

Pamela L. Shrauger

Interest Statement • Summer 2006 WAS*IS Workshop

a. Why I am interested in participating in this workshop and why I feel I should be chosen

I am interested in participating in the Summer 2006 WAS*IS Workshop because the concept of how people use weather information, warnings, and emergency messages has always been highly interesting to me. Through my studies and internships in meteorology, I realized I could make the perfect forecast, but if the public did not receive that message, did not act appropriately, or suffered major losses, then that forecast didn't mean much to those people. Related to this interest, in college, I conducted an independent study on *Weather Communications* and wrote and presented a paper for a Risk Communication class on *Tornadoes and Their Threat to Urban Areas: A Look at What Works*. I took my knowledge of meteorology to the emergency management world and worked in the Mitigation Division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These experiences bring me to where I am today in blending the meteorology and emergency management disciplines to provide the public with useful information and tools for preventing, preparing for, and responding to disasters. I believe this workshop will continue to expand my knowledge and interests and will assist me in providing useful tools and information to local emergency managers and the public. Additionally, I continue to serve on FEMA's Hurricane Liaison Team. In this capacity, I am responsible for communicating hurricane forecast information and uncertainties to federal, state, and local officials (non-meteorologists) making critical and possibly lifesaving decisions such as evacuations and pre-positioning of assets during hurricane threats. Besides learning from the experts, I feel my understanding in meteorology and emergency management will allow me to provide valuable contributions to this workshop.

b. What my career goals are and how I feel this workshop would contribute to meeting those goals

My primary career goal is to continue to blend the fields of meteorology and emergency management and use my knowledge of both to improve services provided by government and/or the private sector. Through my consulting business, I hope to develop new and innovative products that improve disaster management and ultimately protect life and property. I feel this workshop will provoke thought in this area and will provide valuable input from a wide variety of stakeholders. Throughout my career, I have found networking with others with similar interests is invaluable in achieving my career goals.

c. What aspects of the weather/society interface I particularly would like to learn about during the workshop

The areas of weather and society that particularly interest me include understanding how the public responds to weather warnings and disaster information and how to effectively communicate forecast uncertainties. I am also interested in learning what informational resources and tools are currently available regarding public decision making while under stress. I would also like to see where the future of weather communications is going.

d. What else I think you should know about me

As you may be able to tell, I am very passionate about the interrelationships between weather and society and am very interested in hearing new ideas and current thinking in these fields. I would love to hear more about how we can make the weather and emergency management communities more respected and listened to by the public. My husband is a local emergency manager and firefighter and I actively volunteer for the American Red Cross. I hope my insight into these areas will also prove valuable in this workshop. Thank you very much for your consideration!