

Alabama Public Radio

Transcript

January 4th Broadcast Segment on Grant for Blind, Deaf, & Deaf-Blind Accessible Tornado Messaging

Weather warnings are about to become more accessible for people who are either deaf or visually impaired.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is awarding grants to two professors from the University of Alabama. The goal is to study how tornado warnings could be improved so they can better alert members of the community who are deaf or blind. The two hundred-fifty-thousand dollar grant will give the team the ability to

build and test a system so that the hearing impaired can see a local weather broadcast in a split-screen format. The model could also be expanded to include breaking news.

Dr. Darrin Griffin is part of the team working on the system. He says they are going to make sure all of their bases are covered:

“First phase of the research is to interview members of the blind and low vision community. Then we’re going to interview members of

the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. And the last part of the research, the money will be spent building and testing a model for the actual output for a split screen technology.”

After the model is completed, the team plans on receiving feedback from members of the Deaf community and improving this model to apply for more funding.

-“Tornado Warnings for the Deaf”
Broadcast January 4, 2018