



Weather Radar Gets Upgrade

Contact:

Kelsey Angle

kelsey.angle@noaa.gov

515-270-4501

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The weather radar (KDMX-Des Moines) used by the Des Moines National Weather Service Forecast Office will be down for approximately five days beginning Friday, October 20th for technicians to install an important technological upgrade. The work on the WSR-88D has been scheduled to minimize any potential impacts to office operations.

During the outage, radar coverage is available from adjacent radar sites including: KOAX Omaha, KDVN Davenport, KFSD Sioux Falls, KARX La Crosse, KMPX Minneapolis and KEAX Pleasant Hill.

A crew will install a new signal processor, which replaces obsolete technology, improves processing speed and data quality, provides added functionality, and supports IT security.

This is the first of four major upgrades, known as service life extension projects, planned in the next five years to replace and refurbish major components of the 20 year old WSR-88Ds and to keep the radars operational into the 2030s. The \$150M investment is being made by the three organizations that use these radars, the NOAA National Weather Service, United States Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration. The other service life extension projects include refurbishing the transmitter, pedestal, and equipment shelters.

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