



Site-Specific Weather Analysis Blends Man and Machine

As Seen In
November 2006 Issue of

Claims
COVERING THE BUSINESS OF LOSS

BY JESS HURWITZ

In a time when technology reaches further and further into our daily routines, most companies have chosen to replace good old-fashioned personal service with an automated web interface coupled with e-mail or online chat support. CompuWeather currently works on more than 6,000 cases and claims each year providing insurance, legal, engineering, and investigative professionals with site-specific past weather forensic reporting and analysis. Their global weather operations center has access to advanced weather-reporting technologies and resources, both public and proprietary, including radar, satellite, lightning detection and hail analysis networks, and live feeds of global weather data. Weather technology has become quite good, but only when coupled with a trained professional forensic meteorologist. CompuWeather's technology advantage is the result of a unique mix of the best weather technology resources available today and the analytical and interpretive skills of a superb forensic meteorology staff.

"Giving our clients access to the resources we employ daily in our forensic practice without intensive training and field experience would be like posting their x-ray or MRI results on a web site and asking them to self-analyze their own medical conditions without consulting a trained specialist," said Steve Roberts, CompuWeather's director of operations. "It's not just having access to the tools or information alone, but also having

the experience to know which one to use and when, keeping in mind the unique variables and requirements of the specific case being worked on."

CompuWeather works hard to educate the professionals they work with daily about the dangers of relying on Internet data when trying to determine the exact conditions for a specific point of loss. The only weather information publicly available on the Internet is solely from airport locations. Since most cases or claims do not take place at an airport, the Internet data is really not applicable when investigating insurance cases or claims. CompuWeather's methods to determine the exact weather conditions for a specific time and point of loss involves a three-step process of research, analysis, and interpretation by a professional meteorologist for the specific address or location being investigated.

"Given today's economy and financial burdens the insurance industry faces, I am amazed at how many companies do not properly train their claim professionals or fully understand the benefits of using a service like CompuWeather when investigating weather-related claims, and the tremendous savings associated with our services," said Jess Hurwitz, CompuWeather's director of sales. "Our many repeat clients appreciate the value of our services and the economical advantage of having access to our meteorologists and the vast range of technological resources we employ in our daily operations."

Clients point out that many weather-

related claims are fraudulent or questionable. One thing that must be considered is that most people filing fraudulent claims go to the Internet to see what weather information they can find, expecting the insurance professionals to do the same and making it appear that their claim is true and just. Most of the individuals do not know that a service like CompuWeather exists, or figure that the insurance professionals will not employ a service like CompuWeather for the investigation. CompuWeather's site-specific analysis of the event, in most cases, is significantly different from what happened at the local airport 10 or 15 miles away from the site. This is a perfect example where using CompuWeather rather than Internet weather data would save the company from paying out a fraudulent claim.

CompuWeather's approach of utilizing leading-edge technology mixed with the personal service of a trained, experienced professional meteorologist is truly the best technology offering we can provide to our clients. Keeping the technology behind the scenes simplifies the process for our clients. We pride ourselves on good old-fashioned personal service, plain English, past weather reports, and 100 percent satisfaction at all times. We empower our clients with the best information possible to help them make intelligent professional decisions without having to go out and get a meteorological degree. Good people plus great technology equals success for CompuWeather and their clients. ☒

For further information, call 800-825-4445, e-mail experts@compuweather.com.

Since most cases or claims do not take place at an airport, the Internet data is really not applicable when investigating insurance cases or claims.

Jess Hurwitz is the director of sales and business development for CompuWeather, Inc. in Hopewell Junction, NY. He can be reached at jess@compuweather.com or at 800-825-4445

A SPECIAL REPRINT

Reprinted with permission of *Claims* ©2006. All rights reserved.