

**AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
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AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY – FEBRUARY SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Following are story ideas and tips about upcoming AMS meetings, papers in our nine peer-reviewed journals, and other happenings in the atmospheric and related sciences community.

Tokyo Air Conditioners Heat Up Outside Air. A study by scientists at several scientific institutions in Tokyo has found that the heat waste from office air conditioning units is causing a 1° - 2° C temperature increase in the Tokyo office areas. This heating promotes the heat-island phenomenon in Tokyo on weekdays. The group used numerical models to simulate air temperature for weekdays in which released waste heat has been calculated from the energy consumption and cooling load in the building. These findings show that the energy consumption process, mainly with air conditioning, in buildings should be included in the modeling of summertime air temperature on weekdays in urban areas. The paper appears in the January 2007 AMS *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*. For a copy of the paper contact Stephanie Kenitzer at kenitzer@ametsoc.org

Tornadoes Could be Devastating in Large Cities. A study of simulated and actual tornadoes shows that a large and/or violent tornado crossing a densely populated area such as Chicago could cause widespread damage and mortality—with thousands of deaths in some modeled scenarios. Simulated tornadoes with wind field structures similar to those observed, and potentially worse plausible tornadoes, crossing a densely populated urban region such as Chicago, could cause widespread damage and loss of life on a scale that has not been observed historically with tornadoes, according to research published in the January issue of the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. The study found that severe tornado impacts are possible in other Midwestern and southern cities such as Dallas, Oklahoma City, Saint Louis, Atlanta, and Houston. Though it is unlikely that the largest and most intense tornadoes would impact eastern cities such as New York City or the District of Columbia, violent tornadoes could still result in widespread structural damage and high death tolls exceeding 1,000–10,000, depending on the death rate in destroyed structures. Better preparedness is highly recommended. For a copy of the paper, contact Stephanie Kenitzer.

Shade Helps Slow Streamflow. Historic streamflow records show that spring streamflow in the western United States, fed by mountain snowmelt, has shifted earlier over the past 50 years because warming temperatures melt the snow earlier. But in some areas snowmelt and streamflow are not occurring so early in the spring because of shade, according to a study appearing in the December issue of the *AMS Journal of Hydrometeorology*. That's right, shade! Even though temperatures may be warming in early March, the sun remains lower on the horizon because the spring equinox has not yet occurred, thus creating shady areas that do not receive enough sunlight to melt, even with warmer temperatures. These results suggest that as temperatures warm and spring melt shifts earlier in the season, topographic effects will play an even more important role than at present in determining snowmelt timing. For a copy of the paper contact Stephanie Kenitzer.

AMS Programming Appears on Cable. The first program of the AMS partnership with the Research Channel will appear on cable stations around the world February 18th. The "AMS Journal: Benjamin Franklin's Science" will air at 5 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m. and, 11 p.m. EST. The ResearchChannel is a nonprofit organization that connects a global audience with leading research and academic institutions and with scientific programming through cable and satellite companies (24 million homes) as well as online. For more information and to find the channel in you area, see www.researchchannel.org

AMS Environmental Seminar Series. The next AMS Environmental Seminar is tentatively scheduled for February 28, 2007. The tentative topic is "Abrupt Climate Changes: Droughts and Ocean Circulation Changes." More details will follow shortly. Details about the seminars are online at <http://www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy/environmentalssarchives.html>

AMS Science Journalism Award Deadline is May 1, 2007. The entry deadline for the *AMS Award for Distinguished Science Journalism in the Atmospheric and Related Sciences* is May 1, 2007. The award aims to recognize outstanding science reporting and writing of scientific discoveries, principles, advances, and impacts in all media outlets including radio, television, newspaper, magazine and Internet. The first winner of the new AMS award was Jim Erickson, science reporter at the Rocky Mountain News, for his series of stories on the effect of climate change in Colorado. The award will be given for a single article or radio/television report or a series that makes atmospheric and related sciences material accessible and interesting to the general public. Short pieces or in depth articles are eligible. The award recognizes outstanding reporting for a general audience, and honor individuals rather than institutions. The terms of reference and nomination details are online at www.ametsoc.org or contact Stephanie Kenitzer.

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