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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 25-94 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
440 PM EST Thu Feb 26 2026

To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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From: Mary Mullusky, Chief
 Operations Services Division

Subject: Updated: Changes to Public, Marine and Fire Weather Forecast
Zones for WFO Anchorage, AK 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 12:00 pm Alaska Standard Time
(AKDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast
Office (WFO) in Anchorage, Alaska (AFC) will implement minor refinements
to Public, Marine and Fire Weather Forecast Zones boundaries. Due to the
limited spatial extent of these changes, zones will not change numbers or
names (and there is only one new marine zone created). Specifics are
shown in Tables 2, 4 and 5 below.

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

Minor changes will be made to the Eastern Aleutian Islands and Susitna
Valley public (and fire weather) zones. Susitna Valley changes will
better reflect forecasts during flooding events. No new zone names or
numbers will result. Changes to the Aleutian Public Zones are below in
Tables 2 and 3; aside from reflecting a naming convention preferred by
the affected communities, Akutan will now be included in zone AKZ781,
corresponding to the correct Borough boundary:

Table 1: UGC-Z: Current Public Zone Name of Impacted Zones

- AKZ781: Southern Alaska Peninsula
AKZ785: Eastern Aleutians
AKZ787: Central Aleutians
AKZ791: Western Aleutians
AKZ761: Central Alaska Peninsula
AKZ773: Chignik

Table 2: UGC-Z: New Public Zone Name of Impacted Zones

- AKZ781: Aleutians East Borough

AKZ785: Unalaska and Nikolski
 AKZ787: Atka and Adak
 AKZ791: Shemya and Attu Islands
 AKZ761: Southern Alaska Peninsula
 AKZ773: Chignik and Perryville

Minor adjustments will be made to Marine Zones along the Aleutian Islands to better reflect marine zone forecasts in the area of Unimak Pass. It should be noted zone numbers and names in Table 3 are not changing. Additionally, one new marine zone will be created, see Table 4. Details are below:

Table 3: UGC-Z: Impacted Marine Zone Name

PKZ770-774 were contracted, while AKZ755 and 759 were extended.
 PKZ770: Cape Sarichef to Nikoski Bering Side out to 15 NM
 PKZ772: Cape Sarichef to Nikoski Bering Side from 15 to 85 NM
 PKZ773: Cape Sarichef to Nikoski Pacific Side out to 15 NM
 PKZ774: Cape Sarichef to Nikoski Pacific Side from 15 to 85 NM
 PKZ755: Cape Tolstoi to Cape Sarichef 15 to 100 NM
 PKZ759: Nelson Lagoon to Cape Sarichef from 15 to 70 NM

Table 4: UGC-Z: New Marine Zone Name

PKZ768: Unimak Pass

Fire Weather Zones will be adjusted on the Kenai Peninsula near the area of Skilak Lake to better differentiate fire weather conditions in areas west of the Kenai Mountains. Details below:

Table 5: UGC-Z: Impacted Fire Weather Forecast Zone Name

AKZ723: Northwest Kenai Peninsula
 AKZ724: Skilak Lake / Eastern Sterling Highway

Table 6: UGC-Z: New Fire Weather Zone Name of Impacted Zones

AKZ733: Northwest Kenai Peninsula
 AKZ734: Skilak Lake / Eastern Sterling Highway

These changes will improve forecast, watch, warning, and advisory services to the public, including the "point and click" forecast.

Table 6: NWS products affected by the WFO Anchorage zone changes are listed below.

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Area Forecast Discussion	FXAK68	PAFC AFDAFC
Avalanche Weather Guidance	FWAK48	PAFC AVGAFC
Special Avalanche Bulletin	WWAK88	PAFC SABAFc

Coastal Flood Watch/Warning/Statement	WHAK42	PAFC	CFWALU
Special Weather Statement	WWAK82	PAFC	SPSALU
Public Information Statement	NOAK48	PAFC	PNSAFC
Zone Forecast	FPAK52	PAFC	ZFPALU
Winter Weather Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWAK42	PAFC	WSWALU
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWAK72	PAFC	NPWALU
Fire Weather Forecast	FNAK51	PAFC	FWFAER
Red Flag Warning	WWAK61	PAFC	RFWAER
Tsunami Warning	WEPA41	PAAQ	TSUWCA
Flood/Flash Flood Watch	WGAK68	PAFC	FFAAFC
Flood Warning	WGAK58	PAFC	FLWAFC
Flash Flood Warning	WGAK58	PAFC	FFWAFC
Flood Statement	WGAK88	PAFC	FLSAFC
Flood Potential Outlook	FGAK78	PAFC	ESFAFC
Point Forecast Matrix	FOAK52	PAFC	PFMALU
Coastal Waters Forecast	FZAK52	PAFC	CWFALU
Special Marine Warning	WHAK58	PAFC	SMWAFC
Marine Weather Statement	FZAK78	PAFC	MWSAFC

Preliminary shapefiles for public, marine, and fire weather forecast zones and County Warning Area boundaries are available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/MarineZones>
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/CWABounds>

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

Changes are also detailed online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/afc/NWSAnchorageLandandMarineBasedForecastChanges>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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