

NATIONAL SEVERE STORMS LABORATORY

Field Programs

Scientists from NSSL recently completed several field experiments to study severe and hazardous weather. IPEX, the Intermountain Precipitation Experiment, was designed to improve forecasts of winter weather, especially in the high population growth areas of the western United States. STEPS, the Severe Thunderstorm Electrification and Precipitation Study, focused a number of data gathering tools on thunderstorms in the high plains to better understand how rain and lightning are formed. In 2002, NSSL hosted the International H2O Project or IHOP, one of the largest weather-related studies ever conducted in the U.S. Scientists searched for swaths of water vapor and wind convergence bands that can fuel heavy rain across the southern Great Plains. The knowledge gained through these field programs will lead to better forecasts of deadly weather phenomena including tornadoes, lightning, hail, flash floods, heavy snow, ice and freezing rain.

Budget and Partnerships

NSSL is a \$16 million laboratory (\$6.2 million in NOAA base) that supports approximately 50 federal employees and 85 university employees. NSSL has a research partnership with the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies (CIMMS), a cooperative institute between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of Oklahoma. Additionally, NSSL conducts collaborative research with the U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army, Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Texas A&M, Texas Tech University and several large and small corporations.



For more information about NSSL, contact 405.360-3620 or visit www.nssl.noaa.gov