



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
OFFICE OF ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH  
National Severe Storms Laboratory

March 4, 2020

Hello Broadcast Meteorologists!

We are seeking broadcast meteorologists to provide input for the development of a new hazardous weather warning paradigm. If you are interested, please consider applying to participate in the 2020 Probabilistic Hazard Information (PHI) Prototype Project in NOAA's Hazardous Weather Testbed (HWT). The HWT is a joint project of the NOAA National Weather Service and the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory to help foster collaboration between research and operations to test and evaluate emerging technologies and science. This year we are funded to test a new warning paradigm, known as PHI (similar to that shown in the animation of FACET #4 <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/projects/facets/>). A summary of our project is on the second page of this letter.

Our project will take place during the weeks of June 15-19, June 22-26, and July 6-10 in Norman, Oklahoma. We will be selecting two participants per week (6 total). Travel expenses are paid or reimbursed to the extent possible per State of Oklahoma travel rules. As a condition of receiving the travel stipend, those who are selected to participate in the HWT in 2020 will be asked to agree to allow the researchers to use data collected in the experiment for research and development purposes. More details about the research participation will be provided to those who are selected.

If you'd like to apply, please fill out our online form:

<https://forms.gle/TsZZvkgghjMt56ua6>

You will need to include a one-page resume as part of the application form.

Please complete the application by April 10, as candidates will be selected shortly thereafter so that we can begin travel arrangements. We are seeking enthusiastic people willing to work through simulated severe weather cases in a mock television studio environment. If selected, you will also contribute in discussions/surveys concerning how you would use this experimental information to do your job. Broadcast meteorologists play a critical role in the warning process, and your input is valuable.

Sincerely,

Kodi L. Berry, Ph.D,  
FACETs Program Lead, NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory

Holly B. Obermeier  
Associate Scientist, University of Colorado-Boulder



## **Probabilistic Hazard Information (PHI) Project in NOAA's Hazardous Weather Testbed**

Who - Broadcast meteorologists serve a critical and complex role in the communication of weather warnings. We are looking for a diverse set of broadcast meteorologists (6 in total). We hope that everyone who feels interested will apply.

When – June 15-19, June 22-26, and July 6-10  
Travel periods: Sunday, Friday afternoon

What - The main objective of this HWT PHI project is to learn how the continuous flow of probabilistic information may impact broadcast meteorologists and their decision making. Broadcast participants will perform typical job functions under a simulated television studio environment as they receive probabilistic forecasts for severe and convective hazards (severe wind/hail, tornado, lightning) during archived events. Researchers will study how the broadcast meteorologists interpret, use, and communicate the probabilistic information. We are interested in coverage decisions, including when to run crawls, post to social media, interrupt commercials, and interrupt programming. This HWT project will help us as researchers learn participants' needs during the warning process under this potential new paradigm.

Why - The introduction of probabilistic warnings introduces a number of complex issues for broadcast meteorologists. The project investigators hope to gain insights into the following:

- Update frequency of warnings
- Probabilistic thresholds for coverage decisions
- Interpretation and communication of warnings
- Technological challenges

For more information, see our recent conference presentations:

[AMS 47th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology](#)

*This study satisfies requirements of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for research with human subjects:*

*University of Oklahoma IRB Record Number 5395*

*University of Colorado-Boulder IRB Record Number 18-0577*