

The Forecasting Services Department in society

The Forecasting Services Department's staff of approximately 200 prepares weather forecasts for almost every purpose – information that reaches even the remotest corners of society.

Each day on the TV news a meteorologist describes the forthcoming weather to the Danish public and, in cases where this differs from the forecast given the preceding day, explains why.

In a country like Denmark the weather changes frequently and rapidly, and many people therefore make use of an up-to-the-minute forecast from one of DMI's weather telephones. Some 4 million such calls are received each year.

The weather teletext pages on Danish TV are viewed by up to a million people each day, and just as many people listen to weather forecasts several times a day on the radio.

GLOBAL MONITORING

The Forecasting Services Department keeps a keen eye on the weather throughout the world. One of the last things pilots do before take off is to request meteorological information. Danish yachtsmen competing in international competitions receive weather forecasts from home or are assisted on location by a DMI meteorologist. Both Danish and foreign ships utilize the Department's weatherrouting service to find the most appropriate and safest route across the oceans.





ROUND-THE-CLOCK SERVICE

Early warnings of dangerous weather conditions, storms, ice build-up on ships, slippery roads and storm surges are of vital importance for both man and property. As the forces of nature are permanently at work, so too is the staff of the Forecasting Services Department – round the clock all year round! One of DMI's most important tasks is to contribute to aviation safety by constantly monitoring and warning about weather conditions of significance for aviation.

The Weather Services Department assists with activities at sea, among other means through daily current and wave forecasts to bridge builders and oil exploration crews in the North Sea. In cases of oil spills, the Department can calculate where the oil will drift to, and trace where it comes from. Storm surge warnings for Danish coasts are issued when storms and water masses threaten man and property.

THE FORECAST SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN GREENLAND

The weather is harsh in Greenland. In Kangerlussuag (Sdr. Strømfjord), a handful of meteorologists draw up weather forecasts for all the airfields in Greenland. Other Greenlandic forecasts and warnings are drawn up by the Department's Central Office in Copenhagen.

Greenland is often hit by violent storms. Severe damage has often been caused along the coasts by the Piteraq, an extremely strong katabatic wind from the inland ice. Since the beginning of the 1970s, however, the special Piteraq warnings issued by DMI have helped limit the damage.

WIND PATTERNS

What path does the wind follow? The answer is of vital importance for issuing warnings of nuclear accidents, smog and the dispersal of chemical substances or diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease. Using complicated mathematical models, DMI can calculate how pollutants are transported and dispersed.

WE ARE CONSTANTLY IMPROVING

Today a 7-day forecast is of as good a quality as that of a 2–3-day forecast in 1980. Professional control of the Department's products shows that their quality, and hence safety at sea and in the air etc., is continually being improved.