

John Hart

Lead Forecaster Storm Prediction Center

John Hart has been a lead forecaster at the NOAA Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, since 2000. In that time he has issued more than 2,500 severe thunderstorm and tornado watches.

Currently the longest-tenured SPC forecaster, he began at the SPC in 1992 when it was known as SELS, the Severe Local Storms unit of the National Severe Storms Forecast Center, in Kansas City, Missouri. In that time he moved up from assistant forecaster to mesoscale/outlook forecaster, to lead forecaster. He began his National Weather Service career as a meteorologist intern with the Weather Service Forecast Office in Charleston, West Virginia, after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology from St. Louis University.

He has developed a number of tools for operational severe weather forecasting, from a SHARP PC workstation in 1991 to a tool for local storm reporting to a number of web pages displaying forecasting and analysis data. He was a lead developer of the SPC's mesoanalysis web page.

Hart has authored and co-authored four formal publications in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society and Weather & Forecasting, including The Statistical Severe Convective Risk Assessment Model (SSCRAM) in 2016, as well as dozens of American Meteorological Society and National Weather Association informal publications and conference presentations. As an expert in severe weather forecasting and history, he has been invited to speak at numerous venues around the United States, as well as Canada and Europe.



Hart's professional awards include the National Weather Association Research Achievement Award in 1991 for the development of the SHARP Workstation; National Weather Association Operational Achievement Award for an Individual in 1998 for a High Risk forecast that included the Birmingham, Alabama, killer tornado; NWS National Isaac Cline Award in 2004 for numerous contributions to meteorology and accurate severe weather forecasts; and the National Weather Association Operational Achievement Award for a Group in 2011 for the development of the SPC Mesoanalysis web page.

In addition, he served as Associate Editor of the AMS publication Weather and Forecasting from 2001-2004 and NWA digital seal panel member from 2015 to 2017. He has also received several NWS Isaac Cline local and regional awards.

During his career, Hart has worked many memorable forecast events. These include the November 1992 southeast tornado outbreak; May 1997 Jarrell, Texas, tornado; September 2001 Washington, DC, tornado; April 2011 Super Outbreak; and the May 2013 El Reno, Oklahoma, tornado.

