



WINTER OPERATIONS COALITION

I-80 Coalition Weather Training





How to Interact With Your Meteorologists

PURPOSE:

To help management better understand the complexities of what the TMC operations personnel need to know during periods of inclement weather





You Need to Know What You Need to Know

- Construction
 - Concrete Pours
 - Road Work
 - Crane Work
 - Painting
 - Bridge movement
 - Drainage
- Winter Maintenance
 - Road Rehab projects
 - Snow and Ice Mitigation
 - Vegetation Control
 - Debris Flows
- Traffic Ops
 - Congestion
 - Accidents
 - Incident Management
 - Signal coordination
 - Wx Related Detection Issues
 - Inclement weather affects on ITS devices





TMC

- Temporal Aspect
 - Pre-storm
 - During storm
 - Post Storm
- Methodologies
- Questions to Ask
 - Meteorologist
 - In-house





PRE-STORM EVENT

Questions to ask the Meteorologist:

- When will the event occur; how long will it last?
- How will the roads react at the onset of the storm? During the storm, and after the storm?
- How will traffic and infrastructure be affected? Pre, during and Post?
- What is the overall character of the storm? i.e., comes in warm leaves cold? Or vice-versa...
- What is the spatial extent of the storm, i.e., what routes will be affected?
- Will the neighboring stations, districts, regions, states be affected by the storm?



PRE-STORM EVENT

Questions to discuss inside the DOT:

- What types of messages need to be put out to the public? When do they need to go out?
- What is the overall game plan for this storm?
- Are all the key RWIS-ESS systems working properly?
- Are all the key ITS devices working properly? E.g., HAR, 511, Webpages, CCTVs, alerting software, DMS/VMS, VSL, TMS etc...
- Will maintenance efforts be able to keep up with the storm?
- Should we consider alternate routes? If so which ones?
- Have we included the PIO in our briefings?
- What resources will we need to handle the event?



DURING STORM EVENT

Questions for the Meteorologist:

- How long will the current impacts to the road/traffic last?
- How will the impacts change during the storm?
- Are the impacts trending up or are they trending down?
- When will the storm end? What lingering impacts should we anticipate for post event? How long will they last?



DURING STORM EVENT

Questions to discuss inside the DOT:

- Are the forecasts/impacts verifying?
- Are we keeping up with storm? What are the current impacts? What is the anticipated trend?
- Are the key ITS/RWIS-ESS systems still functioning properly?
- Are we updating traveler information?
- Are we monitoring NWS Chat?
- Are the maintenance personnel getting what they want/need from the TMC?
- Are there any current Watches, Warnings or Advisories posted by the NWS? Are we addressing these statements properly? E.g., have we consulted with our Meteorologist and Wx Ops Manager?
- What is the media saying? Does it jive with what the DOT PIO is saying?



POST STORM EVENT

Questions for the Meteorologist:

- What are the lingering impacts? Where are they?
How long will they continue?
- Once the timeline of the post event impacts is determined, how long until the next concern? e.g., hours? Days, a week? etc...



POST STORM EVENT

Questions to discuss inside the DOT:

- What activities are still being addressed by the maintenance personnel?
- Given the current post storm impact forecast, is the TMC properly staffed? Are we updating TI?
- What information regarding the storm needs to be archived? When is the debrief scheduled?

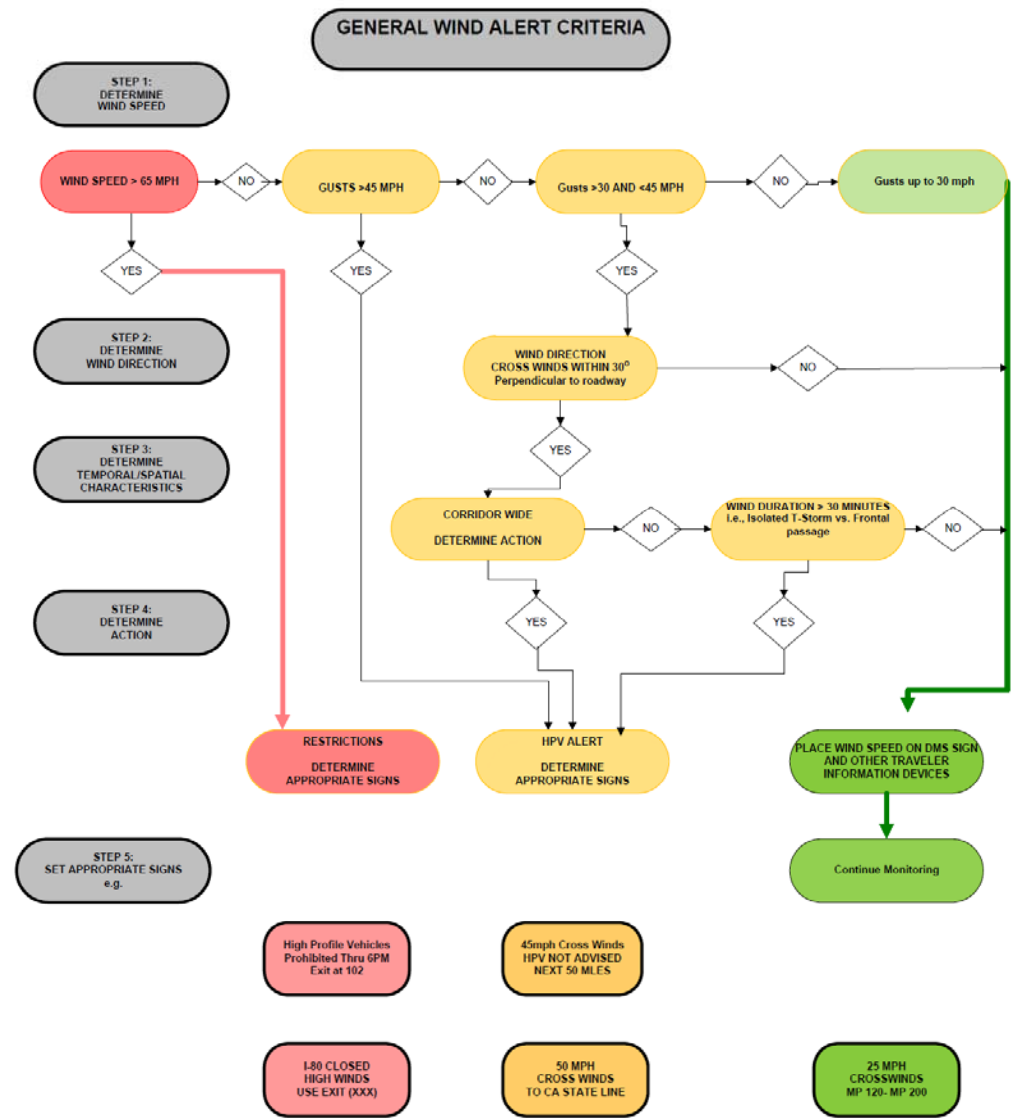


WINTER OPERATIONS COALITION

Decision Support

- Multiple Dimensions

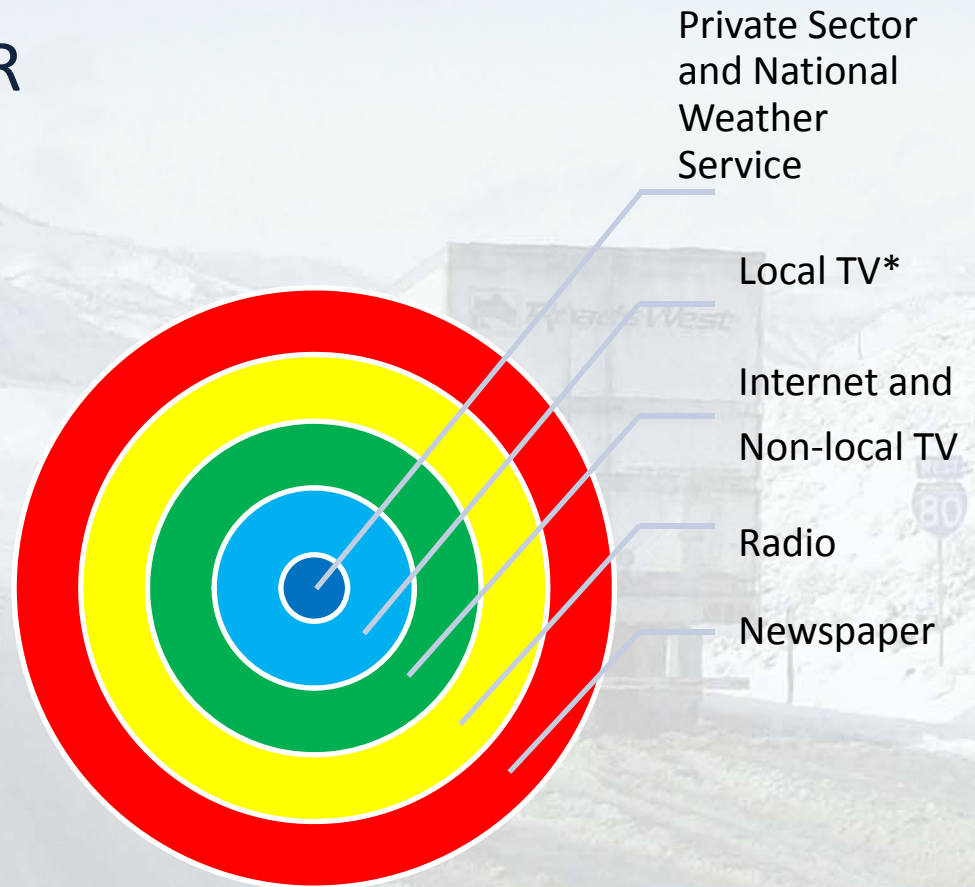
- Speed
- Direction
- Duration
- Location





WEATHER INFORMATION HIERARCHY

- NWS –PRIVATE SECTOR
- Local TV*
- INTERNET
- RADIO
- NEWSPAPER



* If good communication with the NWS and DOT takes place