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PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 02-59  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
430 PM EST WED NOV 27 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: ROBERT MCLEOD  
CHIEF...AWARENESS BRANCH

SUBJECT: STANDARDIZED NWS FORMATS AND CODES FOR PLAIN LANGUAGE  
PRODUCTS...EFFECTIVE NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 12 2002

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-1701...ENTITLED  
TEXT PRODUCT FORMATS AND CODES...IS A NEW COMPREHENSIVE REFERENCE  
FOR PLAIN LANGUAGE TEXT PRODUCT FORMATS GATHERED FROM VARIOUS NWS  
REFERENCES. THIS INSTRUCTION PROVIDES RULES FOR FORMATS AND  
CODES APPLICABLE TO TEXT PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR PUBLIC  
/NON-TECHNICAL/ AUDIENCES. NWS STAFF AND NWS PARTNERS/CUSTOMERS  
ALIKE REQUESTED CONSISTENT FORMATS TO FACILITATE AUTOMATED  
PROCESSING AND PARSING OF PLAIN LANGUAGE PRODUCTS.

NWS OFFICES AND NATIONAL CENTERS MAY CHANGE...AT A DATE AND TIME  
THEY DETERMINE BETWEEN NOW AND FEBRUARY 12 2003...PRODUCT FORMATS  
TO CONFORM TO THE SPECIFICATIONS IN NWSI 10-1701. MANY NWS  
PRODUCTS ALREADY COMPLY WITH THE FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS IN  
NWSI 10-1701...AND WILL NOT REQUIRE ANY CHANGE OR ONLY SMALL  
CHANGES...SUCH AS THE ADDITION OF THE DOUBLE DOLLAR SIGN CODE  
/\$\$/ OR A BLANK LINE IN A PRODUCT TEMPLATE. THE SLIDING  
IMPLEMENTATION TIME LINE ALLOWS NWS STAFF FLEXIBILITY TO MAKE THE  
NECESSARY CHANGES WHEN THEY PERFORM OTHER ROUTINE SOFTWARE WORK.

INDIVIDUAL NWS OFFICES AND NATIONAL CENTERS MAY ISSUE THEIR OWN  
PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS HIGHLIGHTING SPECIFIC FORMAT  
CHANGES THEY WILL MAKE TO CONFORM TO THE CONSISTENT FORMAT  
SPECIFICATIONS. THESE PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS WILL LIKELY  
ADDRESS ONLY MAJOR CHANGES...SUCH AS CHANGES TO THE PRODUCT TYPE  
LINE OR ISSUING OFFICE LINE IN A PRODUCT/S MASS NEWS DISSEMINATOR  
HEADER BLOCK.

NWSI 10-1701 PROVIDES INFORMATION AND REFERENCES ON TEXT  
FORMATS...FROM THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/  
ABBREVIATED HEADER AND ADVANCED WEATHER INTERACTIVE PROCESSING  
SYSTEM /AWIPS/ ID TO THE MASS NEWS DISSEMINATOR HEADER BLOCK AND  
THE CONTENT BLOCK. THIS INSTRUCTION EXPANDS GREATLY ON THE SMALL  
AMOUNT OF FORMAT INFORMATION ORIGINALLY IN OLD /NOW OBSOLETE/  
WEATHER SERVICES OPERATIONS MANUAL /WSOM/ CHAPTER C-63...NOAA

WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ DISSEMINATION...AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WSOM SERVICE PROGRAM CHAPTERS.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL NWS PARTNERS AND CUSTOMERS TO READ NWSI 10-1701 TO FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE STANDARDIZED PLAIN LANGUAGE FORMATS AND CODES. FOLLOWING ARE IMPORTANT NEW FORMAT AND CODE PROCEDURES IN NWSI 10-1701:

1/ PRODUCT CONTENT BLOCK /SECTION 5.1/: ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 12 2003...THE DOUBLE DOLLAR SIGN CODE /\$\$/ WILL END ALL PLAIN LANGUAGE TEXT PRODUCTS...INCLUDING:

- THOSE PRODUCTS THAT DONT USE THE UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE /UGC/
- NON-SEGMENTED PRODUCTS THAT DO USE THE UGC

AND CONTINUES TO END ALL SEGMENTS OF SEGMENTED PRODUCTS. THIS PROVIDES REQUESTED STANDARDIZATION FOR USERS AND FORMAT CREATORS.

2/ PRODUCT CONTENT BLOCK /SECTION 5.1/: PROVIDES INFORMATION ON USE OF THE DOUBLE AMPERSAND CODE /&&/. THE && MAY BE USED TO SEPARATE DIFFERING KINDS OF INFORMATION IN ANY PLAIN LANGUAGE TEXT PRODUCT. ALSO...THE USE OF && IS NOT LIMITED TO PRODUCTS USING THE UGC.

3/ PRODUCT TYPE LINE /SECTION 4.2.2/: PROVIDES INFORMATION ON USING THE ELLIPSIS AND SUCH TERMS AT THE END OF THE PRODUCT LINE OF THE MASS NEWS DISSEMINATOR HEADER BLOCK AS...UPDATED OR AMENDED...CORRECTED...DELAYED...AND TWO IMPORTANT ADDITIONS:

- USE OF RESENT INSTEAD OF RETRANSMITTED
- USE OF THE NEW TERM TEST WHEN A PRODUCT IS USED FOR TEST OR DRILL PURPOSES

4/ ISSUING OFFICE LINE /SECTION 4.2.3/: PROVIDES INFORMATION ON USING...RELAYED BY...INSTEAD OF...ISSUED BY...ON THE SECOND LINE OF THE ISSUING OFFICE LINE OF A NON-WEATHER-RELATED CIVIL EMERGENCY OR OTHER CRITICAL PRODUCT ORIGINATED BY AN EXTERNAL AGENCY DISSEMINATED BY AN NWS OFFICE.

EXAMPLES OF INDIVIDUAL PLAIN LANGUAGE TEXT PRODUCT MESSAGE COMPONENTS ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT NWSI 10-1701. IN ADDITION... COMPLETE SAMPLE PRODUCTS ARE IN NWSI 10-1702...ENTITLED UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE.

WE ARE UNAWARE OF ADVERSE PARTNER/CUSTOMER IMPACT OF MOVING TOWARD THE CONSISTENT FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS AS WORKLOAD PERMITS...FROM NOW UNTIL FEBRUARY 12 2003. IF ANY PARTNERS/ CUSTOMERS BELIEVE THEY WILL BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY THIS SLIDING IMPLEMENTATION TIME LINE...PLEASE CONTACT HERB WHITE OR CHRIS ALEX /SEE CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW/. IF AN NWS OFFICE SHOULD BECOME AWARE OF ADVERSE CUSTOMER IMPACT...THEY SHOULD INFORM THEIR REGIONAL DISSEMINATION FOCAL POINT WHO SHOULD THEN COORDINATE WITH HERB WHITE OR CHRIS ALEX.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT NWSI 10-1701 OR THE TEXT PRODUCT  
FORMAT AND CODE CHANGES...PLEASE CONTACT:

HERB WHITE                                      CHRIS ALEX  
DISSEMINATION SERVICES MANAGER OR DISSEMINATION SERVICES  
PHONE: 301-713-0090 X 146                      301-713-0090 X 142  
E-MAIL: HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV      CHRISTINE.ALEX@NOAA.GOV

NWSI 10-1701 IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT /USE LOWER CASE  
LETTERS/:

[www.nws.noaa.gov/directives](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives)

CLICK ON 10-OPERATIONS AND SERVICES...AND THEN SCROLL DOWN AND  
CLICK ON 10-1701 TEXT PRODUCT FORMATS AND CODES.

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

[www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm)

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