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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 25-18
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
435 PM EDT Thu March 20, 2025

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

Subject: Reduction of Radiosonde Observations (RAOB) to One Flight Per Day at Aberdeen, SD, Gaylord, MI, Grand Junction, CO, Green Bay, WI, North Platte, NE, and Riverton, WY, Effective March 20, 2025.

Effective immediately, and until further notice, the National Weather Service (NWS) is temporarily reducing weather balloon launches to one flight per day at Aberdeen, SD, Grand Junction, CO, Green Bay, WI, Gaylord, MI, North Platte, NE, and Riverton, WY, due to a lack of Weather Forecast Office (WFO) staffing. Offices will perform special observations as needed. The stations have the following NWS Upper Air site identifier and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Upper Air site number:

UPPER AIR SITE	WMO ID	NWS ID	RAOB Suspended
Aberdeen, SD	72659	KABR	12Z
Grand Junction, CO	72476	KGJT	12Z
Green Bay, WI	72645	KGRB	12Z
Gaylord, MI	72634	KAPX	00Z
North Platte, NE	72562	KLBF	00Z
Riverton, WY	72672	KRIW	12Z

The NWS launches weather balloons twice daily from 100 upper air sites throughout the United States, Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin.

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

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