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Public Information Statement 20-43
National Weather Service Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD
1100 AM EDT Thu Jun 11 2020

To: Subscribers:
          -NOAA Weather Wire Service
          -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
          -NOAAPort
        Other NWS Partners and NWS Employees

From: Eli Jacks, Chief, Forecast Services Division

Subject: Soliciting comments through August 21, 2020, on proposed major changes to the NWS Watch, Warning, and Advisory (WWA) system.

As the core outcome of the Hazard Simplification (Haz Simp) project, the NWS is collecting comments through August 21, 2020, on the proposed discontinuation of "Advisory, " "Special Weather Statement, " and "Short Term Forecast" headlines. In their place, NWS proposes the use of generic, plain language statements to convey information for lower-level hazardous events that are not expected to reach the "Watch" or "Warning" levels. All current "Watch" and "Warning" products, used to highlight hazards that pose a threat to life and property, would remain unchanged.

The purpose of this proposal is to address extensive social science research, which indicated three main concerns:
  1) Large number of existing WWA products can create confusion for NWS partners and the public
  2) Formats of WWA and other key messaging products are inconsistent
  3) WWA headlines can be misunderstood, leading to unintended protective action or lack thereof.

More details on this proposal, along with a library of examples showing how current messages would transition to plain language statements, can be found in the Product Description Document (PDD):
https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_Proposed_FinalHazSimpProposal_2020.pdf

Comments and feedback on these proposed changes may be directed
to the NWS via an online survey form at:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/publichazsimp

Please send questions on this proposed change by by August 21, 2020, to
hazsimp@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:
https://www.weather.gov/notification/

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