



The Basque Country Severe Weather Warning System in perspective.

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The Basque Meteorology Agency (Euskalmet) has among its responsibilities severe weather warning issue, this information is the basis that Basque Government Civil Protection authorities use to establish alerts in the territory and to disseminate to the Basque population different recommendations.

In the Euskalmet case, the weather warning system began like a simple system based on several meteorological fixed thresholds. Later on, migrates towards a more sophisticated system based on traffic-lights colour concept with more or less fixed criteria. Finally severe weather warnings are moving towards a flexible civil protection (and users) approach. In summary warnings issues have moved fully away from fixed thresholds strategy towards a more flexible, impact-based approach.

In this work we present some aspects related with design, implementation and operational use in Basque Country of Euskalmet warning system during this century. Including an “historical” analysis of severe weather warnings since the system became operational. Finally, the impacts from changes in strategy and some examples for real severe-weather episodes are presented.