



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

May 2007

NWS Management Compromise Mission Safety

NWSEO has learned that some managers in Central and Southern Region are no longer going to authorize overtime for pre/post shift briefings. By not allowing pre/post shift briefings to occur, this threatens the agencies mission and charge which is the “protection of life and property.” NWSEO believes that it is imperative that pre/post shift briefings continue to be a practice of the National Weather Service meteorologists. Paying fifteen (15) minutes of overtime is an insignificant amount of money if you consider the potential loss of life and cost to taxpayers to the tune of millions of dollars because a forecaster was forced to assume a shift uninformed of a potential dangerous weather situation.

Article 20, Section 7(D) provides for the payment of overtime: In those work situations where Management requires a pre- and/or post shift briefing, the employee will be compensated a minimum of 15 minutes of overtime. The employees time spent in the briefing(s) must be at least 10 minutes to be eligible for each 15 minute block of overtime pay.

This clearly indicates management is tossing safety out the window and prefers that the forecaster NOT do a pre/post shift briefing, all just to save a buck. Is it possible that the NWS is going to use this savings of no longer authorizing a pre/post shift briefing to help pay for a company to take notes for them at Corporate Board meetings or at National Team meetings? Below is an email from management to its staff stating they will no longer authorize this overtime:

Subject:
Action - Effective immediately
From: David McShane <David.McShane@noaa.gov>
Date: Tue, 03 Apr 2007 07:01:08 -0500
To: NWS CR FGF <cr.fgf@noaa.gov>

Shift turnover briefs/briefings *if* conducted will be confined to 5 minutes before the hour to 5 minutes after the hour. OT/CT is no longer authorized for going over.