



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

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Weather • Climate • Water
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Our ref.: WDS/PWS/WMO-No. 1150

GENEVA, 12 June 2015

Subject: *WMO Guidelines on Multi-hazard Impact-based Forecast and Warning Services*
(WMO-No. 1150)

Action required: To circulate this information to relevant staff members and inform them of the Website where the publication is located

Dear Sir/Madam,

Each year the impacts of severe hydrometeorological events around the Earth give rise to multiple casualties and significant damage to property and infrastructure, with adverse economic consequences for communities that can persist for many years. All this happens in spite of the fact that many of these severe events have been well forecast, with accurate warning information disseminated in a timely fashion by the responsible National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS).

The reasons for this apparent disconnect lie in the gap between forecasts and warnings of hydrometeorological events and an understanding of their potential impacts, both by the authorities responsible for civil protection/emergency management and by the population at large.

If this gap is to be closed, then an all-encompassing approach to observing, modelling and predicting severe hydrometeorological events, and the consequent cascade of hazards through to impacts, needs to be developed. Tackling this problem will require a multidisciplinary and highly integrated and focused endeavour. This is essential to ensure access to the best possible science, and the optimum services, to manage multi-hazard events today, and to provide the best possible evidence base on which to make the costly decisions on infrastructure needed to protect the population in the future as climate changes.

Improving the understanding of the potential impacts of severe hydrometeorological events poses a challenge to NMHSs and their partner agencies, particularly disaster reduction and civil protection agencies (DRCPAs). In order to address this issue, the Commission for Basic Systems Open Programme on Public Weather Services (CBS OPAG/PWS) and the PWS Programme prepared a set of guidelines to assist Members on how to move from producing weather forecasts and warnings to providing multi-hazard impact-based forecast and warning services.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6852)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

I am very pleased to inform you that the publication entitled, *WMO Guidelines on Multi-hazard Impact-based Forecast and Warning Services* (WMO-No. 1150), was approved by the extraordinary session of CBS (CBS-Ext.(2014), Asunción, Paraguay, 2014) is now available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. A CD of this publication will be sent to your Service by post in due course. The above mentioned versions of this publication can also be accessed electronically at the WMO Library website at:

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Should you or your Service wish to receive additional CDs of this publication, you are kindly requested to contact Ms Haleh Kootval, Chief of the Public Weather Services Programme at WMO, via e-mail at: HKootval@wmo.int.

Yours faithfully,



(J. Lengoasa)
for the Secretary-General