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Service Change Notice 24-114
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1050 AM EST Mon Dec 23 2024

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

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

Subject: Changes to Public and Fire Weather Zones for NWS Jacksonville,
FL: Effective March 18, 2025

Effective Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 5:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT),
2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in
Jacksonville, FL (WFO JAX) will complete changes to Public and Fire
Weather Forecast Zones encompassing St. Johns County, Florida. After
this change, all forecasts and related products will use the new zone
numbers and names shown in Table 2 below.

If March 18, 2025 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation
will be postponed to March 19, 2025 at 2100 UTC.

These changes are intended to provide increased flexibility and improved
accuracy of forecast, watch, warning, and advisory products.

The existing zones are being divided for improvements in warnings,
watches, advisories, and forecasts for coastal flooding and storm surge
events, as well as to better target storm surge warning dissemination
through the Wireless Emergency Alert system. The new zone divisions
roughly account for storm surge threats posed by most category 2 and
lower hurricanes along with feedback provided by local emergency
officials for the areas they use to describe local evacuations.

Table 1: Current Public Zones and Corresponding Universal Geographic
Codes (UGCs) for WFO Jacksonville:

UGC: Current Public Zone Name

FLZ033: Inland St. Johns County
FLZ133: Coastal St. Johns County

Table 2: Public Zones and corresponding UGC for which WFO Jacksonville Will Issue Forecasts and Warnings Effective March 18, 2025:

UGC: New Public Zone Name

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FLZ233: Northeast Coastal St. Johns County
FLZ333: Southeast Coastal St. Johns County
FLZ433: Northern Inland St. Johns County
FLZ533: Southern Inland St. Johns County
FLZ633: Western St. Johns County
  
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Table 3: NWS Products Affected by the WFO Jacksonville, FL Public and Fire Weather Zone Changes Effective March 18, 2025:

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Hurricane Local Statement	WTUS82 KJAX	HLSJAX
Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning	WTNT81 KNHC	TCVAT1-5
Coastal Hazard Message	WHUS42 KJAX	CFWJAX
Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS52 KJAX	FWFJAX
Fire Weather Message	WWUS82 KJAX	RFWJAX
Fire Danger Statement	FNUS62 KJAX	RFDJAX
Zone Forecast	FPUS52 KJAX	ZFPJAX
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS52 KJAX	PFMJAX
Tabular State Forecast	FPUS62 KJAX	SFTJAX
Tsunami Message	WEXX20 PAAQ	TSUAT1
Public Information Statement	NOUS42 KJAX	PNSJAX
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWUS72 KJAX	NPWJAX
Flood Watch	WGUS62 KJAX	FFAJAX
Flood Warning	WGUS42 KJAX	FLWJAX
Flood Statement	WGUS82 KJAX	FLSJAX
Special Weather Statement	WWUS82 KJAX	SPSJAX
Winter Weather Message	WWUS42 KJAX	WSWJAX
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS62 KJAX	AFDJAX
Hydrologic Outlook	FGUS72 KJAX	ESFJAX
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS42 KJAX	HWOJAX
Surf Zone Forecast	FZUS52 KJAX	SRFJAX
Air Quality Alert	AEUS72 KJAX	AQAJAX

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

Updated public and fire zone shapefiles are online at:

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

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on February 28, 2025.

A written and graphical depiction of this change is available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/jax/2025PublicZoneChange>

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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