

National Weather Service

Product Description Document (PDD)

Experimental Product

April, 2013

NWS Emergency Response Tool - ERTTool

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Service Description:

The ERTTool is a website designed for mobile devices that serves as a one-stop collection of the most popular NWS web pages.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

A frequent complaint from our partners is that the current NWS website is hard to navigate using a mobile device. In addition, finding weather data can be a cumbersome process, especially during high stress situations. This webpage will provide users the necessary weather information in no more than three clicks.

The ERTTool addresses Recommendation #56 from the NOAA/NWS Hurricane Irene Service Assessment: “NWS needs to improve information services and product delivery to convey relevant impacts, risks, and the urgency of required actions associated with landfalling tropical cyclones for use by decision makers without meteorological expertise. This includes the creation of a more user-driven information platform in which users can create customized services primarily through digital media and on mobile devices.”

The ERTTool allows the NWS to take full advantage of the increasing sophistication and use of smart phone and tablet technologies by ensuring its web pages are easily accessible by those platforms via a mobile-friendly web index that allows for effective display of text and graphical information.

3. Audience:

This page is designed for emergency managers and first responders.

4. Presentation Format:

The ERTool web page is designed for mobile devices, although it can also work with regular desktops. Content is centered on using large buttons, making it easier for users to navigate the site from their mobile devices. See image below.

The buttons and associated bookmarks may change fluidly during the course of the test/demonstration as feedback from the target audience is gathered and analyzed. This is consistent with the proposed concept of operations - that the NWS manages the bookmarking system to its dynamic web services for its critical emergency response partners.

5. Feedback Method:

Web-based feedback from the broader community will be sought via an NWS customer survey link on the ERTool web site beginning on May 23, 2013 and ending on January 30, 2014, at which time a decision to proceed with testing, revise the test, or to continue on the path to operational production and expansion to other offices will be made.

Questions, comments, or suggestions about ERTool may also be directed to:

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National Weather Service
62300 Airport Rd.
Slidell, LA 70460
phone: (985) 649-0357
email: angel.montanez@noaa.gov

Survey link:

Part 2 – Technical

1. Format and Science Basis:

The page was designed using standard html and javascript. The entire ERTool web page is less than 2MB, yielding negligible performance requirements for any web server.

2. Availability:

The ERTool will be made available on the NWS webfarm for easy access. Dev link is:

<http://wwwdev.srh.noaa.gov/~angel.montanez/ertool/>



Emergency Response Tool:

First Responders

EMA

Weather

Marine

Radars

National Weather Service - New Orleans/Baton Rouge

www.srh.noaa.gov/lix

