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Public Information Statement 24-66
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
905 AM EDT Wed Oct 16 2024

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

From: George Jungbluth, Director
 Office of Dissemination

Subject: Potential API Gridded Forecast Data Outage from December 22,
2024 through January 1, 2025

The Office of Dissemination (DIS) and the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Central Operations (NCO) are working on a critical bug fix that impacts the dissemination of gridded forecast data via the NWS Application Programming Interface (API) that occurs near the end of the calendar year. We intend to implement this bug fix in time to avoid an outage. In the event that the bug fix cannot be implemented before December 22, gridded forecast data will not be available via the API between December 22, 2024 through January 1, 2025. This public information statement is intended to inform users of this potential outage and offer alternatives to help reduce the impact to customers.

If realized, this problem will result in errors when users make requests to the API for gridded forecast data. Below are examples of the types of requests that will fail:

<https://api.weather.gov/gridpoints/PQR/107,99/forecast>
<https://api.weather.gov/gridpoints/SGX/59,65/forecast/hourly>

The response returned to the user will be similar to this:

```
{  
  "correlationId": "eb6a80a",  
  "title": "Service Unavailable",  
  "type": "https://api.weather.gov/problems/ServiceUnavailable",  
  "status": 503,  
  "detail": "An upstream data source is temporarily unavailable.  
Please try again later.",  
  "instance": "https://api.weather.gov/requests/eb6a80a"  
}
```

The following alternatives may help users reduce the impact of this data outage.

Using the forecast.weather.gov Web Service:

The forecast for a location is available via a single call to forecast.weather.gov using the latitude and longitude coordinates for that location:

[https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=\\$LAT&lon=\\$LON&FcstType=\\$FORMAT](https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=$LAT&lon=$LON&FcstType=$FORMAT)

where \$LAT and \$LON are in decimal degrees and \$FORMAT is either DWML or JSON.

Example:

<https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=39.5&lon=-94.5&FcstType=dwml>

Using the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) Web Service:

The forecast for a location is available in various formats via requests to web services that deliver NDFD data. Details on what services are available and how to use them can be found at:

<https://vlab.noaa.gov/web/mdl/ndfd>.

We will send a follow up notice on or about November 22, 2024, to provide an update.

To report problems or operational issues with the API or forecast.weather.gov applications, please contact:

NCEP Central Operations Tech Control

nco.ops@noaa.gov

To report problems or issues related with the NDFD web services, please contact:

nws.ndfd@noaa.gov

Please send all other comments and questions to:

nws.webfeedback@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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