

NOUS41 KWBC 161345
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 20-108
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1045 AM EST Mon Nov 16 2020

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

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

Subject: The Special Avalanche Bulletin (SAB) will become
 authorized for use at additional Weather Forecast
 Offices (WFO) effective December 16, 2020

The NWS conducted a comprehensive review of all NWS dissemination pathways for avalanche information, including a Public Comment period on the use of the SAB. Based upon the feedback received, NWS has approved the SAB for use at additional WFOs effective December 16, 2020.

In the contiguous United States, authorized alerting authorities at some state, federal and local non-profit avalanche centers provide avalanche information in addition to Avalanche Watches and Warnings. NWS offices can convey these messages in SAB text products via NWS dissemination systems and NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). This bulletin can serve to alert users of high avalanche risk in advance, in addition to providing sub-warning avalanche information.

In Alaska, NWS will use the SAB to relay Avalanche Watches and Warnings from authorized alerting authorities at these avalanche centers.

In accordance with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules, the SAB information is not conveyed to the Emergency Alert System (EAS); however, in accordance with state and local EAS plans, Avalanche Watches and Warnings from alerting authorities may be disseminated via NWR Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) and the EAS.

The following WFOs remain authorized to issue SAB products:

WFO	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
Billings	WWUS85 KBYZ	SABBYZ
Boise	WWUS85 KBOI	SABBOI
Boulder	WWUS85 KBOU	SABCO
Las Vegas	WWUS85 KVEF	SABVEF, SABLAS
Missoula	WWUS85 KMSO	SABFCA, SABGPI, SABMSO
Pocatello	WWUS85 KPIH	SABPIH
Portland	WWUS86 KPQR	SABPQR
Reno	WWUS85 KREV	SABREV
Riverton	WWSU85 KRIW	SABRIW
Salt Lake City	WWUS85 KSLC	SABSLC
Seattle	WWUS86 KSEW	SABSEW

The following WFOs will be authorized to issue SAB products for the first time on or after December 16, 2020. Therefore, users may need to update their databases to begin receiving these messages:

WFO	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
Gray	WWUS86 KGYX	SABGYX
Albuquerque	WWUS85 KABQ	SABABQ
Grand Junction	WWUS85 KGJT	SABGJT
Medford	WWUS86 KMFR	SABMFR
Pendleton	WWUS86 KPDT	SABPDT
Spokane	WWUS86 KOTX	SABOTX
Great Falls	WWUS83 KTFX	SABTFX
Anchorage	WWUS85 PAFC	SABAFC
Juneau	WWUS85 PAJK	SABAJK

If you have questions or comments regarding the Special Avalanche Bulletin, please contact:

Michael Muccilli
Winter Weather Program Coordinator
NWS Headquarters
Silver Spring, MD
Michael.Muccilli@noaa.gov

Claudia Bell
Meteorology Program Manager
NWS Western Region Headquarters
Salt Lake City, UT

Claudia.Bell@noaa.gov

David Kochevar
Aviation, Winter, and Space Weather Program Manager
Environmental and Scientific Services Division (ESSD)
NWS Alaska Region Headquarters
Anchorage, AK
David.Kochevar@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

NNNN