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Service Change Notice 19-60
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
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From: Mary Mullusky, Chief
 Water Resources Services Branch

Subject: Implementation of Impact-Based Warnings for Flash Floods:
Effective on or after September 16, 2019

The NWS will begin to implement the reformatting of Flash Flood Warnings (FFW) into Impact-Based Warning (IBW) format on or after September 16, 2019. This consistent, bulleted format will provide easily readable information describing the hazard (Flash Flood), the source of the information (e.g., radar, gauge, trained spotter, emergency manager) and a brief description of the hazard impact.

The FFW IBW messages will include machine-readable tags to characterize the flash flood damage threat, source information, and causative event. All NWS Weather Forecast Offices will transition to issuing FFWs in IBW format by late November 2019.

Currently, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are issued for all FFWs. Once IBW format is fully implemented, WEAs will be limited to only those FFWs with the damage threat tags of "Considerable" or "Catastrophic." A second Service Change Notice will be sent with the exact date of this WEA transition when the date is available.

There will be no change to the information included in the FFW segment header block, including the Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) and Hydrologic VTEC (H-VTEC) strings. The characterization of the flash flood damage threat, source information and causative event, along with examples of FFWs in IBW format, are contained in the Product Description Document (PDD) at the link below:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/IBWforFlashFloods_2019.pdf

For more information, please email:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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