



True Stories. | Real Results.

Advance, Location-Specific SkyGuard® Flash Flood Warning Prevents Train Derailments

THE STORY

May 5, 2007 | Blue Hill, NE

- **12:13 AM CDT** - Our meteorologists proactively issued a SkyGuard flash flood warning to our client, BNSF Railway, beginning at 12:30 AM and expiring at 2:30 AM for Blue Hill, NE to Cowles, NE, including the city of Lawrence. Our team of expert meteorologists were monitoring BNSF routes and detected locations where rain totals, runoff, and vulnerable track would produce flash flooding resulting in track washouts and potential derailments. This warning allowed BNSF dispatchers to stop trains that were headed for the washout and re-route other trains.
- **12:32 AM CDT** - A Local Storm Report was issued for Lawrence, NE, stating "3 INCHES OF WATER ACROSS ROADS AND FLASH FLOODING REPORTED."
- **12:36 AM CDT** - The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a flash flood warning for all of Webster County in south central Nebraska, stating "At 12:34 AM CDT...National Weather Service Doppler Radar indicated heavy rain from a thunderstorm over the warned area."

By using SkyGuard, BNSF received 19 minutes of advance warning before the first flooding occurred. BNSF also received specific location and start and expire time information with our warning, enabling them to effectively route trains through unaffected areas without interruption.

Had BNSF relied upon the NWS-issued warning, the outcome would have been much different. The NWS did not issue their warning until after the flooding began. The train might have struck the washout and derailed, threatening lives and millions of dollars in property loss. In addition, because the NWS issues county-wide warnings, BNSF might have unnecessarily stopped trains in unaffected areas resulting in costly downtime.

Why is this important to you?

Timely, accurate, site-specific weather information is necessary in pro-actively securing measures to protect equipment and product, ensure the safety of employees, plan logistics, and begin recovery. As the above story details, overly-broad and/or delayed warnings can be catastrophic, resulting in the loss of profits, equipment and, potentially, lives.

SkyGuard provides professional, highly trained meteorologists to watch all of your locations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. SkyGuard's customized, site-specific warnings are designed to protect you, your employees, and your bottom line.

Call us today...the next storm is already on its way.



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What BNSF Said:

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