Cone of Uncertainty Social and Behavioral Research

Jennifer Sprague (NOAA/NWS/OPPSD, Silver Spring, MD)

This research project is assessing the interpretation and use of the National Hurricane Center's Track Forecast Cone (often called the Cone of Uncertainty). Building off a comprehensive literature review, the research involves a survey that will be distributed to National Weather Service (NWS) stakeholders in the transportation, utilities/energy, marine, and tourism sectors as well as in-depth interviews with international meteorologists that use NWS data and products. Specifically, the research is looking at: How is the Cone is used and interpreted? How embedded it is in decision-making? What decisions are based on the Cone—and what are the implications of these decisions?