

NOUS41 KWBC 171820
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 19-110
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
120 PM EST Tue Dec 17 2019

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

From: Michelle Hawkins
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Implementing Improved Fire Weather Zone Coverage for WFO
Midland/Odessa, TX: Effective March 3, 2020

Effective Tuesday March 3, 2020, at 100 PM Central Daylight Time (CST),
1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS will realign fire weather
zones within the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Midland/Odessa (MAF) area
of responsibility.

If March 3, 2020, is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation
will be postponed to March 10, 2020.

On that date, 9 current fire weather zones will be converted into 17 fire
weather zones. These new zones are being divided to align fire weather
zones to public zones in Texas, optimize the issuance of fire weather
forecast and hazard products for conditions that vary significantly near
the Rio Grande and higher elevations of west Texas and southeast New
Mexico, and meet the specific needs of firefighting partners in southeast
New Mexico.

NMZ114 (Guadalupe Mountains) will be entirely within one new zone:

-Sacramento Foothills and Guadalupe Mountains (NMZ116). This new zone
will include the western portions of the MAF area of responsibility above
4,500 feet as well as adjacent parts of Carlsbad Caverns National Park
below 4,500 feet.

NMZ115 (Southeast Plains) will be divided among four segments:

-Sacramento Foothills and Guadalupe Mountains (NMZ116) including those
areas above 4,500 feet in as well as the adjacent parts of Carlsbad
Caverns National Park
-Chavez Plains (NMZ117) for Chavez County below 4,500 feet
-Eddy Plains (NMZ118) for Eddy County below 4,500 feet excluding Carlsbad
Cavern National Park
-Lea (NMZ119) for Lea County.

TXZ057 (Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor) will be divided among four segments:

- Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains (TXZ271) above 5,000 feet
- Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor (TXZ272) including Culberson County west of the Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains below 5,000 feet
- Eastern Culberson County (TXZ273) east of the Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains below 5,000 feet
- Presidio Valley (TXZ281) including elevations below 4,000 feet near the Rio Grande.

TXZ058 (Reeves County and Upper Trans Pecos) will be divided amongst two segments:

- Eastern Culberson County (TXZ273) east of the Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains
- Reeves County Plains (TXZ274).

TXZ074 (Davis/Apache Mountains Area) will be divided amongst two segments:

- Davis Mountains (TXZ277) above 4,800 feet
- Davis Mountains Foothills (TXZ278) for lower elevations.

TXZ079 (Presidio Valley) will be divided among three segments:

- Chinati Mountains (TXZ275) including elevations above 4,000 feet toward the Chinati Mountains
- Marfa Plateau (TXZ276) for elevations above 4,000 feet in southern Presidio County
- Presidio Valley (TXZ281) including areas near the Rio Grande in Presidio County below 4,000 feet.

TXZ080 (Marfa Plateau) will be divided among four segments:

- Chinati Mountains (TXZ275) above 5,000 feet
- Marfa Plateau (TXZ276) including Presidio County above 4,000 feet (excluding the Chinati and Davis Mountains)
- Davis Mountains (TXZ277) above 4,800 feet
- Presidio Valley (TXZ281) below 4,000 feet.

TXZ081 (Big Bend Area) will be divided among four segments:

- Davis Mountains (TXZ277) above 4,800 feet
- Central Brewster County (TXZ279) including elevations from 3,000 to 4,800 feet (not including the Chisos Basin)
- Chisos Basin (TXZ280) in southern Brewster County above 4,500 feet
- Lower Brewster County (TXZ282) near the Rio Grande below 3,000 feet.

TXZ258 (Guadalupe Mountains) will be divided among four segments:

- Guadalupe Mountains in Texas above 7,000 feet (TXZ270)
- Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains (TXZ271) from 5,000 to 7,000 feet
- Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor (TXZ272) west of the Delaware Mountains and below 5,000 feet
- Eastern Culberson County (TXZ273) east of the Delaware Mountains and below 5,000 feet.

Table 1: Current Fire Weather Zones and Corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) for WFO Midland/Odessa, TX

UGC:	Current Fire Weather Zone Name
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NMZ114:	Guadalupe Mountains
NMZ115:	Southeast Plains
TXZ057:	Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor
TXZ058:	Reeves County and Upper Trans Pecos
TXZ074:	Davis/Apache Mountains Area
TXZ079:	Presidio Valley
TXZ080:	Marfa Plateau
TXZ081:	Big Bend Area
TXZ258:	Guadalupe Mountains

Table 2: Fire Weather Zones and Corresponding UGC for Which WFO Midland/Odessa, TX, Will Issue Forecasts and Warnings Effective March 3, 2020

UGC:	New Fire Weather Zone Name
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NMZ116:	Sacramento Foothills and Guadalupe Mountains
NMZ117:	Chavez Plains
NMZ118:	Eddy Plains
NMZ119:	Lea
TXZ270:	Guadalupe Mountains Above 7,000 Feet
TXZ271:	Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains
TXZ272:	Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor
TXZ273:	Eastern Culberson County
TXZ274:	Reeves County Plains
TXZ275:	Chinati Mountains
TXZ276:	Marfa Plateau
TXZ277:	Davis Mountains
TXZ278:	Davis Mountains Foothills
TXZ279:	Central Brewster County
TXZ280:	Chisos Basin
TXZ281:	Presidio Valley
TXZ282:	Lower Brewster County

Table 3: Primary Cities Included in the New Fire Weather Zones Effective March 3, 2020

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UGC:      Primary Cities Within New Zones
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NMZ116: Carlsbad Caverns
NMZ117: Roswell
NMZ118: Artesia, Carlsbad
NMZ119: Hobbs
TXZ270: Guadalupe Peak
TXZ271: Pine Springs
TXZ272: Van Horn
TXZ273: (no city)
TXZ274: Pecos, Balmorhea
TXZ275: Chinati Peak
TXZ276: Marfa, Valentine
TXZ277: Fort Davis
TXZ278: Alpine, Kent
TXZ279: Marathon, Panther Junction
TXZ280: Chisos Basin
TXZ281: Presidio
TXZ282: Lajitas, Terlingua
    
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Table 4: NWS Products Affected by the WFO Midland/Odessa, TX, Fire Weather Zone Changes Effective March 3, 2020:

PRODUCT NAME	AWIPS ID	WMO HEADING
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FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST	FWFMAF	FNUS54 KMAF
FIRE DANGER STATEMENT	RFDMAF	FNUS64 KMAF
FIRE WEATHER MESSAGE (RED FLAG)	RFWMAF	WWUS84 KMAF

Users of WFO Midland/Odessa products must re-program affected hardware and software to continue correctly processing the above-mentioned products.

Users accessing NWS graphical forecasts must download updated fire weather zone map shapefiles to correctly view fire weather forecasts, statements, watches and warnings for southeast New Mexico and southwest Texas. Updated fire weather zone map shapefiles containing the new fire weather zones are available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>

Graphical images of the current and future fire weather zones listed above are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/media/maf/news/2019/FireWxZoneChangesMAF.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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