



BILL PROENZA, DIRECTOR
NOAA National Weather Service
Southern Region



Bill Proenza is the director of the NOAA National Weather Service's Southern Region, headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas. The NWS Southern Region encompasses approximately one-fourth of the contiguous United States including Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Southern Region provides around the clock weather warnings and forecasts for the protection of life and in support of the nation's economic well-being. It is home to 77 million residents and welcomes more than 150 million visitors annually. The Southern Region has the most active and severe weather in the world. Weather services for this area are provided in cooperation with the state and local emergency management community, law enforcement officials, the academic community and the media. National Weather Service products also support the aviation community, the nation's spaceflight activities, the marine industry, homeland security, fire weather, air quality and the private meteorological community. Proenza currently directs operations in this entire region, employing nearly 1,000 professionals located at 50 offices across the southern United States.



A meteorology graduate of Florida State University, Proenza has served more than 35 years in the NOAA National Weather Service and has received numerous performance commendations and awards. He has held a diverse array of field and leadership positions and his meteorological experience ranges from forecasting and warning for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes to providing climate services. He has a unique familiarity with many types of weather from tropical, experienced during his "hurricane hunter" days, to intense winter weather and severe local storms, experienced during his service in the mid-western and southern United States.

Proenza is an internationally recognized meteorologist and has represented the U.S. Government in Columbia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Barbados. He has made presentations on climate prediction, renewable wind and water resources, aviation weather services and weather services infrastructures. In 2006, he headed the United States Delegations to United Nations (UNESCO) meetings on tsunamis and the oceans. His weather knowledge spans more than three and a half decades and his experience includes the following assignments:

- i NOAA National Hurricane Center in Miami, Fla. (1963-64) and hurricane reconnaissance (1965-67)
- i NOAA National Weather Service Offices in Huntsville, Ala., (1968), Columbus, Ga., (1969) and Atlanta, Ga., (1970)
- i NWS Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md.
 - Assistant and Acting National Program Leader for the Public Weather Branch, Air Pollution and Fire Weather Programs (1970-72)
- i NWS Central Region Headquarters in Kansas City, Mo.
 - Managed regional public, marine, forestry, agricultural and air pollution programs (1973-75)
 - Forecaster for the Regional Warning Coordination Center (1974)
 - Executive Officer (1976-86) and Acting Deputy Director (1986-87)
- i NWS Southern Region Headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas
 - Deputy Director (1987-97) and Acting Director (Jan-Nov 1990, Jan 98-Jan 99)
 - Appointed Director (Feb. 16, 1999)

The NWS Employees' Organization recognized Proenza nationally as the NWS Manager of 1998 for his collaborative leadership.

Proenza is a long-standing member of the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association. He has held appointments in both professional agencies and has been nationally recognized by these professional societies. In 2001, the American Meteorological Society recognized him with its prestigious "Francis W. Reichelderfer Award" for outstanding environmental services to the nation. In 2003, Proenza also was elected as a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society.

For More information: www.srh.noaa.gov (Click on "Welcome from the Director")
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