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Service Change Notice 22-02
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
300 PM EST Thu Jan 6 2022

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

From: Kimberly McMahon, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Implementing Improved Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zone
 Coverage for WFO Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX, Effective
 March 22, 2022

Effective on or about Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 3:00 PM Central Daylight Time (CDT), 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS will realign and re-number coastal public and fire weather forecast zones within the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley area of responsibility.

If March 22, 2022 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

Three current zones will be converted into six separate zones. These new zones are being divided to optimize issuance of hazard products for conditions that vary significantly within the coastal and barrier island environment.

TXZ-351 (Coastal Kenedy County) will be divided into 2 segments: Coastal Kenedy County (TXZ-351) and Kenedy Island (TXZ-451).

TXZ-256 (Coastal Willacy County) will be renumbered and divided into 2 segments: Coastal Willacy County (TXZ-354) and Willacy Island (TXZ-454). The zone number TXZ-256 will be retired.

TXZ-257 (Coastal Cameron County) will be renumbered and divided into 2 segments: Coastal Cameron County (TXZ-355) and Cameron Island (TXZ-455). The zone number TXZ-257 will be retired.

Table 1: Current coastal public zones and corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) for WFO Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

UGC: Current Public/Fire Zone Name

TXZ-351: Coastal Kenedy
TXZ-256: Coastal Willacy
TXZ-257: Coastal Cameron

Table 2: Fire/Public Zones and UGC for which WFO Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX, will issue forecasts and warnings effective Mar 22, 2022

UGC: New Public/Fire Zone Name

 TXZ-351: Coastal Kenedy (unchanged)
 TXZ-451: Kenedy Island
 TXZ-354: Coastal Willacy
 TXZ-454: Willacy Island
 TXZ-355: Coastal Cameron
 TXZ-455: Cameron Island

Table 3: Primary cities included in the new public/fire weather forecast zones effective Mar 22, 2022

UGC: Primary cities within New Zones

 TXZ-351: None
 TXZ-451: None
 TXZ-354: Port Mansfield
 TXZ-454: None
 TXZ-355: Port Isabel and Laguna Vista
 TXZ-455: South Padre Island and Boca Chica Beach

Table 4: NWS products affected by the WFO Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX, public and fire weather forecast zone changes effective Mar 22, 2022

PRODUCT NAME -----	AWIPS ID -----	WMO HEADING -----
TROPICAL CYCLONE WATCH/ WARNING	TCVBRO	WTUS84 KBRO
HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT	HLSBRO	WTUS84 KBRO
COASTAL FLOOD WATCH/ WARNING/ADVISORY	CFWBRO	WHUS44 KBRO
FLOOD WATCH	FFABRO	WGUS64 KBRO
NON PRECIPITATION WATCH/ WARNING/ADVISORY	NPWBRO	WWUS74 KBRO
WINTER WEATHER WATCH/ WARNING/ADVISORY	WSWBRO	WWUS44 KBRO
FIRE WEATHER WATCH/RED FLAG WARNING	RFBWRO	WWUS84 KBRO
HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK	HWOBRO	FLUS44 KBRO
HYDROLOGIC OUTLOOK	ESFBRO	FGUS74 KBRO
DROUGHT STATEMENT	DGTBRO	AXUS74 KBRO
PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT	PNSBRO	NOUS44 KBRO
SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT	SPSBRO	WWUS84 KBRO
AREA FORECAST MATRICES	AFMBRO	FOUS54 KBRO
POINT FORECAST MATRICES	PFMBRO	FOUS54 KBRO
TABULAR STATE FORECAST	SFTBRO	FPUS64 KBRO
FIRE WEATHER FORECAST	FWF BRO	FNUS54 KBRO
ZONE FORECAST	ZFPBRO	FPUS54 KBRO
SURF ZONE FORECAST	SRFBRO	FZUS54 KBRO
AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION	AFDBRO	FXUS64 KBRO

Users of WFO Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley products must reprogram affected hardware and software to continue correctly processing the above mentioned products.

Users accessing NWS graphical forecasts must download updated zone map shapefiles to correctly view forecasts for the lower Texas coast. Updated zone map shapefiles containing the new public and fire zones are available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>

Graphical images of the current and future public and fire weather zones listed above are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/bro/2022CoastalZoneSplit>

If you have any questions, please contact:

Mike Buchanan
Meteorologist in Charge
Brownsville, TX
956-504-1432 x222

Or

Melinda Bailey
Public/Marine Meteorologist
NWS Southern Region Headquarters
Fort Worth, TX
817-978-1109 x107

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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