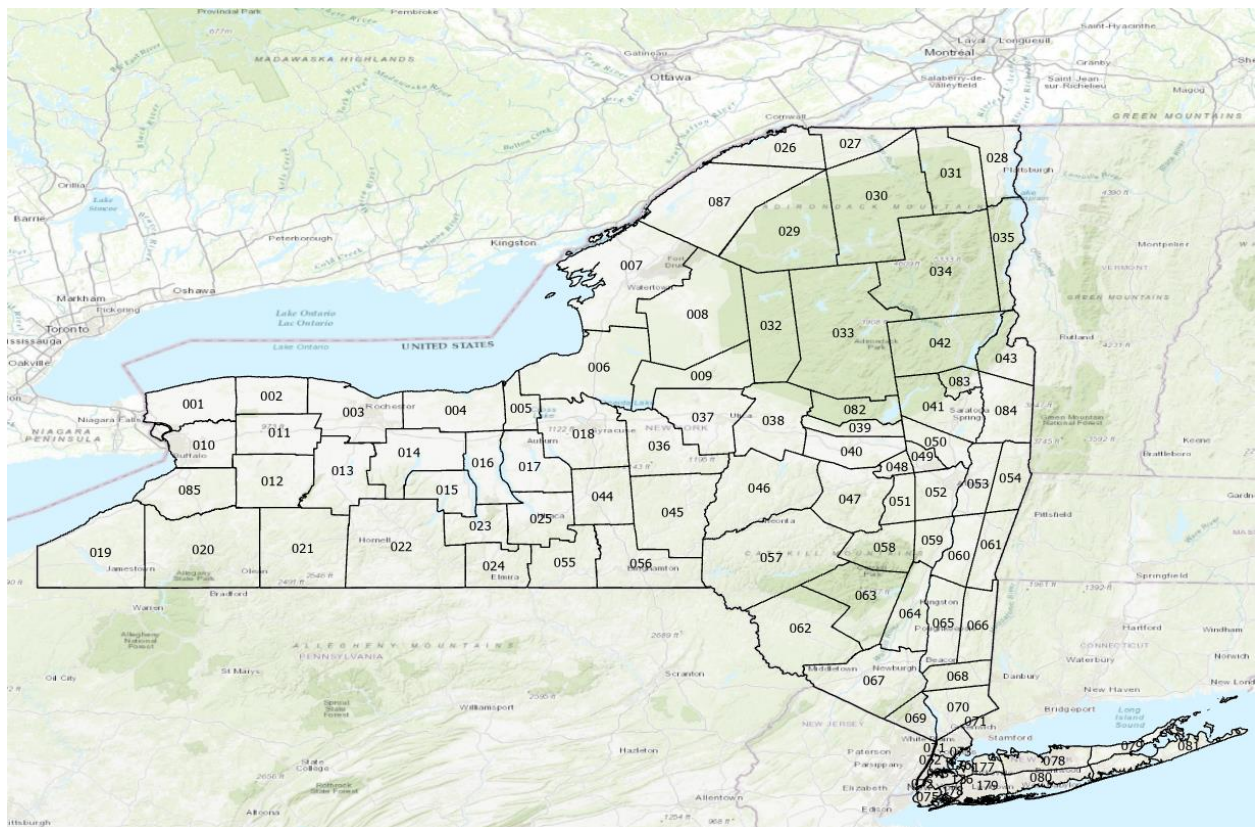


Fire Weather Zone Changes for New York

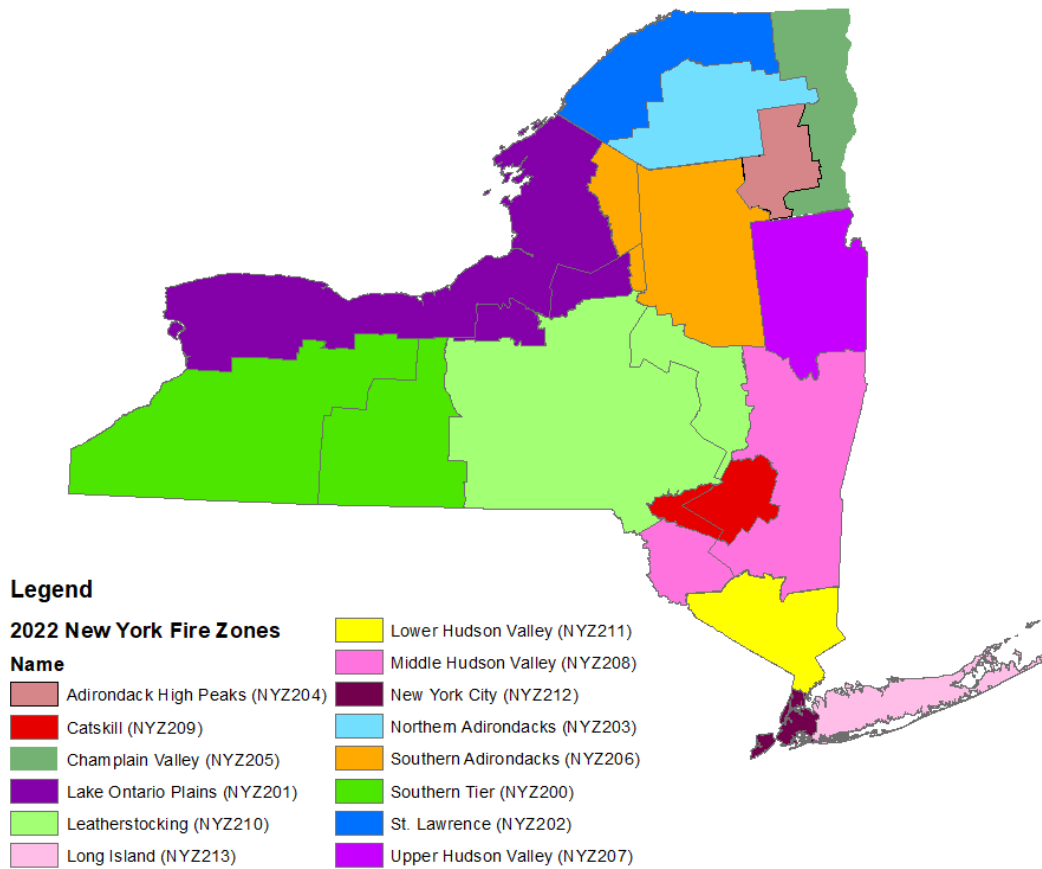
Overview

Effective March 8, 2023 by 4 pm EST, the NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in New York will change the fire weather zones within the state. The boundaries of the current fire weather zones in New York will be changed based on common topography, fuels, and weather. Below are graphics depicting the changes to our fire weather zones.

Old Fire Weather Zones



New Fire Weather Zones



Justification

Recently there has been a significant rework of the nationwide system for predicting wildfire danger (NFDRSv4). The NFDRSv4 system has tasked state fire and land management agencies with reassessing and editing Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRAs), which are geographic zones consisting of similar fuels, topography, and weather conditions. Our current fire weather zones tend to be more county based and do not necessarily consider these important elements that the new FRDAs are based on. Thus aligning our fire weather zones with the new FDRAs would better connect fire danger outputs with our suite of fire weather products (Fire Weather Planning Forecast, Fire Weather Watches, and Red Flag Warnings) to support the needs of our fire weather partners and the public. The changes result in significantly fewer fire weather zones across the state.

Representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) have provided the NWS with their new FDRAs. The new fire weather zones follow these FDRAs, except in a

few instances where the FDRAs significantly overlapped two County Warning Areas (CWAs). In these instances, the FDRA boundary was split at the CWA boundary to form two new fire weather zones. The new fire weather zones were approved by representatives from the NYSDEC.

Table 1. WFO Albany’s (ALY) Affected Fire Weather Zones

Current Fire Weather Zone/UGC	New Fire Weather Zone/UGC
Northern Herkimer / NYZ032	Southern Adirondacks / NYZ206
Hamilton / NYZ033	Upper Hudson Valley / NYZ207
Southern Herkimer / NYZ038	Middle Hudson Valley / NYZ208
Southern Fulton / NYZ039	Catskills / NYZ209
Montgomery / NYZ040	
Northern Saratoga / NYZ041	
Northern Warren / NYZ042	
Northern Washington / NYZ043	
Schoharie / NYZ047	
Western Schenectady / NYZ048	
Eastern Schenectady / NYZ049	
Southern Saratoga / NYZ050	
Western Albany / NYZ051	
Eastern Albany / NYZ052	
Western Rensselaer / NYZ053	
Eastern Rensselaer / NYZ054	
Western Greene / NYZ058	
Eastern Greene / NYZ059	
Western Columbia / NYZ060	
Eastern Columbia / NYZ061	
Western Ulster / NYZ063	
Eastern Ulster / NYZ064	
Western Dutchess / NYZ065	
Eastern Dutchess / NYZ066	
Northern Fulton / NYZ082	
Southeast Warren / NYZ083	
Southern Washington / NYZ084	

Table 2. WFO ALY’s Products Affected by These Changes

Product Name	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS51 KALY	FWFALY
Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning	WWUS81 KALY	RFWALY

Table 3. WFO Binghamton’s (BGM) Affected Fire Weather Zones

Current Fire Weather Zone/UGC	New Fire Weather Zone/UGC
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Northern Oneida / NYZ009 Yates / NYZ015 Seneca / NYZ016 Southern Cayuga / NYZ017 Onondaga / NYZ018 Steuben / NYZ022 Schuyler / NYZ023 Chemung / NYZ024 Tompkins / NYZ025 Madison / NYZ036 Southern Oneida / NYZ037 Cortland / NYZ044 Chenango / NYZ045 Otsego / NYZ046 Tioga / NYZ055 Broome / NYZ056 Delaware / NYZ057 Sullivan / NYZ062	Leatherstocking / NYZ210
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Table 4. WFO BGM's Products Affected by These Changes

Product Name	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS51 KBGM	FWFBGM
Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning	WWUS81 KBGM	RFWBGM

Table 5. WFO Burlington's (BTV) Affected Fire Weather Zones

Current Fire Weather Zone/UGC	New Fire Weather Zone/UGC
Northern St. Lawrence / NYZ026	St. Lawrence / NYZ202
Northern Franklin / NYZ027	Northern Adirondacks / NYZ203
Eastern Clinton / NYZ028	Adirondack High Peaks / NYZ204
Southeastern St. Lawrence / NYZ029	Champlain Valley (NY) / NYZ205
Southern Franklin / NYZ030	
Western Clinton / NYZ031	
Western Essex / NYZ034	
Eastern Essex / NYZ035	
Southwestern St. Lawrence / NYZ087	

Table 6. WFO BTV's Products Affected by These Changes

Product Name	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS51 KBTV	FWFBTV
Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning	WWUS81 KBTV	RFWBTV

Table 7. WFO Buffalo's (BUF) Affected Fire Weather Zones

Current Fire Weather Zone/UGC	New Fire Weather Zone/UGC
Niagara / NYZ001	Southern Tier / NYZ200
Orleans / NYZ002	Lake Ontario Plains / NYZ201
Monroe / NYZ003	
Wayne / NYZ004	
Northern Cayuga / NYZ005	
Oswego / NYZ006	
Jefferson / NYZ007	
Lewis / NYZ008	
Genesee / NYZ011	
Wyoming / NYZ012	
Livingston / NYZ013	
Ontario / NYZ014	
Chautauqua / NYZ019	
Cattaraugus / NYZ020	
Allegany / NYZ021	
Southern Erie / NYZ085	

Table 8. WFO BUF's Products Affected by These Changes

Product Name	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS51 KBUF	FWFBUF
Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning	WWUS81 KBUF	RFWBUF

Table 9. WFO New York City's (OKX) Affected Fire Weather Zones

Current Fire Weather Zone/UGC	New Fire Weather Zone/UGC
Orange / NYZ067	Lower Hudson Valley / NYZ211
Putnam / NYZ068	New York City / NYZ212
Rockland / NYZ069	Long Island / NYZ213
Northern Westchester / NYZ070	
Southern Westchester / NYZ071	
Southern Westchester / NYZ071	
New York (Manhattan) / NYZ072	
Bronx / NYZ073	
Bronx / NYZ073	
Richmond (Staten Is.) / NYZ074	
Kings (Brooklyn) / NYZ075	
Northwest Suffolk / NYZ078	
Northeast Suffolk / NYZ079	

Southwest Suffolk / NYZ080 Southeast Suffolk / NYZ081 Northern Queens / NYZ176 Northern Nassau / NYZ177 Southern Queens / NYZ178 Southern Nassau / NYZ179	
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Table 10. WFO OKX's Products Affected by These Changes

Product Name	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS51 KOKX	FWFOKX
Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning	WWUS81 KOKX	RFWOKX

If you are affected by these changes, take the appropriate actions so your system(s) recognize the new zone Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) and the new zone alignments.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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