

The National Weather Service (NWS) will be conducting a number of online surveys regarding the NWS Watch, Warning and Advisory (WWA) system in the coming months, some of which will be of particular interest to members of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials. The surveys are coming out of the NWS Hazards Simplification ("HazSimp") Project, which was established to analyze the use and effectiveness of the WWA system and evaluate possible changes. Below are explanations of the three surveys that are immediately relevant to the water community. Your feedback will play an important role in any decisions on how to improve NWS hazard messaging.

Survey #1: WWA "Institutionalization" Survey

Purpose: To assess the extent to which decision-making entities (at all levels and in various sectors) have formally incorporated (aka "institutionalized") the WWA products into their written decision-making processes via policies, protocols, laws, etc. For instance, are there water managers out there with a written policy that says if a Flood Watch were issued, then XYZ needs to happen? The answer to this question will help NWS understand the potential policy impact on various key partners if NWS were to make changes to the WWA system, such as changing the name, nature or scope of a particular WWA product.

Time of release: Late Summer/Early Fall 2016

Duration: 4 weeks

Survey #2: Flood Advisory/Watch & Winter Weather Advisory Consolidation Survey

Purpose: To collect feedback on 2 possible near-term changes to the WWA system: 1) to consolidate certain flood-related advisory and watch products into a single product and improve message formatting; and 2) to consolidate certain winter-related advisory-level products into a single Winter Weather Advisory and improve message formatting.

Time of release: Fall 2016

Duration: 4 weeks

Survey #3: Prototype Demonstration -- Flooding Episode Survey

Purpose: To collect feedback on how well each of 3 prototype hazard messaging systems (representing a range of alternatives to the current WWA system) perform in a flooding scenario.

Time of release: Winter 2016/2017

Duration: will remain open until all of the Prototype Demonstrations episodes are done

Note: *the release of this specific survey will depend on available time and resources.*

Feel free to reach out to Mike Bilder at NWS (301-427-9059 or michael.bilder@noaa.gov) if you have any questions.