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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 26-94
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
130 PM EDT Tue Oct 27 2026

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

From: Dave Michaud
 Director
 NWS Central Operations

Subject: Disable the generation of zero-size BUFR dump files for GFS &
GDAS Effective October 26, 2026

Effective on Monday, October 26, 2026, beginning with the 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) cycle of model distribution, the National Weather Service will update data products to their NCEP Web Services to disable the generation of zero-size BUFR dump files from retired products and their subsequent distribution via NOMADS. These files include the following:

- 1bhrs4 - (GFS, GDAS)
- airsev - (GFS, GDAS)
- avcspm - (GFS, GDAS)
- eshrs3 - (GFS, GDAS)
- geoimr - (GFS, GDAS)
- omi - (GFS, GDAS)
- osbuv8 - (GFS, GDAS)
- saphir - (---, ----)

The updates, resulting from the implementation of ObsProc v1.3.0, bufr_dump v1.3.3, and prepobs v1.2.0 will be reflected in the corresponding model subdirectory:

<https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/obsproc/prod/>

In particular, these files will be removed:

GFS
gfs.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gfs.t<CC>z.1bhrs4.tm00.bufr_d
gfs.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gfs.t<CC>z.airsev.tm00.bufr_d
gfs.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gfs.t<CC>z.avcspm.tm00.bufr_d
gfs.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gfs.t<CC>z.eshrs3.tm00.bufr_d
gfs.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gfs.t<CC>z.geoimr.tm00.bufr_d
gfs.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gfs.t<CC>z.omi.tm00.bufr_d
gfs.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gfs.t<CC>z.osbuv8.tm00.bufr_d
GDAS
gdas.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gdas.t<CC>z.1bhrs4.tm00.bufr_d
gdas.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gdas.t<CC>z.airsev.tm00.bufr_d
gdas.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gdas.t<CC>z.avcspm.tm00.bufr_d
gdas.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gdas.t<CC>z.eshrs3.tm00.bufr_d

gdas.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gdas.t<CC>z.geoimr.tm00.bufr_d
gdas.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gdas.t<CC>z.omi.tm00.bufr_d
gdas.<PDY>/<CC>/atmos/gdas.t<CC>z.osbuv8.tm00.bufr_d

NCEP encourages users to ensure their processing is flexible to adequately handle the new data. Even though content within the files has changed, downstream file readers should not need to change in response.

Any questions, comments, or requests regarding this implementation should be directed to the contacts below. We will review any feedback and decide whether to proceed.

For any comments/feedback on the BUFR dump file upgrade, please contact:

Dr. Daniel Holdaway
Chief(acting) Office of Modeling and Development(OMD),
Data Assimilation Division(DAD)
College Park, MD
obsproc_support@noaa.gov

For questions regarding the dataflow aspects, please contact:

Margaret Curtis, Team Lead
NWS Central Operations Dataflow Team
ncep.pmb.dataflow@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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