NWSChat Etiquette

National Weather Service Fort Worth

Why Use NWSChat?

- NWSChat is a tool for situational awareness, sharing critical warning decisions or possible warnings, all of which are essential to the NWS's mission of saving lives and property.

- The goal of NWSChat (and IWT in general) is to all have the same information at the same time.

- Prior to a high impact weather events, forecasters will begin to discuss the potential hazards for jurisdictions and/or local events. Any questions you have can be answered through chat, and the entire group will benefit from the discussion. During and following a high impact weather event, media and emergency management partners can provide storm reports through video, photos, and even a simple message through Chat. This allows NWS forecasters to utilize the information to make effective warning decisions.

- The exchange of information is extremely beneficial to both the NWS and our partners.

Do's & Don'ts

- Do ask questions. There are no dumb questions.

- Do include your agency/jurisdiction in your handle (em-name.county, media-my.name, fire-county.name, etc.) and in your chat message.

- Do ensure your account is active and password works during nice weather so you can login during bad weather without any issues.

- Do keep topics in the chat room professional and relevant to the situation.

- Do be in the correct chat room.

- Don't send private messages to the NWS.

Chat Rooms

- **FWDChat**: Open to anyone with an NWSChat account.

- **FWDEMAChat**: Have to be allowed access into the room (Emergency Management, Public Safety, Amateur Radio Network Controller…).

- Communicate your important decisions in both rooms, especially **FWDChat**!

- Be sure to read prior messages to make sure your question hasn't already be answered, especially during active weather.

Do's & Don'ts

- Ask questions. There are no dumb questions.

- Change your password regularly so you can login during bad weather without any issues.

- Change your handle to include your jurisdiction (em-Tarrant.County, media-, fire-Anderson.County, etc.)

- Keep topics in the chat room work related.

- No private messages to the NWS.

- Don't use profanity.

- Be in the correct chat room.

Chat Rooms

- FWDChat: Open to anyone with an account.

- FWDEMAChat: Have to be allowed access into the room (Emergency Management, Public Safety, Amateur Radio Network Controller…).

- Decisions you make that others need to know as well: Put them in both rooms, especially FWDChat.