Service Change Notice 21-04
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
240 PM EST Wed Jan 13 2021

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: Changes to Public and Fire Forecast Zones for NWS Weather Forecast Office Houston/Galveston, TX, effective March 30, 2021

On or about Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at 100 PM Central Daylight Time (CDT), 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in League City, TX, (HGX) will change Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zones for portions of coastal Galveston County. After this change, all public and fire forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names indicated below.

If March 30, 2021, is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to April 1, 2021.

The change will split the Galveston Island and Bolivar Peninsula zone (TXZ438) into two zones: Galveston Island (TXZ438) and Bolivar Peninsula (TXZ439).

This split is needed to keep consistency between the forecast zones and National Hurricane Center breakpoints. The change will make tropical storm, hurricane, and storm surge watches and warnings clearer when NWS refers to the Port Bolivar breakpoint. This change will also provide increased flexibility and improved accuracy of forecast, watch, warning, and advisory products for those zones.
Table 1: Current Universal Geographic Codes (UGC): Current Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zone Name
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TXZ438: Galveston Island and Bolivar Peninsula

Table 2: UGC: New Public/Fire Zone Names
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TXZ438: Galveston Island
TXZ439: Bolivar Peninsula

Table 3: Selected cities included in the new Public and Fire Weather Forecast zones.
UGC: Primary cities within New Zones
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TXZ438: Galveston, Jamaica Beach and Tiki Island
TXZ439: Port Bolivar, Crystal Beach, and High Island

Table 4: NWS products affected by the Public and Fire Weather forecast zone changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Name</th>
<th>WMO Heading</th>
<th>AWIPS ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Local Statement</td>
<td>WTUS84</td>
<td>HLSHGX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning</td>
<td>WTNT8X</td>
<td>TCVATX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Hurricane Statement</td>
<td>WTUS84</td>
<td>TCVHGX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Hazard Message</td>
<td>WHUS44</td>
<td>CFWHGX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Weather Forecast</td>
<td>FNUS54</td>
<td>FWFHGX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Weather Message</td>
<td>WWUS84</td>
<td>RFWHGX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone Forecast Product</td>
<td>FPUS54</td>
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<td>Point Forecast Matrices</td>
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<td>Tsunami Message</td>
<td>WEXX20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Information Statement</td>
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<td>Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory</td>
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<td>Flood Watch</td>
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<td>Special Weather Statement</td>
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<td>Winter Weather Message</td>
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<td>Area Forecast Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area Forecast Matrices</td>
<td>FOUS54</td>
<td>AFMHGX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality Alert Message</td>
<td>AEUS74</td>
<td>AQAHGX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

Updated public and zone shapefiles are online at:
https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones
https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:
https://www.weather.gov/hgx/HGX2021ZoneChanges

If you have any questions, please contact:

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