Service Change Notice 23-119
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
900 AM EST Thu Dec 21 2023

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

From: Stephen Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
       Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Changes to Fire Forecast Zones for WFO Fairbanks, AK: Effective March 5, 2024

Effective Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 11:00 AM Alaska Standard Time (AKST), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Fairbanks, Alaska (AFG) will change Fire Weather Forecast Zones throughout its County Warning Area (CWA). After this change, all forecasts and related products will use the zone numbers and names shown in Table 2 below.

If March 5, 2024 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 6, 2024 at 2100 UTC.

In September 2023, WFO Fairbanks made significant changes to its public and fire weather zones. During these changes, it was discovered that some additional, minor adjustments were needed to shapefiles for two fire weather zones in interior Alaska as they conflicted with the numbering of our public zones. To eliminate this issue, WFO AFG will be changing the numbering of its fire weather zones to start with a 9 digit in March 2024. Changes will also be made to shapefiles within NWS systems to alleviate the issue. The only noticeable change will be to the first digit of the fire weather zones. All other information including zone boundaries will remain unchanged.

The new zones are listed in Table 2. Although all zone numbers are changing, all zones are retaining the same name due to minor changes to only two zones. In Alaska, all Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) use the UGC-Zone (UGC-Z) format.

Table 1. Universal Geographic Code (UGC): Current Fire Forecast Zone Names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UGC-Zone</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AKZ801</td>
<td>Western Arctic Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKZ802</td>
<td>Northwest Arctic Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKZ803</td>
<td>Northern Arctic Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKZ804</td>
<td>Central Beaufort Sea Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKZ805</td>
<td>Eastern Beaufort Sea Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKZ806</td>
<td>Western Arctic Plains</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AKZ807: Howard Pass and the Delong Mountains
AKZ808: Central Arctic Plains
AKZ809: Central Brooks Range
AKZ810: Romanzof Mountains
AKZ811: South Slopes of the Eastern Brooks Range
AKZ812: South Slopes of the Central Brooks Range
AKZ813: South Slopes of the Western Brooks Range
AKZ814: Noatak Valley
AKZ815: Kivalina and Red Dog Dock
AKZ816: Lower Kobuk Valley
AKZ817: Baldwin Peninsula
AKZ818: Northern Seward Peninsula
AKZ819: Upper Kobuk Valleys
AKZ820: Shishmaref
AKZ821: Bering Strait Coast
AKZ822: Southern Seward Peninsula Coast
AKZ823: Interior Seward Peninsula
AKZ824: Eastern Norton Sound and Nulato Hills
AKZ825: Yukon Delta Coast
AKZ826: Lower Yukon River
AKZ827: St. Lawrence Island
AKZ828: Lower Koyukuk Valley
AKZ829: Middle Yukon Valley
AKZ830: Lower Yukon and Innoko Valleys
AKZ831: Upper Koyukuk Valley
AKZ832: Dalton Highway Summits
AKZ833: Yukon Flats
AKZ834: White Mountains and High Terrain South of the Yukon River
AKZ835: Fortymile Country
AKZ836: Upper Tanana Valley
AKZ837: Delta Junction
AKZ838: Upper Chena River Valley
AKZ839: Tanana Flats
AKZ840: Eielson Air Force Base and Salcha
AKZ841: Goldstream Valley and Nenana Hills
AKZ842: Chatanika River Valley
AKZ843: Two Rivers
AKZ844: Fairbanks Metro Area
AKZ845: Nenana
AKZ846: Central Interior
AKZ847: Northern Denali Borough
AKZ848: Southern Denali Borough
AKZ849: Eastern Alaska Range North of Trims Camp
AKZ850: Eastern Alaska Range South of Trims Camp
AKZ851: North Slopes of the Western Alaska Range
AKZ852: Upper Kuskokwim Valley

Table 2. UGC: New Fire Forecast Zone Names

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AKZ901: Western Arctic Coast
AKZ902: Northwest Arctic Coast
AKZ903: Northern Arctic Coast
AKZ904: Central Beaufort Sea Coast
AKZ905: Eastern Beaufort Sea Coast
AKZ906: Western Arctic Plains
AKZ907: Howard Pass and the Delong Mountains
AKZ908: Central Arctic Plains
AKZ909: Central Brooks Range
AKZ910: Romanzof Mountains
AKZ911: South Slopes of the Eastern Brooks Range
AKZ912: South Slopes of the Central Brooks Range
AKZ913: South Slopes of the Western Brooks Range
AKZ914: Noatak Valley
AKZ915: Kivalina and Red Dog Dock
AKZ916: Lower Kobuk Valley
AKZ917: Baldwin Peninsula
AKZ918: Northern Seward Peninsula
AKZ919: Upper Kobuk Valleys
AKZ920: Shishmaref
AKZ921: Bering Strait Coast
AKZ922: Southern Seward Peninsula Coast
AKZ923: Interior Seward Peninsula
AKZ924: Eastern Norton Sound and Nulato Hills
AKZ925: Yukon Delta Coast
AKZ926: Lower Yukon River
AKZ927: St. Lawrence Island
AKZ928: Lower Koyukuk Valley
AKZ929: Middle Yukon Valley
AKZ930: Lower Yukon and Innoko Valleys
AKZ931: Upper Koyukuk Valley
AKZ932: Dalton Highway Summits
AKZ933: Yukon Flats
AKZ934: White Mountains and High Terrain South of the Yukon River
AKZ935: Fortymile Country
AKZ936: Upper Tanana Valley
AKZ937: Delta Junction
AKZ938: Upper Chena River Valley
AKZ939: Tanana Flats
AKZ940: Eielson Air Force Base and Salcha
AKZ941: Goldstream Valley and Nenana Hills
AKZ942: Chatanika River Valley
AKZ943: Two Rivers
AKZ944: Fairbanks Metro Area
AKZ945: Nenana
AKZ946: Central Interior
AKZ947: Northern Denali Borough
AKZ948: Southern Denali Borough
AKZ949: Eastern Alaska Range North of Trims Camp
AKZ950: Eastern Alaska Range South of Trims Camp
AKZ951: North Slopes of the Western Alaska Range
AKZ952: Upper Kuskokwim Valley
Table 3. NWS Products Affected by the WFO Fairbanks, AK 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>Fire Weather Forecast</td>
<td>FNAK53 PAFG</td>
<td>FWFAFG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Weather Forecast</td>
<td>FNAK51 PAFG</td>
<td>FWFNSB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Weather Forecast</td>
<td>FNAK52 PAFG</td>
<td>FWFWCZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Flag Warning</td>
<td>WWAK63 PAFG</td>
<td>RFWAFG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Flag Warning</td>
<td>WWAK61 PAFG</td>
<td>RFWNSB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Flag Warning</td>
<td>WWAK62 PAFG</td>
<td>RFWWCZ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these fire weather forecast zone changes.

NWR users with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) receivers do not need to make any changes to their current SAME location code or to the transmitter they have been monitoring to continue receiving warning notifications for their county equivalent.

Preliminary shapefiles for fire weather forecast zones are available online at:

https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones
https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones
https://www.weather.gov/gis/Counties
https://www.weather.gov/gis/MarineZones

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on February 23, 2024.

Changes are also detailed online at:

https://www.weather.gov/arh/AFGfirezones

For more information, please contact:

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907-458-3712

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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