

Statement on Planned Silver Spring power outage

On Saturday, December 20, there will be scheduled maintenance to electrical equipment that, in part, supplies power to the National Weather Service system that enables users to view or download products and services via the web. This proactive maintenance is expected to take nine hours (approximately from 7am to 5pm ET). Failure to proactively address this issue would pose a significant risk to the safety of NOAA personnel and may result in an unplanned outage lasting at least 48 hours.

The National Weather Service has begun taking measures to reduce or eliminate any potential affects during this time by activating contingency plans and planning aggressive monitoring of all systems while the maintenance is performed. Part of the contingency plan involves switching to the backup server, as designed, to provide products and service via the web. The public-facing weather.gov, local NWS office websites and individual city forecast pages are not expected to be impacted. The processing of model runs and their timing will also not be affected. However, the dissemination services provided by weather.noaa.gov, tgftp.nws.noaa.gov and systems hosted by the NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction, such as the websites for National Operational Model Archive and Distribution System (NOMADS), Model Analyses and Guidance (MAG) and ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov for downloading data, and the public websites for the Climate Prediction Center and Environmental Modeling Center, may be slow.

All NWS systems, such as Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) at our forecast offices, will be operating normally and there will be many critical dissemination systems that won't be affected such as NOAAport/Satellite Broadcast Network, Emergency Management Weather Information Network (EMWIN) satellite broadcast, NOAA Weather Wire Service (NWWS), NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). These systems do not rely on internet connectivity to operate or deliver functions.