

NOUS41 KWBC DDHHMM
PNSWSH

Public Information Statement, Comment Request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
855 AM EDT Fri Aug 26 2011

TO: Subscribers:
-Family of Services
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPORT
Other NWS partners and NWS employees

FROM: Cindy Woods
Chief, Operations and Requirements Division
Chief, Performance and Awareness Division

SUBJECT: Use of Mixed Case Letters in Area Forecast
Discussion, Regional Weather Summary and Local
Public Information Statement Products at Select
Weather Forecast Offices Effective on or About
October 4 2011

Effective on or about Tuesday, October 4, 2011, select NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will begin issuing Area Forecast Discussion (AFD), Regional Weather Summary (RWS) and local Public Information Statement (PNS) products using upper and lowercase alphabetic letters and an expanded punctuation and character set (Table 1). This change is based on requests from many NWS partners and users. The NWS first began seeking comments regarding mixed case text products in May 2010:

http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/pns10mixed_case.txt

As part of a risk-reduction effort using a national, non-operational product, NWS has been issuing National PNS products using mixed case letters and the expanded punctuation/character set since August 2010:

http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/scn10-28mixed_case.txt

NWS partners and users of these WFO text products are encouraged to comment regarding this next step in the risk reduction effort. User feedback will help the NWS better plan the eventual transition of all NWS text products to mixed case and the expanded character set. Please provide comments by September 19, 2011, at:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=mixed-case>

Use of mixed case letters in text products will make them easier to read and allow users to click on internet links directly

rather than converting them to lowercase or mixed case. Additional punctuation and other characters that are part of the international reference Alphabet no. 5 will also be included as appropriate. The ampersand and less than symbols cannot be used in this message because of RSS restrictions and are in parens.

Table 1: Allowed Mixed Case Character Set

"space" ! " # \$ % (ampersand symbol) ' () * + , - . /
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 : ; < = (grater than symbol) ?
@ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O
P Q R S T U V W X Y Z [\] ^ _
` a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o
p q r s t u v w x y z { | } ~

Table 2: Participating WFOs

Kansas City/Pleasant Hill, MO - EAX
Louisville, KY - LMK
Spokane, WA - OTX
Tallahassee, FL - TAE

Table 3: Affected products

Area Forecast Discussion (AFD)

WMO Header	AWIPS ID
FXUS63 KEAX	AFDEAX
FXUS63 KLMK	AFDLMK
FXUS66 KOTX	AFDOTX
FXUS62 KTAE	AFDTAE

Regional Weather Summary (RWS)

WMO Header	AWIPS ID
AWUS83 KEAX	RWSEAX
AWUS83 KLMK	RWSLMK

Public Information Statement (PNS)

WMO Header	AWIPS ID
NOUS43 KEAX	PNSEAX
NOUS43 KLMK	PNSLMK
NOUS46 KOTX	PNSOTX
NOUS42 KTAE	PNSTAE

If this next phase of our risk reduction effort is implemented, partners and users will have the opportunity to further identify and correct any anomalous behavior of their systems and their customer's systems that may be caused by mixed case and the expanded punctuation/character set in these WFO text products.

These products will continue to be issued using mixed case letters until each participating WFO transitions from AWIPS I to AWIPS II. Mixed case letters and the expanded punctuation/character set for text products may not be supported in the initial AWIPS II software build. The NWS is working to minimize the impact of this transition on NWS users and will issue additional notices and statements as updated user information is

available. Partners and users should be aware these products may revert back to using all uppercase letters at the end of this phase of the risk reduction effort.

If you have questions, please contact:

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National Public Information Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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