

NOUS41 KWBC 271430
PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 25-08
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
930 AM EST Thu Feb 27 2025

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

From: Mike Hopkins, Director
 Surface and Upper Air Division
 Office of Observations

Subject: Suspension of Radiosonde Observations at Kotzebue, Alaska,
Effective Immediately

Effective Immediately and until further notice, the National Weather Service (NWS) is indefinitely suspending weather balloon launches at Kotzebue, Alaska, due to a lack of WFO staffing. The Kotzebue station has NWS Upper Air site identifier 'PAOT' and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Upper Air site number 70133. The NWS launches weather balloons from 100 upper air sites throughout the United States and the Caribbean.

In the near term, the affected site will benefit from data collected by balloons launched from neighboring upper air sites, polar and geostationary satellite soundings, and from instruments on aircraft flying into nearby airports.

Radiosondes are instruments attached to weather balloons that send back a wide range of upper atmospheric data to support weather forecasts, including temperature, dew point, relative humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed, and wind direction. Radiosondes are one of many technologies that collect earth observation data for weather modeling and forecasting. Data is also collected from instruments aboard commercial aircraft, surface observing stations, satellites, radars, and buoys.

If you or your organization have any questions about these changes, please contact:

Susan Buchanan
Director of Public Affairs
National Weather Service
Phone: 202-834-5235
E-mail: susan.buchanan@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

NNNN