

NOAA Weather Radio

Through NOAA Weather Radio, the Norman Forecast Office broadcasts routine weather information 24 hours-a-day and county-specific special alerts for watches and warnings. These VHF broadcasts are transmitted from 11 locations throughout central, western and southern Oklahoma and western north Texas: Altus, Ardmore, Atoka, Clinton, Enid, Lawton, Oklahoma City, Ponca City, Stillwater and Woodward, Okla., and Wichita Falls, Texas.

StormReady

The Norman WFO works with emergency managers in all the communities in their service area. A total of 15 communities they serve have earned the StormReady designation. The StormReady program is voluntary, and provides communities with clear-cut advice on how to prepare for weather disasters from a partnership with the local NWS office, state and local emergency managers, and the media.

Research Collaboration

Because of its location near meteorologists at the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) and the University of Oklahoma, the Norman WFO has unique opportunities to collaborate on cutting-edge research. From 1976 to 1979, the office participated in an operational evaluation of Doppler radar called the Joint Doppler Operational Project. Their focus was on tornadic storms. Ten years later, the WFO participated in the operational evaluation of the prototype NEXRAD. In the early 1990s, Norman was one of two NWS offices that tested early prototypes of AWIPS. Many of the warning forecast protocols, staffing patterns and technologies in common use throughout the NWS were developed or tested in Norman. Recently, the office served as the initial beta site for the Open Radar Product Generator, an improvement to the NEXRAD system.

Forecasters in the Norman office take advantage of opportunities to participate in forecast experiments. These have included several experiments in the late 1980s to early 1990s, as well as MAPS, COPS, QED and StormFest. Several WFO forecasters have worked with researchers from NSSL and Storm Prediction Center forecasters during annual spring experiments in 2001, 2002 and 2003. Current research at the WFO is focused on warning decision making, convective forecasting and severe storm detection.

For more information about the NWS Norman Forecast Office, contact 405.360.5928

or

visit www.srh.noaa.gov/oun