

NOAA All-Hands Message in Response to Dorian

Today I addressed the National Weather Association in Huntsville Alabama to discuss the achievements of the NWS and American numerical weather prediction. This success would not be possible without hardworking forecasters around the country, who are tasked with the challenge of communicating risk to emergency managers and the general public. This is precisely what was done in a recent tweet by the Birmingham WFO. The intent of the WFO was clear, which was to calm the nerves of the general public in support of public safety.

The statement NOAA released on Friday addressed the technical facts about the potential impacts of Dorian, but it should have also emphasized that I understand and fully support the good intent of the Birmingham WFO. At no point was the statement intended to call into question the expertise, character, or integrity of our colleagues in Birmingham. I stand with you in supporting our mission of providing accurate and timely weather forecasts to protect lives and property.

I came to NOAA with a lifelong passion for weather prediction and the belief that together we can make great strides in our weather prediction mission. We have seen our hard work paying off, most recently with our expert forecasts for Hurricane Dorian. It was a long lasting, challenging, and historic storm, and I am proud of the tireless effort and countless hours spent providing the public with expert guidance. Our work saves lives.

During my tenure at NOAA, I have been proud of the professional commitment, intellectual expertise and personal devotion that our NOAA employees display on a daily basis and none more than those in our Weather Forecast Offices. I am committed to displaying the same commitment to scientific integrity and public service that makes NOAA such a uniquely wonderful and impactful place to work.

Sincerely,

Neil Jacobs