

## **Quick Start Basic MEWS Training Overview**

The Quick Start MEWS training will be short on theory and long on mechanics/practice of completing the MEWS Weather Observation Log form. This is the key to making systematic weather observations and reports. The goals of MEWS is to provide meaningful weather reports from a disaster zone: 1) to aid decision making by relief authorities concerning overall operations (e.g. priorities in logistics, supplies, medical aid) that are impacted by weather; 2) to improve helicopter flight operations and safety; 3) empower hams to train disaster survivors to be active in the relief effort to overcome the “helpless victim” feeling.

The Quick Start Basic MEWS training is an integrated system. The components of MEWS are:

- The MEWS Weather Observation Log form
- The Basic MEWS Lessons (B1 through B8)
- The MEWS Weather Observer Handbook

All of the MEWS materials are indexed directly to the MEWS Weather Observation Log form by Section / Subsection numbers.

Throughout the Quick Start Basic MEWS training slide show, the trainees are directed to learn to use the Weather Observation Log form. On the front are short notes on what to do to complete a Section / Subsection weather observation item. On the back are expanded notes with more details for each Section / Subsection item. The Handbook contains the full details of any Section / Subsection item.

Quick Start Basic MEWS trainees will be taught step by step how to complete the Weather Observation Log form:

- What part of the form to use, in what sequence.
- What tools/reference charts to use.
- What observations to make and how to make them.
- How to complete the items on the form.
- How to read a Basic MEWS report.

Once familiar with the Weather Observation Log form, trainees are ready to go. They can learn more about any or all of the items in the Sections / Subsections. They can start with the relevant lesson slide show. Then they can read through the appropriate section of the Handbook.

MEWS was designed for self-study. So the Quick Start Basic MEWS training is really a bare bones way to get started, make minimal observations, and get the report out via radio as quickly as possible. The assumptions are:

- General and systematic weather reports from a disaster zone provide useful information to knowledgeable disaster managers and helicopter flight crews **when NO other weather data are available.**
- In an emergency, rapid response and reliable information reports are critical to an effective first response. (The systematic MEWS methodology helps hams to quickly gather the data in a reliable manner for reporting via radio.)
- An added feature of Quick Start Basic MEWS is the ease with which hams can train disaster survivors to actively assist in the weather observations. This empowers the survivors to be less prone to feel and act as a “helpless victim”. In many cases, when first responders arrive, the relief workers are focused on giving aid. Survivors wanting
- to help often “get in the way” of a well-trained rescue team.

Quick Start Basic MEWS training details.	Section 1. Header: Need your help to get data for the local training site.
	Section 2.1 Air (Dry bulb temperature): Need umbrella, thermometer, 1.5 m cord
	Section 3.1 Wind Speed. Uses flag and the Modified Beaufort Wind Chart
	Section 3.2 Wind direction. Uses magnetic compass or local knowledge of cardinal directions.
	Section 4.1 Cloud Cover. Uses the Cloud Cover Chart
	Section 4.2 Cloud base Height. Uses Cloud Identification Chart
	Section 4.5 Visual Range. Uses topographic map to locate visible landmarks at 3.2 km and 5 km from the training site.
	Section 4.6 Severe Weather. Uses “Flash to Boom” reference chart (Need an assistant with a flash camera and stop watch or watch with seconds hand / display.)
	Additional Information: Weather Forecasting. Uses the same Cloud Identification Chart for Section 4.2