

National Weather Service (NWS) Warnings Using Geographic Information Systems

Product Description Document (PDD)

October 20, 2008

Part 1 – Mission Connection

- a. Product Description – NWS-issued short-fused warnings are added to a real-time database and Geographic Information System (GIS) shapefiles are generated from this database. In addition, an updated graphic is displayed that displays the current status of warnings.
- b. Purpose – Disseminate one of the NWS’ product suites in GIS-compatible formats for use by the Emergency Management community. This directly supports the NWS’ Strategic Plan 2005-2010 which states:

“Improved Services Focused on Customer Needs. As we focus on improving our services and expanding their scope, we will consult effectively with all who are affected by our services and be guided by our customer’s needs. We will work with the weather, water, and climate enterprise to investigate, develop, and expand the use of new technologies in data management and information systems, such as new internet-based standards and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)”

- c. Audience – Emergency managers who employ GIS to protect lives and property for their constituency. These managers can quickly access the shapefiles via the Internet and add them to their existing GIS fields.
- d. Presentation Format – Shapefile format (documented by ESRI) which is widely accepted as the standard format for GIS professionals.
- e. Feedback Method – Comments about the NWS GIS warning shapefiles may be sent to:
http://weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=wwa_shape_files

Technical comments for the NWS Warnings Using GIS may be addressed to:

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Or e-mail comments to: ken.waters@noaa.gov

Part II – Technical Description

Refer to: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/regsci/gis/shapefiles/>