



Operational Climate Service as a part of Safety Weather Services at the Finnish Meteorological Institute

Ville Siiskonen

Finnish Meteorological Institute, Weather and Safety Centre, Finland (ville.siiskonen@fmi.fi)

Operational Climate Service is part of Safety Weather Services in Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI). It provides observation data delivery services, updates climate statistics and weather observation records and provides information about the past weather events and statistics for public and media.

Since 2016, when the Operational Climate Service was moved from Climate Centre, a research unit in the FMI, to be a part of Safety Weather Services, it has increasingly provided additional, useful information for the forecasters, especially for the questions from media. Other basic daily operations include phone service where customers can order observation data that is not available from FMI's open data user interfaces, making official statements about past weather for public or officials and providing answers to the media about the statistical occurrence of the prevailing weather.

Methods used by Operational Climate Service include reports to the forecasters as well as interactive maps and other applications to provide quick overview of how the prevailing weather is compared to the long term statistics. In case of exceptional weather events, e.g. heat waves or cold spells that are forecasted, the Operational Climate Service prepares additional fact sheets for the forecasters about the exceptionality of the weather.

The inclusion of Operational Climate Service to the Safety Weather Services has helped the forecasters to answer more accurately to questions and provide additional information to the media. Forecasters are also more equipped to provide this information via FMI's social media accounts, particularly FMI's Twitter-account, which is among the most followed public service institution accounts in Finland. In the way towards more accurate impact based forecasting Operational climate service can play a bigger role evaluating impacts of forecasted severe weather events.