



Verification results of heat wave warnings in Croatia

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A major role of national meteorological services in the future will be associated with weather warnings. Reliable and in-time prediction of high impact weather can provide more efficient mitigation, it can reduce costs and save lives. One of the most significant hazards, particularly due to the present climate changes, is the heat stress.

In a cooperation with the Ministry of Health, in summer 2012 Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia started issuing warnings associated with extremely high temperatures. Warnings were based on minimum and maximum temperature forecasts for next 4 days, with thresholds based on climatology return periods. Depending on the criteria, a yellow, orange or red alert was issued based on the subjective estimation. The season turned out to be extremely hot. This study presents preliminary results of the warning verification system that has to be established. Verification of warnings is a diverse and developing field. Various scores are here presented, to provide feedback to the forecasters and to build a more objective-based forecast engine in order to prepare for the forthcoming seasons.