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## Remote Automated Weather Stations = More Accurate Fire Monitoring Data

**Close coordination and information sharing between stakeholders is critical to all aspects of emergency planning and response.** New Hampshire is expanding access to data and strengthening partnerships through its placement of a new **Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS)**, which is a self-contained solar-powered weather station that provides more accurate fire weather monitoring data. The data collected is useful to state agencies with responsibilities related to fire preparedness and response including the state **Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR)**, **Division of Forests and Lands (DFL)**, and the **Division of Homeland**



**Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)**, as well as locals who could be affected by a weather event near where the RAWS is stationed.

This new RAWS and the several that are planned for upcoming funding phases will allow for more **data sharing related to fire weather**, including wind direction and speed, relative humidity, ambient air temperature, dew point, and rainfall. This data can then be leveraged and shared for both planning and response activities, as well as applying for applicable Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) or Public Assistance (PA) funding. Launching additional stations in the state also allows the state to provide effective information to the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) and meet system standards.

This collaboration on situating new stations continues to grow New Hampshire's intra-state partnerships and establish new relationships based on different capabilities that agencies can bring to bear to support each other and local communities. It also allows for increased understanding of what the mitigation and information sharing priorities are for different parts of the state enterprise.

**As a true partnership, the station was initially funded through the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)**, with HSEM supporting the application process and DFL/DNCR providing the state's match through cash and in-kind services including staff emergency management training and preparation, as well as financing maintenance costs in the future. This funding setup has worked well previously and will be pursued for future stations.

The project accomplishes many of New Hampshire's goals, including utilizing the "whole community" approach and supporting communities, counties, and the state; as well as enhancing the capabilities, monitoring and data output of the state to be used locally, state-wide, and regionally.

The weather data from all the RAWS in the state are available online by visiting [mesowest.utah.edu](http://mesowest.utah.edu) and clicking on New Hampshire on the map.

**Things get done only if the data we gather can inform and inspire those in a position to make [a] difference.**

– **Mike Schmoker, former school administrator, English teacher, football coach, author**

*If you have a state practice you'd like to highlight as part of this ongoing series, please contact [Lauren Goodwillie](mailto:Lauren.Goodwillie).*

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