



Meteoalarm the internet gateway to inform European citizens on severe weather

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www.meteoalarm.eu brings together severe weather information from 21 national meteorological services(NMS's), all being the single authoritative voices for their countries. The website is primarily meant to serve general users and civil security authorities. It started after the December 1999 Christmas storms when a large need was felt by meteorologists to better share warning information upstream. Then the Working group on Co-operation between European Forecasters(WgCEF) expressed this need in a more official way. Finally Eumetnet took over the initiative by adopting the EMMA programme.

The meteoalarm.eu website was launched 23rd of March 2007. Already during the first 12 hours of its life cycle 12 million hits were registered. The potential of the website is very large. It offers relevant information on severe weather within large parts of Europe. The graphical information is understandable at one glance and is coherent and consistent over the domain. Awareness levels are given by color coding the participating countries and their regions. The color codes are assigned according to potential damage and impact. Within the intranet part of the website meteorologists meet on the "forum" to discuss across Europe severe weather situations during the early onset phase. These discussions are very fruitful for a better understanding of the expected developments and will improve the quality of warnings within participating countries.

Since internet is the most efficient way to provide graphical and continuously changing information to large numbers of people, the website is expected to get a hype in future. This presentation is meant to give information on the websites features and

content. It will provide the latest information on hit scores of severe weather events that most certainly will occur this summer. Also information on PR work that is highly important during the first period of the websites existence will be shared. Meteoalarm did start with 21 NMS's delivering their awareness information on severe weather and integrating this on the website. It will most likely expand its domain to other countries, perhaps even outside Europe.

Did you already visit the website ? Go and see: www.meteoalarm.eu !