

Request for Posting:	Laura K. Furgione Deputy Director, National Weather Service
Subject Line	Hold on Development of Weather Applications for Wireless Devices
Distribution	NWS All Hands



Message from the Deputy Director

There are thousands of weather applications available for iPhone, Android, iPad, and similar wireless devices. Many of them are provided at little or no cost. Many of them use National Weather Service (NWS) warnings and other weather products and some explicitly identify NWS as the source of their information. Given this well-established and growing market for device-specific weather applications for wireless devices, NWS is declaring a hold on use of any NWS resources, including on-duty time of NWS employees, to develop such applications.

This will avoid using NWS resources to duplicate products readily available in the marketplace and give NWS time to carefully evaluate our appropriate role. For clarity, this hold does not apply to development of applications intended solely to support NWS employees in the performance of our mission. Request for exceptions should be sent to Ron Jones, NWS Office of the Chief Information Officer (Ronald.C.Jones@noaa.gov).

Finally, NWS employees who wish to develop weather “apps” on their own time are advised to contact the Department of Commerce Ethics Officer (ethicsdivision@doc.gov, 202-482-5384).

Laura K Furgione