Title: Current business model of the NWS AFWS program.

Topic: Storm Forecasting Tools - Flood and flash flood forecasting.

Abstract: To increase the efficiency and extensibility of the National Weather Service (NWS) Automated Flood Warning Systems (AFWS) and enable better integration of ALERT data into the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) web portal, in 2013 the NWS established new methods to collect AFWS information for 12 states in the Northeast U.S. The previous business model of the AFWS in this region was the NWS would collect at a central point all the raw ALERT messages from the participating data partners. The NWS would quality control, quality assure the data and then convert the validated messages into Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange Format (SHEF)-encoded products. These products were then distributed to NWS field offices, Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) and River Forecast Centers (RFCs) to support hydrologic forecast and warning operations. SHEF products were also available to other parties using the standard NWS dissemination system.

The current business model requires participating data partners to quality control, quality assure the raw ALERT messages, encode these messages into SHEF and then transmit via ftp protocol the SHEF messages to a NWS managed central location within the Office of Hydrologic Development (OHD). The ALERT messages are then encoded within OHD's Hydrometeorological Automated Data System and disseminated over the Satellite Broadcast Network to assure the continued availability and use by the NWS field offices in the watch, warning, and advisory mission.

One objective for this transition is to continue the display of point precipitation values on a public facing NWS web page, while ensuring that the data is available to use within the NWS flood forecasting and warning services. As a result of this transition, the point precipitation values can now be found integrated into the NWS AHPS web-portal. In addition to the display of the point precipitation values, the values are compared against Flash Flood Guidance (FFG) values and color-coded accordingly.

This paper will provide a high level overview of the new process to explain the practices and policies currently used in the acquisition and display of the point precipitation values.

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