

ICECHIP, Largest U.S. Hail Study in 40 Years, Launches with Media Field Day

When: Saturday, May 17, 2025 Media-Only Access: 1:00-2:00 PM MT Public Event: 2:00-4:00 PM MT

Where: Flexible Array of Radars and Mesonets (FARM) Facility - 4820 63rd St., Boulder, CO 80301 - Northeast side of building

BOULDER, CO – The National Science Foundation-funded **ICECHIP** project–**In-situ Collaborative Experiment for the Collection of Hail In the Plains**–invites members of the media to an exclusive **Media Field Day** to kick off the largest hail-focused field campaign in the U.S. in more than 40 years.

The **ICECHIP Media Field Day** will provide **firsthand access** to live weather demonstrations, storm-tracking tools and interviews with leading atmospheric scientists. The project brings together **15 U.S. institutions** and **four international partners** to study hailstorms across the Central Plains and the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains.

Hail is the most **consistently damaging hazard** associated with severe thunderstorms, generating over \$35 billion in losses in the U.S. last year alone and affecting homeowners, businesses, aviation, agriculture, transportation, and more. This **six-week field campaign** aims to **transform the understanding of hail** by collecting unprecedented field data - advancing hail detection, improving forecast models and strengthening public warning systems.

MEDIA FIELD DAY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Exclusive media access from 1:00-2:00 PM MT
 - o One-on-one questions and interviews with Scientists and team experts
- Live public demonstrations from 2:00-4:00 PM MT featuring:
 - Opening remarks and project overview (2:00-2:15 PM MT)
 - o Weather balloon launch
 - o Doppler on Wheels (DOW) vehicles and mobile mesonets
 - o Hail measurement systems
 - o Radiometers and UAS (large drones)
- Online Media Kit: <u>https://www.eol.ucar.edu</u>

Where ICECHIP Goes: The mobile research campaign will continue through June 30th, 2025, and span hail-prone regions across the Plains gathering observations on a wide variety of hailstorms.



MEDIA CONTACT:

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Principal Investigators

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Steering Committee

Brian Argrow Univ. Colorado Boulder Ian Giammanco Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety Karen Kosiba Univ. Alabama Huntsville Matthew Kumjian Pennsylvania State Univ. Joshua Wurman Univ. Alabama Huntsville

For a full list of collaborators and partners, click <u>here</u>.

