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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 23-44 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1100 AM EDT Tue Jul 18 2023

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

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

Subject: Updated: Implementation of Consolidated NWS Public Weather
Program Products Related to Cold at a Date to be Determined

Updated to announce delay in implementation of changes to NWS Public
Weather Program products related to cold and correct links to past public
survey announcements. The changes described below will be implemented at
a date to be determined.

On a date to be determined, the NWS will implement the following changes
to Public Program Text Products:

- Consolidate the following text products:
- * Hard Freeze Watch to Freeze Watch
- * Hard Freeze Warning to Freeze Warning
- * Wind Chill Watch and Extreme Cold Watch consolidated with Extreme Cold
Watch
- * Wind Chill Warning and Extreme Cold Warning consolidated with Extreme
Cold Warning
- * Transition of "Wind Chill Advisory" to "Cold Weather Advisory."

Freeze Watch/Warning and Extreme Cold Watch/Warning are contained in the
Non-Precipitation Weather Message (NPW). For Freeze Warning and Watch,
there will be the option to use the wording "Hard Freeze" within the body
of the product (e.g. in the "What" bullet of the text).

The Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) phenomena code "HZ" for Hard Freeze Watch
and Warning will be decommissioned and the Freeze Watch and Warning VTEC
phenomena code "FZ" will remain. VTEC enables weather providers and
vendors to automate and tailor the product stream delivered to their
clients.

The Wind Chill Warning, Watch and Advisory currently contained within the
Winter Weather Message (WSW) product will be consolidated into the Extreme
Cold Warning, Extreme Cold Watch and Cold Weather Advisory in the Non-
Precipitation Weather (NPW) product. The VTEC phenomena code "WC" will be
retired. Extreme Cold Watch and Warning will retain its VTEC of "EC" and
Cold Weather Advisory will replace Wind Chill Advisory with the VTEC of
"CW".

The consolidation and reformatting changes are based on a public survey referenced in the notices below:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/pns21-67_frost_freeze_headlines.pdf

and

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns18-11npw_hazsimp.pdf

The results indicated that a majority of users surveyed favored the changes as proposed. A listing of the changes, along with examples, are contained in the Product Description Document (PDD) for Freeze products and extreme cold below:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_Frost_Freeze_Consolidation.pdf

and

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_NPW_HazSimp.pdf

Presentations and additional information on these upcoming proposed changes and plans for the NWS Hazard Simplification (Haz Simp) Project may be accessed at the Haz Simp Website:

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

For more information, please email: hazsimp@noaa.gov.

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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