

Darcy Thorpe

From: Darcy Thorpe
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 10:55 AM
To: craig.mclean@noaa.gov
Subject: I depend on a non-political NOAA to keep my family safe

Mr. McLean,

Last week's bizarre weather misinformation by the president was a real eye opener. It was both a dangerous and ridiculous episode right as Dorian was headed up the coast, putting American lives at risk.

I was proud of the Birmingham NWS office for their quick tweet clearing up Alabama's forecast. They did the right thing. People needed to know if they faced danger. The public needed true science-based information and NWS Birmingham provided that.

When NOAA put out a statement chastising that office I was really angry. I live near Houston on the Gulf Coast and during hurricane season part of my daily routine is to check in with the NHC website. I depend on NWS flooding, tornado, and hurricane alerts to keep my family safe. I absolutely trusted the NWS and NOAA. More than once I've ended up huddled with my children in the bathroom after a NWS tornado warning. I need to be able to trust severe weather forecasting. The statement NOAA released giving the president political cover has shaken that trust. I immediately thought that NOAA must have been ordered by the WH to release a statement supportive to the president..and they complied. They should not have. The weather must not be political! (I can't believe I had to write that sentence). We need to support our NOAA scientists and make sure they are always free to deliver accurate information without censure. Doubt cannot be part of the equation when I'm making decisions about my family's safety.

Darcy Thorpe
Texas Mom