



## **FeWIS – a unique information platform for Fire Brigades, Regional Emergency Centres, Relief Organisations and Disaster Management Authority at Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD)**

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Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD) is responsible for issuing weather warnings in Germany.

The weather information system FeWIS is one of the most important components of the weather warning management of DWD. With this powerful browser-based online system significant weather and severe weather information is compiled especially for fire brigades, police centers, and other agencies with fire and disaster relief operations facilities. All important reports and warnings are available in both text and graphic forms. The system is updated around the clock every 2 minutes. It is easy to be used even by the meteorological laymen. With special information about convective cloud activity (KonRad), a forest fire index as well as the dispersion of accidentally released toxic substances (HEARTS) it serves the needs of civil protection authorities. Since the start of FeWIS with large professional fire brigades in July 2004, the number of users has increased to about 1,600 in 2012.

Apart from this civil protection portal DWD also issues severe weather warnings in many ways. Besides the distribution by traditional media such as radio and television the public can get information on the web: [www.dwd.de](http://www.dwd.de) and [www.wettergefahren.de](http://www.wettergefahren.de). The social media Twitter and Facebook is targeting on the younger user community. Warnings are distributed via fax, short text message or e-mail. A direct delivery of the newsletter "Official Warnings" by e-mail can also be subscribed. On [mobil.dwd.de](http://mobil.dwd.de) severe weather warnings are optimized for mobile phone display. Thus DWD warning information is also comfortably accessible while on the move.

Both the Civil Protection Portal FeWIS and various other information channels for official weather and storm warnings serve the main objective to inform relevant authorities and institutions, users from industry and agriculture information as well as the citizens of Germany in sufficient time about dangerous weather phenomena and hazards to avoid or mitigate economic losses by preventive measures.

The presentation will focus on the features of FeWIS, a user-oriented information platform which offers rapid and targeted information during hazardous weather conditions.