

NOUS41 KWBC 121840  
PNSWSH

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.

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Hurricane Local Statement	WTUS84 KHGX	HLSHGX
Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning	WTNT8X KNHC	TCVATX
Local Hurricane Statement	WTUS84 KHGX	TCVHGX
Coastal Hazard Message	WHUS44 KHGX	CFWHGX
Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS54 KHGX	FWFHGX
Fire Weather Message	WWUS84 KHGX	RFWHGX
Zone Forecast Product	FPUS54 KHGX	ZFPHGX
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS54 KHGX	PFMHGX
Tsunami Message	WEXX20 PAAQ	TSUAT1
Public Information Statement	NOUS44 KHGX	PNSHGX
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/ Advisory	WWUS74 KHGX	NPWHGX
Flood Watch	WGUS64 KHGX	FFAHGX
Special Weather Statement	WWUS84 KHGX	SPSHGX
Winter Weather Message	WWUS44 KHGX	WSWHGX
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS64 KHGX	AFDHGX
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS44 KHGX	HWOHGX
Area Forecast Matrices	FOUS54 KHGX	AFMHGX
Air Quality Alert Message	AEUS74 KHGX	AQAHGX

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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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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