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Public Information Statement 25-48
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Mary Mullusky, Chief
 Forecast Services Division

Subject: Use of singular Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) for NWS Freezing
Spray Effective July 17, 2025

Effective Thursday, July 17, 2025, the National Weather Service (NWS) removed an errant Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) code "ZY" from the operational suite of VTEC codes. This will ensure that the only VTEC phenomenon code associated with freezing spray watch, warning, and advisory is the code "UP."

The July 17th update to CAPHandler removed the errant VTEC code "ZY". The code "ZY" was already obsolete; however, NWS partners and users should ensure that their systems only use the VTEC code "UP" for the VTEC events listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: VTEC Phenomenon Codes for NWS Freezing Spray VTEC Events

VTEC Phenomenon Code	VTEC Event
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UP	Freezing Spray Advisory
UP	Heavy Freezing Spray Watch
UP	Heavy Freezing Spray Warning

NWS Instruction 10-1703 will also be updated to reflect the removal of the errant "ZY" VTEC phenomena code and the term "Heavy Freezing Spray Advisory," shown in Table 2, which is also not in use.

Table 2: Errant VTEC Phenomenon Code to be removed:

VTEC Phenomenon Code	VTEC Event
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ZY	Heavy Freezing Spray Advisory

More information about VTEC codes can be found at
https://www.weather.gov/media/vtec/VTEC_explanation_ver9.pdf

If you have any questions concerning this change, please
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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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