Abstract for Poster Presentation

The National Weather Service's Migration from County-based to Storm-based Flash Flood Warning Verification

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In October 2007, the National Weather Services began issuing storm-based warnings for all short duration warnings (i.e., tornado, severe thunderstorm, flash flood, and special marine warnings). These storm-based warnings products use latitude/longitude coordinates to outline an area where the threat of the hazard is the highest and where action should be taken. This was a change from the previous warning method, in which the whole county was considered part of the warning regardless of the size of the area being impacted by the hazard.

With this shift in warning methods, the NWS's Performance Branch was faced with the challenging task developing a methodology to use in continuing to monitor warning accuracy and performance. This poster will describe the methods used to verify storm-based flash flood warnings, explain the differences between county-based and storm-based verification, and discuss future enhancements to flash flood warning verification that will provide better feedback on warning performance.