Weather & Decision Making Table Notes
NROW 2024

Representatives At Table Included But Not Limited To:

- NYS Homeland Security and Emergency Services
- National Grid
- NWS
- Private Sector Weather Companies
- Academia

-At the beginning of each discussion, people introduced themselves and gave their names/affiliations.

-Discussion mainly focused on the following questions:

1) **During Ken Harding's Key Note Address, he zeroed in on the "why" of the weather over the "what" of being the most important thing we can communicate as we move forward with probabilistic forecasting. How do you view this?"**
    a) **NYS**: This is a good move, as the demands of emergency managers (EMs) are constantly evolving. Honestly, we are also being asked more questions that we used to be from our stakeholders. So for us it is good to know more of the "why" certain things will happen vs the "what".
        i) Eg. Knowing how much snow will fall for an event is good, but what about the snowfall rate, snow ratio/character, what times will it be heaviest, etc.?
        ii) Sometimes when preparing, we as EMs could be on the hook for things we didn't have answers for, so it's good to have the extra info
    b) **National Grid**: I also appreciate the "why", as I can sometimes be in charge of shifting around a vast amount of resources in the case of extreme weather
        i) If there's a 10% chance of any kind of precipitation in my service area, I have to have and know what resources are available to be used, and then potentially move things around if need be. This is where the probabilities greatly help me.
        ii) I have to account for travel, setting up & planning and then potentially relocating resources if the forecast changes at the last minute. Could cost us more $$ in the end, but we'd rather be cautious.

2) **“Would you rather be underprepared or overprepared in the face of an event if it came down to cost?”**
    a) **NYS & National Grid**: It’s situation dependent, with the majority of the factors revolving around image and cost
        i) It actually costs us less to be overprepared in an event, as we’d have to quickly allocate resources last minute which could cost more in the end
        ii) There is also a trust issue. If something doesn’t pan out, or if the response isn’t adequate enough, you could quickly lose trust in your line of work
3) **“What weather phenomena do you key into more than others?”**
    a) **NYS and National Grid**: Any variable can cause a shift because each one produces a specific hazard
        i) If we had to pick, our most concerning hazards are heat, ice and flooding
        ii) If any of these hazards are in the forecast, we’d always appreciate a forecast of the best vs. worst case scenarios so we can get an idea of what to potentially plan for (in the NWS, this is the thinking around the 10% and 90% graphics)
4) **“What are some ways we can better collaborate and get an idea of your thresholds?”**
    a) NYS and National Grid:
        i) We love tabletop exercises. It gives us an opportunity to test our skills, capabilities our organization has and or our partners to get an idea of what we have to work with in different hazards
            (1) Tabletops are also great for relationship building. If I’m talking with you on the phone or through text I like to be able to put a face to the words
        ii) Don’t be afraid to ask ahead of time, that way when the time comes for the briefing you’re not scrambling at the last minute
5) Question from National Grid to Operational Forecasters: **“How much are you able to tailor a weather forecast to a client's specific needs? Do you focus more on the impacts or the science?”**
    a) **NWS:** We can tailor things to a certain degree, but sometimes there could be too much information to tackle especially when it comes to mixed precipitation
        i) We also have to be careful in staying in our lane with public vs. private enterprises
    b) W.R.T to the second part of the question, the challenge for us is not fully knowing the full scale of impacts in a situation

i) EM and National Grid Response: Even if you don't know the full scale of impacts, we always do appreciate potential impacts based on what you're seeing. It also helps diffuse any potential additional questions we may get during briefings (they only have 10 minutes or less sometimes to prepare, and any additional questions will add more time)