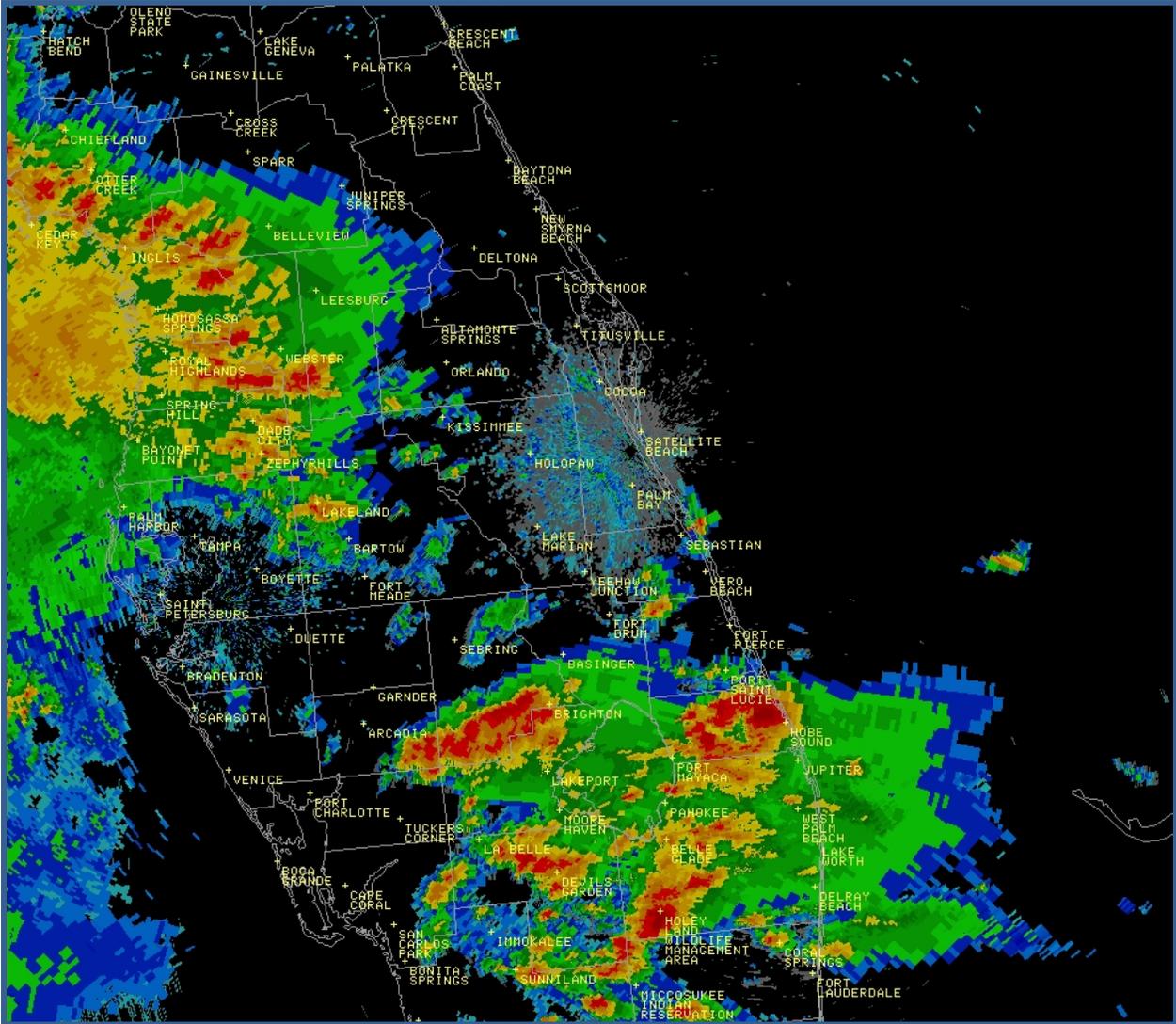


# NATIONAL SEVERE LOCAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

FCM-P11-2010



November 2010

Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services  
and Supporting Research

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### **Front Cover Photo Credit**

A composite reflectivity radar image of a severe thunderstorm in Martin County, FL, 6 March 2008, 20:42 UTC. Radar indicated a severe thunderstorm capable of producing nickel-sized hail and damaging winds. Wind observed at 97 mph. As the storm moved across the Witham Field airport area, the winds damaged several aircraft and hangars. (Courtesy of NOAA)

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**Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services  
and Supporting Research (ICMSSR)**

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

Joint Action Group for Severe Local Storms Operations (JAG/SLSO)

## NATIONAL SEVERE LOCAL STORMS OPERATIONS PLAN

Office of the Federal Coordinator for  
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FCM-P11-2010  
Washington, DC  
November 2010

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## FOREWORD

In 1967, the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research received an interagency request to develop the first *National Severe Local Storms Operations Plan (NSLSOP)*. This plan is the 26<sup>th</sup> version of the NSLSOP and is one of several operations plans produced under the auspices of the Federal Coordinator. This plan supersedes the 2001 version and incorporates significant revisions and changes recommended by the participating agencies through their representatives on the Joint Action Group for Severe Local Storms Operations (JAG/SLSO) of the interagency Committee for Environmental Services, Operations, and Research Needs (C/ESORN).

Because of their intensity, small spatial scale, and tendency for rapid development, severe local storms present a great challenge to both the science of meteorology and to the interagency cooperation required to disseminate warning information rapidly. This plan outlines the responsibilities of the various U.S. Federal agencies that provide meteorological services in observing, forecasting, and warning of severe local storms. It also defines meteorological terms used by the agencies preparing severe local storms forecasts and warnings; identifies operational warning criteria and procedures; and discusses communications, observations, and some public release aspects of warnings for severe local storms.

Additional information describing the warning programs of the participating agencies can be found in the following agencies' documents: Air Force Instruction 15-128, *Aerospace Weather Operations Roles and Responsibilities*; Air Force Manual 15-129, *Aerospace Weather Operations: Processes and Procedures*; Air Force Instruction 10-229, *Responding to Severe Weather Events*; National Weather Service Instruction (NWSI) 10-313, *Special Marine Warnings*; NWSI 10-511, *WFO Severe Weather Products Specification*; NWSI 10-512, *National Severe Weather Products Specification*; NWSI 10-922 *WFO Hydrologic Product Specification*; NWSI 10-801, *Airport Weather Warnings*; NWSI 10-811, *En route Forecasts and Advisories*; Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 3-35.7, *MAGTF (Marine Air-Ground Task Force) Meteorological and Oceanographic Support*; OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3140.24F, *Adverse and Severe Weather Warnings and Conditions of Readiness*; NAVMETOCCOMINST 3140.1L, *United States Navy Meteorological & Oceanographic Support System Manual*; and Department of Homeland Security, *The National Response Plan*.

I am grateful to all the members of the JAG/SLSO (see Appendix F) who dedicated their time, experience, and knowledge to update this plan. The plan is a testimony to the Federal agencies working together to serve and protect the citizens of the United States.

//SIGNED//

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

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