

Questions for Space Weather Advisory Group User Survey

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SECTOR

Focus Group Information

Focus Group time/date:

Moderator: [Add before focus group]

Focus Group Participants: [Make sure people complete the sign in sheet]

Focus Group Protocol

Welcome

Good [morning/afternoon] and thank you so much for agreeing to participate in this focus group.

Introduction

My name is [name] and I am a member of the Space Weather Advisory Group also known as the SWAG.

I am joined by [name] for today's conversation who is assisting by taking notes as we go along.

Our time is limited so rather than go around the group, please say your name and organization before you speak for the first time.

Purpose of The Focus Group

The purpose of this focus group is to understand how space weather affects your work and what forecasts, products, and services you would like to see.

The SWAG will use the information gathered to identify the space weather research, observations, forecasting, prediction, and modeling advances required to improve space weather products.

The PROSWIFT Act, which led to the SWAG's formation, also laid out the topics for the user survey. We will be asking you questions about current use and future needs for space weather information, technological systems, components, or elements affected by space weather, and current and future risk reduction and resilience activities.

Ground Rules

We want this to be a discussion so please feel free to respond to each other's

comments. That said, let's go over the ground rules for today's conversation.

1. We would like everyone to participate so I might call on you if I haven't heard from you in a while.
2. There are no right or wrong answers. Every person's experiences and opinions are valued and important. Speak up when you agree or respectfully, when you disagree. We want to hear a range of opinions.
3. What is said here today stays here. We want folks to be comfortable sharing information so please do not discuss who said what once you leave.
4. We want to capture everything you say so we will record the conversation. By participating today, you are consenting to being recorded. No one will be identified by name in our report. The recording will only be used for note taking. As required by the PROSWIFT Act, the results of the user need survey(s) including any recommendations will be compiled into a report that will be delivered to Congress as well as made public.

Thank you again for your time and cooperation. Before we begin, do you have any questions for me?

Current space weather observations, information, and forecasts used

1. How do you, account for space weather in all-hazards planning?
2. What are the regulatory or policy requirements for you to use space weather observations, information, or forecasts?

Future space weather information required (communication methods, observations, and forecast products)

3. How do you use the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center's observations, information, and forecasts products and subscriptions?
 - a. Which ones are most useful?
 - b. What changes or additional information or products would you like to see?
4. What other sources of space weather do you use?
5. What space weather related information are you missing?

Current technological systems or components affected by space weather

6. How familiar are you with space weather effects on technological systems?

7. What operational impacts does your organization anticipate on (not inclusive):
 - a. Information Technology systems (i.e. business networks)
 - b. Operational Technology systems (i.e. Industrial Control Systems)
 - c. Public Safety Radio systems
 - d. Auxiliary communications systems
 - e. Critical Infrastructure your organization relies upon
 - f. Critical Infrastructure your community and customers rely upon
8. What education, training, and resources are being used to understand the space weather threat to technology and operations?

Risk reduction and resilience activities

9. What policies or procedures to mitigate the risks from space weather are included in your organization's emergency or risk management planning?
10. What lessons can you share to help develop a best practice guide for other emergency managers to use?
11. For risk and/or consequence management specifically, what additional information do you need to improve decision making?

Last Question

12. Are there any other things that we have not asked about that you wish to share?

Wrap Up

Those are all the questions we have for you. Let us know if you are interested in keeping in touch and please let us know who else to speak with as part of this effort. We hope to have initial results from the SWAG User Survey by AGU and AMS. Thank you once again for your time and energy.

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