

AWIPS INFORMATION NOTE 10 (for Electronics Systems Analysts) Engineering Division :  
W/OPS12: FJZ

**SUBJECT :** Advanced Weather Information Processing System (AWIPS) Satellite Broadcast Network (SBN) Antenna Deicer Blanket Technical Service Bulletin.

**PURPOSE :** To warn National Weather Forecast Offices and River Forecast Centers of a possible SBN antenna de-icer blanket fire hazard.

**BACKGROUND:** The SBN antenna deicer system is not performing as expected. A recent deicer blanket fire at Elko, NV prompted concern for personnel safety. Initial assessments demonstrated that the logic control unit may cause the blankets to overheat. The contractor is conducting tests to resolve the deicer's performance issues and is expected to provide the government with recommendations. Because the antenna heater blankets may pose a safety hazard and possible personal injury, sites should follow the procedure described below. NOTE, this Technical Service Bulletin is an interim solution until the heater blanket deficiencies are resolved.

#### PROCEDURE

The sites should leave the deicer unit OFF during the summer months. All site office staff should be briefed on this situation and, as a safeguard, a copy of this note should also be posted for all to read.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Please refer any technical questions regarding this note to Franz Zichy, W/OPS12, at 301-713-1833 x128 or his pager at 301-610-1710.



John McNulty, Chief, Engineering Division