



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PACIFIC REGION HEADQUARTERS
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17 April 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Weather Service Directives System (NDS) Customers

FROM: Tom Evans
Deputy Director, Pacific Region

SUBJECT: Rescission of Pacific Region Supplement 05-2003, Use of
Parachutes in Radiosonde Trains

The following document is rescinded from the NDS.

NDS Title: Use of Parachutes in Radiosonde Trains

NDS Number: PRS 05-2003 applicable to NWSI 10-1402 Radiosonde Observations

Effective Date: April 14, 2003

Signature Date: April 2, 2003

Certified By: W/PR12 (K. Turner)

Approving Authority: R. J. LaDouce, Director, Pacific Region

Summary: Only two stations in PR (American Samoa and Guam) were still using parachutes (and light sticks) as of March 2025. The new RS41 radiosonde, utilized by all PR upper air (UA) stations, is 61% lighter than previous radiosondes. Similar UA networks under NWS purview (Puerto Rico and the Caribbean Cooperative Hurricane Upper Air Station network) have not used parachutes or light sticks for several years. In alignment with guidance outlined in NWSI 10-1402, PRS 05-2003 can be rescinded.

