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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 25-99 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
525 PM EST Thu Feb 26 2026

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

From: Mary Mullusky, Chief
 Operations Services Division

Subject: Updated: Changes to Public and Marine Weather Zones for NWS
Weather Forecast Office New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA, 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 Slidell, Louisiana (LIX) will
change Public, Fire, and Marine Weather Forecast Zones encompassing
Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Charles, Jefferson, and Plaquemines Parishes
in southeast Louisiana, and adjacent coastal waters. After this change,
all public, fire and marine forecasts and related products will use the
new 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 are intended to provide increased flexibility and improved
accuracy of forecast, watch, warning, and advisory products in the
public, fire, and marine weather programs. Thirteen existing zones are
being reconfigured into 19 separate zones to optimize issuance of land
and marine hazard products across coastal southeast Louisiana, and to
better differentiate between areas inside and outside of the Hurricane
and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System levees in St. Charles Parish.

Table 1: Current public, fire and marine zones and corresponding
Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) for WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge

UGC: Current Zone Name

LAZ069: Lower Plaquemines Parish
LAZ088: Lower Jefferson Parish
LAZ068: Coastal Jefferson Parish
LAZ059: Upper Lafourche Parish
LAZ067: Lower Lafourche Parish

LAZ065: Upper Terrebonne Parish
 LAZ066: Lower Terrebonne Parish
 LAZ060: St. Charles Parish
 GMZ530: Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas
 GMZ538: Breton Sound
 GMZ550: Coastal waters from Port Fourchon LA to Lower
 Atchafalaya River LA out 20 nm
 GMZ552: Coastal waters from the Southwest Pass of the
 Mississippi River to Port Fourchon Louisiana out 20 NM
 GMZ555: Coastal Waters from Boothville LA to Southwest Pass of
 the Mississippi River out 20 nm

Table 2: New public, fire and marine zones and corresponding UGC for which WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge will issue forecasts and warnings

UGC: New Public Zone Name

 LAZ091: Lower Plaquemines Parish
 LAZ092: Central Jefferson Parish
 LAZ093: Coastal Jefferson Parish
 LAZ094: Upper Lafourche Parish
 LAZ095: Lower Lafourche Parish
 LAZ096: Upper Terrebonne Parish
 LAZ097: Lower Terrebonne Parish
 LAZ098: Upper St. Charles Parish
 LAZ099: Central St. Charles Parish
 LAZ100: Lower St. Charles Parish
 GMZ529: Lake Maurepas
 GMZ531: Lake Pontchartrain
 GMZ533: Lake Salvador and Lake Cataouatche
 GMZ535: Breton Sound
 GMZ541: Terrebonne Bay
 GMZ551: Coastal waters from Port Fourchon LA to Lower
 Atchafalaya River LA out 20 NM
 GMZ543: Barataria Bay
 GMZ553: Coastal waters from the Southwest Pass of the
 Mississippi River to Port Fourchon LA out 20 NM
 GMZ554: Coastal waters from Boothville LA to Southwest Pass of
 the Mississippi River out 20 NM

Table 3: NWS products affected by the WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA, public, marine, and fire weather zone changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Air Quality Alert	AEUS74 KLIX	AQALIX
Zone Forecast	FPUS54 KLIX	ZFPLIX
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS54 KLIX	PFMLIX
Tabular State Forecast	FPUS64 KLIX	SFTLIX
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS64 KLIX	AFDLIX
Special Weather Statement	WWUS84 KLIX	SPSLIX
Public Information Statement	NOUS44 KLIX	PNSLIX
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/ Advisory	WWUS74 KLIX	NPWLIX

Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning	WTNT81 KNHC	TCVAT1-5
Local Tropical Watch/Warning	WTUS84 KLIX	TCVLIX
Hurricane Local Statement	WTUS84 KLIX	HLSLIX
Coastal Hazard Message	WHUS44 KLIX	CFWLIX
Flood Watch	WGUS64 KLIX	FFALIX
Hydrologic Outlook	FGUS72 KLIX	ESFLIX
Winter Weather Message	WWUS44 KLIX	WSWLIX
Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS54 KLIX	FWFLIX
Fire Weather Message	WWUS84 KLIX	RFWLIX
Coastal Waters Forecast	FZUS54 KLIX	CWFLIX
Marine Weather Message	WHUS74 KLIX	MWWLIX
Special Marine Warning	WHUS54 KLIX	SMWLIX
Marine Weather Statement	FZUS74 KLIX	MWSLIX
Watch County Notification	WWUS64 KLIX	WCNLIX

For additional details regarding the changes above, please refer to this webpage:

www.weather.gov/lix/forecastzonechanges

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

Updated zone shapefiles are online at:

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

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

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

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

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

If you have any questions, please contact:

Mike Buchanan
 Meteorologist-in-Charge
 Slidell, LA
mike.buchanan@noaa.gov
 985-649-0429 x 222

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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