



STEVEN COOPER
ACTING DIRECTOR
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Steven Cooper is the Acting Director of the National Weather Service Southern Region – serving Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The National Weather Service Southern Region employs nearly 1,000 professionals located in 50 offices throughout the southern United States. In addition to providing around the clock forecasts and warnings, weather services include support for the aviation community, spaceflight activities, the marine industry, national security, fire weather, air quality and the private meteorological community.



Cooper received a bachelor's degree in Meteorology from Florida State University (1980) and a master's degree in Geography (Climatology) from the University of New Mexico (1985). He has served the National Weather Service for over 28 years and has received numerous awards and recognition for his contributions and leadership. Since joining the National Weather Service in 1979, he has served as:

- Meteorology Intern and Forecaster at the Weather Forecast Office in Albuquerque, N.M. (1980 - 1986)
- Meteorologist-in-Charge, National Weather Service Forecast Office in Bristol, Tenn. (1986 - 1988)
- Meteorologist-in-Charge, National Weather Service Forecast Office in Amarillo, Texas (1988 - 1992)
- Assistant Chief of the Meteorological Services Division, National Weather Service Southern Region Headquarters, Fort Worth, Texas (1992 – 2000)
- Chief of the Southern Region's Climate, Water and Weather Division, National Weather Service Southern Region Headquarters, Fort Worth, Texas (2000 – 2004)
- Deputy Regional Director (Feb. 26, 2004 – Jan. 6, 2007)
- Acting Director (Jan. 7, 2007 --)

Cooper led the Meteorological Services Division in the successful implementation of National Weather Service modernization and restructuring across the southern United States – during the mid 1990s. He and his team were subsequently recognized with NWS Modernization Awards in 1995 and 1996. He received the Commerce Department's Bronze Medal for coordinating weather support for the 1996 Paralympics (Atlanta, Ga.) and the National Weather Service Southern Region Isaac M. Cline Award for Leadership in 2002.

He co-developed an innovative Southern Region leadership development program called BLAST (Building Leaders for A Solid Tomorrow). He was instrumental in launching the highly successful *Turn Around, Don't Drown*[®] flood safety program, earning him and his team a NOAA Administrator's Award in 2004 and a National Weather Association Public Education Award in 2006. Cooper was also one of the principle developers of JetStream – a web based educational program designed to help people learn about various weather phenomena and how to be prepared when hazardous weather threatens.

He served on numerous national hurricane committees and has served as the team leader for several National Weather Service Disaster Service Assessments, including: The April 25, 1994 De Soto/Lancaster Tornado (Texas); the May 5, 1995 Fort Worth-Dallas Hailstorm/Flash Flood; and, the March 20, 1998 Hall/White County (Ga.) Tornado. Beginning in 1998, he has also served as the principal liaison between the NOAA/NWS and one of the agency's key partners – the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH).

Cooper is a member of the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association.