream from Cohoes Falls. In this photo, the river is at a gage-height of 17.5 ft.; 1 day after January 20, 1996 peak of 22.68 ft. Courtesy Gerard K. Butch, USGS.

Top Right: Jackson County, Alabama, tornado outbreak, 6 February 2008, EF-4 intensity with estimated peak wind of 180mph. Image courtesy NOAA.

Bottom Left: Three tropical storms in the Atlantic: Hurricane Earl, Tropical Storm Fiona, Tropical Storm Gaston. GOES image, September 2, 2010. Image courtesy NOAA/NESDIS, Environmental Visualization Laboratory.

Bottom Right: Aerial survey photograph of the Skilak Glacier dammed lake, Alaska, August 20, 2010. Courtesy Civil Air Patrol, Seward Squadron, Alaska Wing.

Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services
and Supporting Research (ICMSSR)

Committee for Environmental Services, Operations and Research Needs (CESORN)

Working Group for Disaster Impact Assessments and Plans: Weather and Water Data
(WG/DIAP)

NATIONAL PLAN FOR DISASTER IMPACT ASSESSMENTS: WEATHER AND WATER DATA

Office of the Federal Coordinator for
Meteorological Services and Supporting Research

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FOREWORD

The *National Plan for Disaster Impact Assessments: Weather and Water Data* (NPDIA) describes collaborative mechanisms and procedures for coordinating disaster impact assessment and planning activities for significant storm events among participating Federal agencies and their affiliated partner organizations. This plan supersedes the *National Post-Storm Data Acquisition Plan* (March 2003).

The NPDIA represents the collaborative efforts of members of the Working Group for Disaster Impact Assessments and Plans: Weather and Water Data (WG/DIAP), which was previously named the Working Group for Natural Disaster Reduction and Post-Storm Data Acquisition. The WG/DIAP consists of representatives from applicable Federal agencies and partner organizations on items of mutual interest and concern related to the acquisition, dissemination, preservation, and exchange of perishable environmental data during and following a significant storm, flood, tornado, and/or tsunami event.

The intent of the NPDIA is to describe the types of data required or desired by the participating entities and the means these entities will use to coordinate data acquisition and data management activities. It is not the goal of this plan to prescribe the data acquisition activities of participating agencies, but instead to coordinate those activities already required by existing agency mission directives. The procedures outlined herein will likely be revised and refined as experience is gained from their application.

The effectiveness of this plan begins with the participation and cooperation of the agency representatives assigned as members of the working group, along with the participation of the group's affiliates. I want to personally thank everybody that contributed to the development of the NPDIA (see Appendix L). The results of the disaster impact assessment activities described in the NPDIA will enable better preparations for future disaster events and help mitigate their impacts.

//SIGNED//
Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services
and Supporting Research

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The need for a national plan for disaster impact assessments stems from recognition by several Federal agencies that they were gathering complementary and, in some cases, overlapping and duplicate weather and water data for significant storm events. These agencies desired to improve the efficiency of their individual data collection efforts, leverage the efforts of others, and share these data through an organized, interagency disaster impact assessment process.

A series of informal meetings were held, data acquisition capabilities and requirements of the interested agencies were identified, and a number of recommendations resulted. The *National Plan for Disaster Impact Assessments: Weather and Water Data (NPDIA)* addresses the principal recommendations by documenting the types of data required, the acquisition processes, and the coordinating procedures to be used leading up to, during, and following a significant storm event. This national plan serves as a framework for both coordination of data acquisition activities of the participating agencies during a significant event and the documentation and deposition of data and products following that event. Funding for the activities of the participating agencies is provided primarily by the individual agency's parent organization or through the Department of Homeland Security in support of one or more of the Emergency Support Functions found in the National Response Framework.

The storm events addressed in this plan include land-falling tropical cyclones (hurricanes/typhoons and tropical storms), coastal extra-tropical storms (Nor'easters), severe convective outbreaks (tornadoes and windstorms), riverine and flash flooding, tsunamis, coastal and lake waves, and wind waves. The plan includes data requirements and acquisition capabilities of participating agencies, event response procedures and initiation criteria, coordination procedures, contact information, and data archival procedures. An agency response to a particular event is the responsibility of the individual agency according to its mission requirements, data needs, and available resources.

This plan is a dynamic document that will be reviewed annually. The contributors to its development anticipate and expect that the plan will evolve over time to reflect changes in the missions and resources of the participating agencies, the addition of types of hazards included in the plan, and the incorporation of evolving technologies.

As the body of data acquired and exchanged by the participating agencies grows, preparation of improved event and actuarial statistics becomes feasible. Responsibilities and methodologies for preparation of these statistics could become elements of future versions of this plan. Improved statistics on storm events should prove useful to private sector institutions such as insurance companies, as well as to Federal agencies.