

NOUS41 KWBC 181509
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 02-25
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1100 AM EDT THU APR 18 2002

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS...NOAA WEATHER
WIRE SERVICE /NWWS/ SUBSCRIBERS...EMERGENCY MANAGERS
WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/ SUBSCRIBERS...
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS...OTHER NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
/NWS/ CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS...NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM: JAMES E. LEE
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: NEW NWS PROBABILISTIC HEAT INDEX PRODUCT SUITE...
EFFECTIVE MAY 1 2002

ON MAY 1 2002...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WILL BEGIN
DISTRIBUTING A NEW PRODUCT...THE PROBABILISTIC HEAT INDEX. THE
NEW PRODUCT SUITE WILL INCLUDE A SET OF GRAPHICS DEPICTING THE
PROBABILITY OF THE AVERAGE DAILY HEAT INDEX EXCEEDING SELECTED
THRESHOLDS FOR THE CONTINENTAL U.S. A COMPANION TEXT PRODUCT
WILL ALSO BE ISSUED WITH THE SAME DATA IN TABULAR FORM. THE
FORECASTS WILL BE PREPARED AT THE NATIONAL CENTERS FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PREDICTION /NCEP/ BY THE HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL
PREDICTION CENTER /HPC/ AND WILL BE ISSUED DAILY AROUND 3 PM EDT.
THE PRODUCTS WILL COVER THE PERIOD FROM THREE TO SEVEN DAYS
AHEAD. THESE PRODUCTS WILL REPLACE THREE TO SEVEN DAY AVERAGE
HEAT INDEX PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY NCEP'S CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER
/CPC/.

THE NEW PRODUCT SUITE IS INTENDED TO GIVE CUSTOMERS AN EARLY
INDICATION OF ANY SIGNIFICANT HEAT RELATED PROBLEMS. THE HEAT
INDEX IS CALCULATED BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BOTH THE TEMPERATURE
AND THE HUMIDITY AND IS A MORE ACCURATE INDICATOR OF DISCOMFORT
THAN THE TEMPERATURE ALONE. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT THE
THRESHOLD FOR DANGER DUE TO HEAT RELATED STRESS IS AN AVERAGE
DAILY HEAT INDEX OF 85 DEGREES OR HIGHER.

THE HEAT INDEX IS CALCULATED FOR EACH LOCATION BASED ON HPC
FORECASTS. THEY ARE CONVERTED TO PROBABILISTIC VALUES BY TAKING
INTO ACCOUNT THE AVERAGE ERROR OF THE HPC HEAT INDEX FORECAST AT
A SPECIFIC LOCATION AND FORECAST DAY.

THE GRAPHICS WILL DISPLAY THE PROBABILISTIC HEAT INDEX FORECAST
FOR DAYS THREE THROUGH SEVEN AND WILL INCLUDE CHARTS FOR THE
85...90...AND 95 DEGREE THRESHOLD. PROBABILITIES OF 10...40...
70 PERCENT WILL BE CONTOURED ON EACH MAP. THE TEXT PRODUCT WILL
INCLUDE THE DAILY AVERAGE HEAT INDEX FORECAST VALUE AS WELL AS
THE PROBABILITY OF THE HEAT INDEX EXCEEDING 70/ 75/ 80/ 85/ 90/
95/ 100/ AND 105 DEGREES.

THE FOLLOWING WMO HEADINGS/AWIPS IDS ARE FOR GRAPHICS COVERING THE CONUS.

| DAY | HI | WMO HEADING | AWIPS ID |
|-----|----|-------------|----------|
| 3 | 85 | PTNK98 KWNH | RBG85 |
| 3 | 90 | PTNK98 KWNH | RBG90 |
| 3 | 95 | PTNK98 KWNH | RBG95 |
| 4 | 85 | PTNM98 KWNH | RBG85 |
| 4 | 90 | PTNM98 KWNH | RBG90 |
| 4 | 95 | PTNM98 KWNH | RBG95 |
| 5 | 85 | PTNO98 KWNH | RBG85 |
| 5 | 90 | PTNO98 KWNH | RBG90 |
| 5 | 95 | PTNO98 KWNH | RBG95 |
| 6 | 85 | PTNQ98 KWNH | RBG85 |
| 6 | 90 | PTNQ98 KWNH | RBG90 |
| 6 | 95 | PTNQ98 KWNH | RBG95 |
| 7 | 85 | PTNS98 KWNH | RBG85 |
| 7 | 90 | PTNS98 KWNH | RBG90 |
| 7 | 95 | PTNS98 KWNH | RBG95 |

THE PROBABILISTIC HEAT INDEX FORECAST TEXT BULLETIN IS SENT IN TWO PARTS/EAST AND WEST/:

| AREA | WMO HEADING | AWIPS ID |
|------|-------------|----------|
| EAST | FMUS23 KWNH | PRBNHI |
| WEST | FMUS24 KWNH | PRBNHI |

IN ADDITION...HPC DISSEMINATES THESE PRODUCTS AND RELATED INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET. THE URL ADDRESS AVAILABLE MAY 1 IS /USE LOWER CASE/:

http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/heat_index/

THE FOLLOWING 3- TO 7-DAY CPC HEAT FORECASTS WILL BE DISCONTINUED AND BE REPLACED BY THE REVISED DAY-TO-DAY FORMAT /FOR DAYS 3 TO 7/ FROM THE HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL PREDICTION CENTER...BEGINNING MAY 1 2002.

...DISCONTINUED...

| AVG. HEAT INDEX | WMO HEADER | AWIPS ID |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|
| CRITERIA A | PTAM90 KWNC | RBGHI1 |
| /85F+ FOR 3+DAYS/ | | |
| CRITERIA B | PTAM95 KWNC | RBGHI2 |
| /90F+ FOR 2+DAYS/ | | |
| CRITERIA C | PTAM00 KWNC | RBGHI3 |
| /95F+ FOR 1+DAY/ | | |
| STATION PLOT | PTNK98 KWNC | RBGHX3 |
| /MAX HEAT INDEX/ | | |

...DISCONTINUED...

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY OF THESE CHANGES...YOU CAN CONTACT:

KEVIN MCCARTHY...DEPUTY DIRECTOR
NCEP HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL PREDICTION CENTER
PHONE: 301-763-8000 X7304
EMAIL: KEVIN.MCCARTHY@NOAA.GOV

OR

DAVID REYNOLDS...CHIEF
NCEP/HPC FORECAST OPERATIONS BRANCH
PHONE: 301-763-8000 X7317
EMAIL: DAVID.REYNOLDS@NOAA.GOV

THIS NOTICE AND OTHER SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ON THE INTERNET
AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm

END
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