

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

OFCM



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR  
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

# National Winter Storms Operations Plan

FCM-P13-1998



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OPERATIONS PLAN**

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## CHANGE AND REVIEW LOG

Use this page to record changes and notices of reviews.

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Review Date	Comments	Initial

## FOREWORD

This is the 24th edition of the *National Winter Storms Operations Plan*. The purpose of the plan is to coordinate the efforts of the federal meteorological community to provide enhanced weather observations of severe winter storms that impact the coastal regions of the United States. The goal: Improve the accuracy and timeliness of severe winter storm forecast and warning services provided by the Nation's weather service organizations. These forecast and warning responsibilities are shared by the National Weather Service, within the Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the weather services of the United States Air Force and the United States Navy, within the Department of Defense. While the plan documents requirements for surface, upper air, and satellite observations of all types, it focuses on the coordination of requirements for aircraft weather reconnaissance observations provided by the Air Force Reserve Command's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron and NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center.

Within the organizational infrastructure of the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research, the Working Group for Hurricane and Winter Storms Operations and Research (WG/HWSO&R) is responsible for maintaining the plan. All of the chapters in this edition have minor updates or changes. The information on satellite and data buoy observations in Chapter 3 has been extensively updated, and Appendix F contains updated storm tracks for the East and Gulf Coasts.

During January and February of 1998, winter storm missions were flown in the Northeast Pacific Ocean in support of an adaptive observing strategy experiment called NORPEX 98. Similar missions are planned for the 1998-1999 winter storm season. In the coming year, the WG/HWSO&R will be investigating the need to formally document and coordinate winter storm mission requirements for the Northeast Pacific Ocean.

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



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