

The role of training in broadcast meteorology

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Weather presentations are an important part of all major TV and radio stations output. In recent years, there has been a trend towards the meteorological information being delivered by presenters rather than professional meteorologists. What should the meteorological community's attitude be to these developments?

The Met Office has adopted a two pronged approach, maintaining delivery by professionals wherever possible but also developing training in the basics of meteorology for presenters with little or no science background. The aim of this training is to ensure that the presenter makes the best possible use of any meteorological guidance they are given and delivers an accurate and balanced interpretation of the forecast. Courses have been developed which provide foundation training for new presenters and continuing development training for more experienced broadcasters. These courses have been running successfully for several years and may provide a useful model of how combine the broadcasters requirement for attractive on-screen personalities and the delivery of accurate meteorological information to the public.