

We got the inspiration for our project during the 2020 storm season. As many tornadoes ravaged the midwest, we were determined to learn more about the storms. In the late 19th century, the US Weather Bureau banned tornado warnings fearing they would spread panic instead of communication that severe weather was near. After triple-digit deaths due to tornadoes, a need for an effective form of weather communication was needed. The 1947 Woodward tornado prompted the US Weather Bureau to create a national tornado warning system, eventually ending the ban and revolutionizing the communication of severe weather. When we learned about National History Day, we knew it was a perfect opportunity to gain more knowledge.

We found books most helpful because they were easy to find and had almost no false information. We also found websites helpful because we could always go back to them. We found it hard to find an interview because a lot of meteorologists are very busy, but we eventually found a meteorologist named Millisa Dye.

We decided to pick the tornado warning system because we were both starting to take up an interest in storms around that time. We decided to pick a website for our category because we both have coding experience. We were slightly disappointed when we learned NHD had its own website creating platform and we did not get to use any script. We created our website by learning the platform and then we inserted images and text and finished it up.

When we heard that this year's theme was communication, we instantly thought of the warning system. At first we thought that people would think our topic was crazy, but they thought it was a good idea. Our topic is important because it has saved hundreds of thousands of lives, with warnings going out every day, meteorologists and storm chasers are working around the clock.