

NOUS41 KWBC 311505  
PNSWSH

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

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

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](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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