

EF-Scale Open Feedback Forum



Monday, February 3rd, 2014
Omni Hotel at CNN Center
International Ballroom A

Welcome

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Director

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Headquarters

Silver Spring, Maryland



Meeting Purpose

This discussion will serve to outline the strengths and deficiencies with the current EF-scale rating guidance, and solicit feedback and ideas from the weather community on how the rating process might be improved.

Agenda

- o 1:10 - 1:20: EF-Scale policy and Steering Committee overview by Jim LaDue (Meteorologist, *WDTB*)
- o 1:20 - 2:30: Panel 1 - Discussion on the EF-Scale in its current form. Moderator: Russ Schneider (*Director, Storm Prediction Center*) Panelists:
 - o Government - Rick Smith, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Norman, OK
 - o Private Industry - Tim Marshall, Meteorologist and Principal Engineer, Haag Engineering
 - o Academia - Chris Petersen, Professor, Plant Sciences Department, University of Georgia
- o 2:30 - 2:45: Break

Agenda

- o 2:45 - 3:45: Panel 2 – Discussion on proposals to help improve EF-scale. Moderator: Keith Stellman (*Meteorologist-in-Charge, Peachtree City, GA*). Panelists:
 - o Government - Don Burgess, Senior Research Scientist
Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies / NOAA
 - o Private Industry - Tanya Brown, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety
 - o Academia - Chris Karstens, Research Scientist,
NOAA/National Severe Storms Laboratory

- o 3:45 - 4:00: Summary and Meeting Wrap-up – Jim LaDue

Ground Rules

- o **Keep the discussion focused:** This is about improving the EF-scale rating guidance, not your personal opinions on the rating of previous tornadoes.
- o **Be a good listener:** Please refrain from side conversations and using mobile devices.
- o **Respect others:** Feel free to share your opinion on the topics being discussed, however refrain from personal attacks.

Forum Will Be Recorded

- o This meeting is being broadcast via GoToWebinar and recorded to share with those who are unable to attend in person.
- o Recording will be made publically available on the EF-Scale Open Feedback Forum webpage
 - o <http://apps.weather.gov/efscale/index.php>
- o If you wish to contribute to the conversation, please speak clearly into one of the microphones.

Things to Think About

- Should evolving sensing technologies, which may not measure tornado wind speeds at the surface be used in post storm surveys?
- How can the NWS ensure the tornado rating process is consistent throughout the nation?
- Should a standard be developed to strengthen the tornado rating process?

Things to Think About

- o Is there a need to maintain calibration or other metadata information on research sensing systems that may supplement future post storm assessments?
- o How should tornadoes, which do not produce quantifiable damage to structures, be included?
- o Can supplemental observation information be included in the present day Storm Data construct? If so, what is an effective format to include this information?