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

Subject: Updated: Implementation of Consolidated NWS Public Weather Program Products Related to Cold: Effective on or about October 1, 2024

Updated to announce new implementation date of changes to NWS Public Weather Program products related to cold, update links, and to include impacts to NWS Watch, Warning, Advisory product associated colors.

On or about October 1, 2024, 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 validity of the text contained in the message is determined by the period defined in the message.
These changes will result in the following changes to NWS Warning, Watch, and Advisory map for the aforementioned products:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Name</th>
<th>VTEC</th>
<th>Current Color</th>
<th>New Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extreme Cold Warning</td>
<td>EC.W</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme Cold Watch</td>
<td>EC.A</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Cadetblue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Weather Advisory</td>
<td>CW.Y</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Paleturquoise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeze Warning</td>
<td>FZ.W</td>
<td>Darkslateblue</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeze Watch</td>
<td>FZ.A</td>
<td>Cyan</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on all NWS Warning, Watch, Advisory priorities and colors please see https://www.weather.gov/help-map.

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


and


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://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/a98307191bf62110135feb9ce54bcb75

and

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/2af4d8b51bf6a110b13387bae54bcb94

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/