



8th Conference and Exposition of the National Hydrologic Warning Council

Conference Announcement

May 18-21, 2009



Vail Marriott Mountain Resort and Spa
Vail, Colorado



SPONSORED BY:

ALERT Users Group
Southwestern Association of ALERT Systems
United States Geological Survey



National Hydrologic
Warning Council
1750 S. Douglass Road
Anaheim, CA 92806



2009 NHWC Conference Announcement

EXPLORING NEW HYDROLOGIC WARNING FRONTIERS

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The eighth national conference and exposition of the National Hydrologic Warning Council (NHWC) will be held in stunning Vail, Colorado from May 18-21, 2009. The conference is the largest in the United States devoted specifically to real-time hydrologic warning systems, and how this technology assists local officials with storm readiness, drought preparedness, emergency response, and disaster recovery. The theme for this conference is "Exploring New Hydrologic Warning Frontiers"—providing a Western-type setting to focus on the ongoing development of partnerships between real-time hydrologic warning system operators, public and private forecasters, equipment providers, consultants, news media, and emergency management officials. These partnerships are being formed to enhance limited resources for the protection against the growing threat from severe hydrologic events related to population growth and climate change. The conference will also focus on the growing importance of using these real-time hydrologic warning systems for ancillary uses such as environmental management.

Attendees at the conference will be offered:

- ◆ **NEW!!**—take the ASFPM Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam at the conference (separate fee for the exam);
- ◆ **NEW!!**—existing ASFPM members can earn 12 continuing education credits by attending (a whole year's worth);
- ◆ A wide range of technical sessions, workshops, and field visits to assist communities just getting started or those with advanced needs;
- ◆ Information on the support provided by federal and state agencies and research institutions for local hydrologic warning programs;
- ◆ An opportunity to see the latest hydrologic warning equipment, products, and services offered by trained sales and engineering staff who can answer technical and purchasing questions;
- ◆ A forum for networking with professional colleagues from across the country and around the world to share experiences and knowledge;
- ◆ Fun social events, such as a golf tournament (extra charge), the now-famous Tuesday night social, the Wednesday night vendor reception, and Thursday awards banquet;
- ◆ A unique opportunity to experience the western charm of the Rocky Mountains and Vail Village.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

The conference format will feature a plenary session, in-depth workshops, field site visits, and multi-track concurrent sessions over a three day period. Four main tracks of presentations are being planned for this conference featuring 30 minute presentations:

Track 1 - Exploring New Partnerships This track will explore partnerships in assessing, funding, and implementing real-time hydrologic warning systems for floods, droughts, landslides, and coastal surge in the United States and around the world.

Track 2 - Navigating the Technology Frontiers This track will focus on the lessons learned, logistics and requirements for proper operation of warning systems for improved preparedness, and the use of current tools and new innovations for more accurate predictions of hydrologic disasters. This track will also explore data uses for environmental management.

Track 3 - Braving the Communications Wilderness This track will investigate the need for and implementation of proper communication of hydrologic information between emergency management officials, partner agencies, the media, and the general public through the use of automated notification processes, webpages, advanced visual products, and infrastructure improvements, such as warning lights and signs.

Track 4 - New Hydrologic Warning Horizons This track will look into the future to study where the hydrologic warning community is heading, including issues related to global warming and climate change, water availability, changing socio-economic issues related to population migration and growth, terrorist threats to water supplies, and the political trade winds that drive our work.

Hands-On Workshops

There will also be a number of conference workshops that will delve into the specifics of hydrologic warning system instrumentation maintenance, the proper collection of field data, drought monitoring, severe weather forecasts and warnings, and other technical matters involved with the operation and maintenance of a real-time hydrologic warning network. A field trip to various monitoring stations and historical flood sites is also planned for an additional nominal fee to cover transportation and food costs.

In addition, the National Environmental Satellite Data Information Services (NESDIS) Technical Working Group (TWG) will again be hosting an all day meeting at the conference. The TWG is a meeting of all interested GOES Data Collection System (DCS) users with the GOES DCS management and technical staff, for the purpose of sharing information and solving common problems. NESDIS initiated the technical forum in 1972 and it has been very successful in identifying technical problems, exchanging information, and formulating solutions and improving working procedures.

Call for Abstracts

A Call for Abstracts will be issued in mid-2008 for those wishing to make a presentation or provide a workshop at the conference.

Exposition

The conference exposition will take place May 20-21 and will feature a wide range of products and services that are part of a flood warning program, including:

- ◆ Meteorological/hydrological sensors and gauges
- ◆ Meteorological/hydrological consultants and service providers
- ◆ Satellite and radio data communication technologies
- ◆ ALERT and IFLOWS systems hardware and software
- ◆ Data management, display, GIS and archiving technologies
- ◆ Community warning and response products and services
- ◆ Maintenance, program evaluation and training support

Exhibitor registration will start in mid-2009. For more information about how to be an exhibitor, contact John Joiner at exhibits@hydrologicwarning.org (770) 903-9182.

Sponsorships

Put your company's name in front of hundreds of attendees by becoming a sponsor of the NHWC conference. Sponsorship levels for the 2009 Vail conference will be released in mid-2008. If you are interested in more information, please email us at sponsorships@hydrologicwarning.org.

FURTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION

For the latest information on registering for the conference go to www.hydrologicwarning.org or contact Chad Kudym at ckudym@udfcd.org (303) 455-6277 or Brian McCallum at bemccall@usgs.gov (770) 903-9127.

Special room rates (\$129 single/double) have been reserved at the Vail Marriott for all attendees of the conference. This is well below the GSA-approved room rates for Federal employees. Reservations will be available after May 18, 2008 via a link from www.hydrologicwarning.org and can also be made by calling Marriott reservations at (800) 648-0720 and requesting the group "National Hydrologic Warning Council".