

NOUS41 KWBC 231839  
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...COMMENT REQUEST  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
240 PM EDT WED SEP 23 2009

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:  
-FAMILY OF SERVICES  
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE  
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK  
-NOAAPORT  
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: ELI JACKS  
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CURRENTLY SOLICITING COMMENTS BY NOVEMBER 30 2009  
REGARDING CHANGING THE MINIMUM HAIL SIZE CRITERION FOR  
ISSUING SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS AND SEVERE  
WEATHER STATEMENTS

THE NWS IS CONSIDERING CHANGING THE MINIMUM HAIL SIZE CRITERION  
IT USES FOR ISSUING SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING /SVR/ AND SEVERE  
WEATHER STATEMENT /SVS/ PRODUCTS FROM 3/4 INCH /PENNY/ DIAMETER  
OR LARGER TO 1 INCH /QUARTER/ DIAMETER OR LARGER. NO CHANGE IS  
BEING PROPOSED TO THE SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WIND CRITERION: WIND  
GUSTS EQUAL TO OR IN EXCESS OF 50 KNOTS /58 MPH/.

COMMENTS REGARDING THIS PROPOSED CHANGE SHOULD BE BY NOVEMBER 30  
2009 TO:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SURVEY/NWS-SURVEY.PHP?CODE=1INCHA-WR](http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=1incha-wr)

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN REGION WEATHER  
FORECAST OFFICES /WFO/... THE NWS CURRENTLY ISSUES SVR AND SVS  
PRODUCTS WHENEVER A THUNDERSTORM IS FORECAST TO CONTAIN HAIL  
SIZE 3/4 INCH /PENNY/ DIAMETER OR LARGER.

ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS...CENTRAL AND WESTERN REGION WFOS ARE  
USING THE PROPOSED 1 INCH /QUARTER/ DIAMETER OR LARGER MINIMUM  
HAIL SIZE CRITERION TO ISSUE SVR AND SVS PRODUCTS UNTIL OCTOBER  
31 2009 AND NOVEMBER 30 2009... RESPECTIVELY.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENTS /PDD/ FOR THESE EXPERIMENTAL  
PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://PRODUCTS.WEATHER.GOV/VIEWLISTE.PHP](http://products.weather.gov/viewliste.php)

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES /SCN/ ANNOUNCING THE CR AND WR  
EXPERIMENTAL PRODUCTS ARE ALSO ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIFICATION/SCN09-36WR\\_HAIL\\_EXP.TXT](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/scn09-36wr_hail_exp.txt)

AND

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIFICATION/SCN09-19HAIL\\_CHANGE.TXT](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/scn09-19hail_change.txt)

UPON THE COMPLETION OF THESE EXPERIMENTAL PERIODS AND THE CLOSE OF THIS PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT /PNS/ COMMENT PERIOD...THE NWS WILL EVALUATE ALL RECEIVED COMMENTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT TO PROCEED WITH THE SEVERE THUNDERSTORM MINIMUM HAIL SIZE CRITERION CHANGE.

IF THE PROPOSED SEVERE THUNDERSTORM MINIMUM HAIL SIZE CRITERION CHANGE IS APPROVED...ALL NWS WFOS IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES /CONUS/ AND OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES /OCONUS/ WILL BEGIN ISSUING SVR AND SVS PRODUCTS FOR THUNDERSTORMS FORECAST TO CONTAIN MINIMUM HAIL SIZE 1 INCH /QUARTER/ DIAMETER OR LARGER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER TUESDAY JANUARY 5 2010.

A SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE WILL BE ISSUED WITH A MINIMUM 30 DAY ADVANCE LEAD TIME ANNOUNCING THIS CHANGE.

IF YOU HAVE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...PLEASE CONTACT:

JOHN FERREE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER BRANCH  
120 DAVID L. BOREN BLVD, SUITE 2312  
NORMAN OK 73072  
405-325-2209  
JOHN.FERREE@NOAA.GOV

NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm)

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