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Ingredients for Effective Severe Weather Satellite Training

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Severe Weather training sessions and presentations are a fundamental part of EUMETSAT training activities. Participants are often operational users, and this requires the facilitators to organize the training to be authentic and to take into account the operational environment and forecasting process.

We have had positive experiences in using Convection Working Group (CWG) “Best Practices Document” (BPD) for planning convective storm training sessions. The document gives a solid approach on how to deal with convective storms, and suggests a learning path for organizing a training event.

BPD describes the recent concepts and practices in the diagnosing and monitoring of convective storms using satellite remote sensing, with an emphasis on the use of geostationary satellites, specifically Meteosat Second Generation. In the document the convective storms are grouped in three parts according to their life cycle:
- Pre-Convective environment: where will storms form, how do we optimally use Satellite and NWP?
- Convective initiation nowcasting: which clouds will become thunderstorms in the near future?
- Mature storm characteristics: how long will a storm last and how hazardous is it?

The presentation at the ECSS Conference will demonstrate our recent severe weather training event experiences and how the Best Practices Document has helped us in organizing our instruction.