

## **Remote Mesoanalyst Support - A Mutual Aid and Crowdsourcing Success Story**

Randall Graham (NOAA/NWSCR/CRH/SSD, Kansas City, MO)

Mesoanalysis has long been an important component of severe weather operations at National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs). In recent years there has been increased emphasis on mesoanalysis as a way to not only better anticipate storm morphology and event evolution, but also with respect to providing improved information to the public and Decision Support Services to partners.

In 2021, the NWS Central Region launched a program to provide WFOs with Remote MesoAnalyst (RMA) support in the interest of mutual aid and also to provide a learning platform for forecasters across the region. Subject matter experts facilitate a mesoanalysis discussion in Google Chat, that all Central Region forecasters have access to, and share pertinent information with impacted offices on environmental changes and expected event evolution. Over the course of two convective seasons the concept has proven to be extremely effective as a situational awareness tool for offices experiencing severe weather and as a learning opportunity where forecasters can sharpen their mesoanalysis skills and participate in peer-to-peer learning. Leveraging displaced expertise, such as this, is a model that may be leveraged in other service areas, such as flash flooding, fire weather, or winter weather.

Over thirty-one instances of mutual aid, exceeding 325 hours of support, will be summarized and the utility of the effort will be discussed in light of forecaster feedback. Lessons learned and best practices such as asking guiding questions, providing appropriate context when sharing mesoanalysis information, and the effectiveness of graphical content will be addressed. Finally, the growth of the initiative to include expertise in the chat from outside of Central Region, such as the Warn on Forecast System (WoFS) group and SPC forecasters will be discussed.