



August 1, 2023

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D.  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and  
NOAA Administrator  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**FROM:** Frederick J. Meny, Jr.  
Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

**SUBJECT:** Evaluation of NOAA's NWS Tornado Forecasting and Warning  
Performance (#2023-461)

We are initiating an evaluation of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Weather Service (NWS) tornado forecasting and warning services. Our objective is to assess NWS tornado forecasting and warning performance and identify potential opportunities for enhanced effectiveness.

We contracted with the Institute for Defense Analyses, an independent firm, to perform this evaluation. My office will oversee the progress of the assessment and ensure it meets contract terms. We will issue an evaluation report in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*.

We plan to begin work immediately. We will contact your audit liaison as soon as practical to schedule an entrance conference, at which time we will discuss our objective and scope in further detail. If you have any questions about this evaluation, please contact me at (202) 793-2938; Kevin Ryan, Director for Audit and Evaluation, Systems Analysis and NOAA Programs, at (202) 750-5190; or Frank Tersigni, Director for Audit and Evaluation, Weather Service Programs, at (202) 793-2939.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

cc: Jainey K. Bavishi, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and  
Deputy NOAA Administrator, NOAA  
Dr. Michael C. Morgan, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation  
and Prediction, NOAA  
Benjamin Friedman, Deputy Under Secretary for Operations, NOAA  
Ken Graham, Director, National Weather Service  
Michelle Mainelli, Deputy Director (Acting), National Weather Service  
Karen Hyun, Chief of Staff, NOAA  
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Mary Ann Mausser, Audit Liaison, Office of the Secretary  
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