

Decision Support Services: NWS Buffalo Operations Following the Crash of Flight 3407

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Late in the evening of February 12, 2009, Continental Flight 3407 crashed into a house during an instrument approach to Buffalo-Niagara International Airport. NWS Buffalo provided decision-support during the critical period immediately after the event and throughout the recovery operations.

How the National Weather Service's Forecast Office in Buffalo responded to the crash will be discussed. Relying on pre-existing office procedures, training, and outreach activities, the offices' team approach allowed the NWS to provide critical decision-making information to Federal, State, and local officials. A chronology of events and lessons learned will be addressed.

PRESENTER'S BIO

Ms. Levan began her career with the National Weather Service in 1980 as an intern at the Buffalo office. She considers herself fortunate to have been able to rise through the positions of general forecaster and lead forecaster to her current position as Warning Coordination Meteorologist all at the Buffalo Office. Ms. Levan, a native western New Yorker, is a graduate of the State University of College at Oswego (1981) with a B.S. in Meteorology and a Minor in Physics.

She is the editor of the office Newsletter "The Lake Breeze." She works with Junior Girl Scouts to earn their "Weather Watch" badge. She is a member of the American Meteorological Society, National Weather Association, and Federally Employed Women. She chairs the Erie County Disaster Preparedness Advisory Board, is treasurer of the Villa Maria Academy Alumnae Association, and as amateur radio operator, N2TEZ, is financial secretary of the Southtowns Amateur Radio Society.