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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 25-100 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
535 PM EST Thu Feb 26 2026

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

From: Mary Mullusky, Chief
 Operations Services Division

Subject: Updated: Changes to Public and Fire Forecast Zones for WFO
Tulsa, OK effective April 16, 2026

Updated to change the implementation date from March 3, 2026 to April 16, 2026 and final versions of the shapefiles will be available on March 24, 2026.

Effective on Thu, April 16, 2026, at 3:00 PM Central Standard Time (CST), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Tulsa, OK (TSA) will change Public and Fire Forecast Zones encompassing Le Flore, Osage, Sequoyah Counties in eastern Oklahoma and Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties in western Arkansas. Osage County is located immediately northwest of Tulsa and reaches to the Kansas border. Sequoyah and Le Flore Counties are located in eastern Oklahoma adjacent to the Arkansas border. Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties are located in west-central Arkansas in the greater Fort Smith area. After this change, all forecasts and related products will use the zone numbers and names shown in Table 2 below.

If April 16, 2026 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to April 20, 2026 at 2100 UTC.

These changes will result in more geographically precise forecast, watch and warning products and will enhance web-based graphical product consistency and appearance. Both Osage County and Le Flore County are large. Dividing these counties will allow for more specific hazard information that avoids including communities needlessly in some weather and water alerts. Complex terrain in Le Flore, Sequoyah, Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties can cause significant differences in impactful conditions.

Six current zones will be converted into 15 separate zones. The new zones in Sequoyah, Le Flore, Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties were mapped to the terrain that varies approximately 1800 feet from the Arkansas River Valley to nearby higher elevations. The new zones in Osage County, and to some extent Le Flore County, were created to focus

important weather and water hazard messages to areas of expected impacts. The new zones are listed in Table 2.

Table 1. Universal Geographic Codes (UGC):
Current Public/Fire Forecast Zone Name

OKZ054: Osage County
OKZ072: Sequoyah County
OKZ076: Le Flore County
ARZ019: Crawford County
ARZ020: Franklin County
ARZ029: Sebastian County

Table 2. Universal Geographic Codes (UGC):
New Public/Fire Forecast Zone Name

OKZ154: Western Osage County
OKZ254: Northeast Osage County
OKZ354: Southeast Osage County
OKZ172: Northern Sequoyah County
OKZ272: Central and Southern Sequoyah County
OKZ176: Northern Le Flore County
OKZ276: Central Le Flore County
OKZ376: Southern Le Flore County
ARZ119: Northern Crawford County
ARZ219: Southern Crawford County
ARZ120: Northern Franklin County
ARZ220: Central and Southern Franklin County
ARZ129: Northern and Central Sebastian County
ARZ229: Southern Sebastian County

Table 3. NWS products affected by the WFO Tulsa, OK
Public/Fire Weather forecast zone changes are listed below.

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Air Quality Alert	AEUS74 KTSA	AQATSA
Area Forecast Matrices	FOUS54 KTSA	AFMTSA
Zone Forecast	FPUS54 KTSA	ZFPTSA
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS54 KTSA	PFMTSA
Tabular State Forecast	FPUS64 KTSA	SFTTSA
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS64 KTSA	AFDTSA
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS44 KTSA	HWOTSA
Special Weather Statement	WWUS84 KTSA	SPSTSA
Public Information Statement	NOUS44 KTSA	PNSTSA
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/ Advisory	WWUS74 KTSA	NPWTSA
Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS54 KTSA	FWFTSA
Fire Weather Message	WWUS84 KTSA	RFWTSA
Fire Danger Statement	FNUS64 KTSA	RFDTSA
Flood Watch	WGUS64 KTSA	FFATSA
Hydrologic Outlook	FGUS74 KTSA	ESFTSA
Winter Weather Message	WWUS44 KTSA	WSWTSA

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these weather forecast zone changes.

Preliminary shapefiles for public/fire weather forecast zones are available online at:

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

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

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/Counties>

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on March 24, 2026.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

https://www.weather.gov/tsa/tsa_proposed_zone_changes

For more information, please contact:

Ed Calianese
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
NWS Tulsa, OK
ed.calianese@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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