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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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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  
July 31, 2013

Effective on or about Wednesday, July 31, 2013, the NWS will expand the number of NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) issuing Area Forecast Discussion (AFD), Regional Weather Summary (RWS) and local Public Information Statement (PNS) products using upper and lowercase alphabetic letters instead of all uppercase letters as is currently done.

This expansion is a continuation of the risk-reduction effort begun August 2010. At that time, NWS began issuing national PNS products using mixed case letters and the expanded punctuation/character set (Table 1):

[http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/scn10-28mixed\\_case.txt](http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/scn10-28mixed_case.txt)

and AFD, RWS and PNS products at select WFOs in October 2011:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/pns11mixedcase.txt>

The NWS first began seeking comments regarding mixed case text products in May 2010:

[http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/pns10mixed\\_case.txt](http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/pns10mixed_case.txt)

NWS partners and users of these WFO text products are encouraged to consider NWS intent and comment regarding this next step in the risk reduction effort. User feedback will help the NWS better plan the eventual transition of other NWS text products to mixed case and the expanded character set.

Please provide comments by June 30, 2014, 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.

Table 1: Allowed Mixed Case Character Set

"space" ! " # \$ % ampersand ' ( ) \* + , - . /  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 : ; left carot = right carot ?  
@ 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

Current: Kansas City/Pleasant Hill, MO - EAX

Current: Louisville, KY - LMK

New: Paducah, KY - PAH

New: Central Illinois (Lincoln) - ILX

New: St. Louis, MO - LSX

New: Springfield, MO - SGF

New: Topeka, KS - TOP

New: Dodge City, KS - DDC

Current: Spokane, WA - OTX

New: Sacramento, CA - STO

Current: Tallahassee, FL - TAE

New: San Angelo, TX - SJT

New: Midland/Odessa, TX - MAF

New: Tulsa, OK - TSA

In this phase of our risk reduction effort, partners and users will have the opportunity to further identify and correct any anomalous behavior of their systems and their customers' 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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