

NOUS41 KWBC 311505
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 20-35
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1105 AM EDT Tue Mar 31 2020

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From: Bruce Entwistle
 Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: Operational Implementation of the Helicopter Emergency Medical
Services (HEMS) Tool Enhancements: Effective March 31, 2020

Effective March 31, 2020, at 1900 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC),
enhancements to the HEMS tool, produced by the NWS Aviation Weather Center
(AWC), will transition to operational status.

The HEMS tool, developed at the request of the Federal Aviation
Administration (FAA), is a display that aggregates a number of existing
weather products into a single, quick-glance, automated graphic.

The tool can overlay multiple fields of interest: ceiling, visibility,
flight category, winds, relative humidity, temperature, icing, satellite,
radar (base and composite reflectivity), Graphical AIRman's METeorological
Information (G-AIRMETs), Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMETs),
Meteorological Terminal Aviation Routine Weather Reports (METARs),
Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs), and Pilot Reports (PIREPs).

Additional overlays include navigational aids, airports and heliports for
the entire United States. A zoom feature reveals more detailed
information, and individual layers can be turned on or off independently.

This tool has found a much broader audience including helicopter
operations to oil rigs, forest fire operations, drones and crop dusting.
Low altitude operations are extremely sensitive to changing and/or adverse
weather conditions and need weather information presented quickly and
effectively for pilots who may not be weather experts.

Further enhancements to the HEMS tool include updates to the ceiling and
visibility analysis product to greater data resolution and adding hourly
gridded ceiling and visibility forecasts out to 6 hours.

The HEMS tool is available at:

<https://www.aviationweather.gov/hemst>

The Product Description Document can be found at:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_OplHEMSTool_2020.pdf

For questions regarding the HEMS tool, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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