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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 26-06

National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
905 AM EST Thu Jan 22 2026

To: Subscribers:

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

From: Kevin Stone, Team Lead
Aviation Weather Services Program

Subject: Changes to Alaska Aviation Weather Unit Surface and Significant Weather charts starting on or after February 22, 2026

The Alaska Aviation Weather Unit (AAWU) will implement changes to its Surface and Significant Weather charts starting on February 22, 2026. For the Surface chart, this change will result in improved quality, resolution, additional probabilistic precipitation information, and improved consistency with other NWS products.

AAWU Significant Weather charts will continue to provide much of the same information as previously, with the only change being with the removal of frontal information. For users requiring forecast frontal information, this can still be obtained through Ocean Prediction Center Alaska/Arctic Analysis and Graphical Forecasts at https://ocean.weather.gov/AK_tab.php. These graphics will also continue to be linked on the AAWU's website.

Examples of these changes are available at
<https://www.weather.gov/aawu/graphicupdate>

The new Surface and Significant Weather charts are intended to provide better readability to users, while utilizing higher resolution, adding probabilistic information, and improving consistency with other NWS products. Additionally the production of these charts will move from a beyond end of life system to a more sustainable system for the future.

Below are examples of the current and new Surface and Significant Weather Charts:

Current Surface Chart:

https://www.weather.gov/images/aawu/features/sfc_current.gif

New Current Surface Chart:

https://www.weather.gov/images/aawu/features/sfc_new.png

Surface charts would continue to be updated four times daily at 00z, 06z, 12z and 18z. Please note the file type of the charts will change from .gif to .png with this change.

Current Significant Weather chart:

https://www.weather.gov/images/aawu/features/sigwx_current.gif

New Significant Weather chart:

https://www.weather.gov/images/aawu/features/sigwx_update.png

Significant weather charts would continue to be produced twice daily in this format, with forecasts at 24, 36, 48 and 60 hours. Please note the file type of the charts will change from .gif to .png with this change.

If you have any questions concerning these changes, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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