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Public Information Statement 25-11
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
430 PM EST Fri Mar 7, 2025

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

Subject: Intermittent Suspension of Radiosonde Observations at Albany, New York, and Gray, Maine, Effective Immediately.

Effective immediately, and until further notice, the National Weather Service (NWS) is temporarily suspending some weather balloon launches in Albany, New York, and Gray, Maine, due to a lack of Weather Forecast Office (WFO) staffing. Offices will perform twice daily launches when staffing permits. The Albany, NY, station has NWS Upper Air site identifier 'KALY' and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Upper Air site number 72518. The Gray, ME, station has NWS Upper Air site identifier 'KGYX' and WMO Upper Air site number 74389. The NWS launches weather balloons twice daily from 100 upper air sites throughout the United States and the Caribbean.

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 are used to 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:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:
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