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Public Information Statement 20-53
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
230 PM EDT Tue Jul 7 2020

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
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From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Seeking Public Comment on the Proposed Impact-Based Reformatting of NWS Special Weather Statements and Added Issuance Phenomena through August 6, 2020

NWS is seeking public comment on the proposed reformatting of the Special Weather Statement (SPS) for sub-severe convective thunderstorm events into the impact-based format. This is in addition to an earlier, related Public Information Statement, in which the addition of new Impact-Based Warning tags were proposed in NWS Severe Thunderstorm Warnings (SVR). The link to this Public Information Statement is below:

[https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/PNS20-49 Severe Thunderstorm Warning Categories for IBW.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/PNS20-49%20Severe%20Thunderstorm%20Warning%20Categories%20for%20IBW.pdf)

Additionally, NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) that currently use the sub-headline of "Significant Weather Advisory" would revert to a more generic headline that succinctly describes that a strong storm/line of strong storms will impact a certain number of counties/parishes through the valid time of the statement.

In addition to the proposed reformatting of SPS' for sub-severe convective thunderstorm events, NWS also proposes new, separate SPS issuance for sub-severe landspouts and waterspouts over inland lakes. All proposed changes in this update are pertinent to sub-severe storms only. No changes are being made to the SPS format or issuance criteria for other weather hazards or general usage.

This proposed format change aligns with the operational Impact-Based Warning (IBW) format already in use for Severe Thunderstorm, Tornado, Flash Flood, and Special Marine Warnings and their update statements. This format separates out key information about the threat(s), including the threat type(s), source of the information, and general impacts from the threat(s) into bulleted sections, entitled HAZARD, SOURCE and IMPACT.

This format also reiterates the impact information in a quick and succinct format at the end of the text product using parsable coded tag lines. This update would add those coded tag lines appropriate for sub-severe thunderstorms. Information such as the largest expected or known sub-

severe hail size and the highest expected or known sub-severe wind speed would be provided through these tags.

Examples of the proposed impact-based Special Weather Statements are contained in the document, linked below:

[https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/Sub Severe SPS Examples.pdf](https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/Sub%20Severe%20SPS%20Examples.pdf)

Please provide comments and feedback on these proposed changes by July 30, 2020, via an online survey form at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Impact-BasedReformatting_SPS

Send additional comments/questions on proposed changes Special Weather Statements to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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