

NOUS41 KWBC 101457  
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 06-20  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
1100 AM EDT WED MAY 10 2006

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

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

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE BOUNDARIES OF SOME NORTHERN INTERIOR  
CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER ZONES: EFFECTIVE JUNE 1 2006

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY JUNE 1 2006 AT 1200 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL  
TIME /UTC/...NWS SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA /STO/ WILL CHANGE SOME  
NORTHERN INTERIOR CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER ZONE BOUNDARIES AND  
ZONE DESCRIPTOR NAMES.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHANGE IS TO SUPPORT A MORE EFFICIENT  
FORECAST PROCESS AND PROVIDE NWS FIRE WEATHER CUSTOMERS WITH  
IMPROVED WATCH...WARNING AND FORECAST PRODUCTS. HISTORICALLY THE  
WEST SLOPES OF THE CENTRAL SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS OF NORTHERN  
INTERIOR CALIFORNIA HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED BY ONE /1/ LARGE FIRE  
WEATHER ZONE /CAZ269/. THIS HAS RESULTED IN BROAD AND GENERIC  
FORECASTS. THE CHANGE BEING IMPLEMENTED WILL DIVIDE THIS LARGE  
ZONE INTO TWO ZONES MORE CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH FIRE AGENCY  
DISPATCH BOUNDARIES AND CLIMATIC REGIMES.

ONCE THIS CHANGE HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED...THE FOLLOWING ZONE NAMES  
AND GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTORS WILL BE USED IN ALL FIRE WEATHER  
FORECAST PRODUCTS ISSUED FOR NORTHERN INTERIOR CALIFORNIA:

FIRE WEATHER ZONE

NUMBER	ZONE NAME	PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION
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CAZ269	TAHOE AND ELDORADO NATIONAL FORESTS WEST OF THE SIERRA CREST	INCLUDES ALL OF TAHOE AND ELDORADO NATIONAL FORESTS /NF/ WEST OF THE SIERRA NEVADA CREST ABOVE 3000 FEET
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CAZ221	STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST WEST OF THE SIERRA CREST FROM THE STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST WEST OF THE SIERRA CREST...	INCLUDES ALL OF THE LAND BORDERED ON THE NORTH BY
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THE ELDORADO NF AND  
BORDERED ON THE SOUTH BY  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

NWS WATCH...WARNING AND FORECAST PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY THESE  
CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FOR CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER ZONES 269 AND 221

PRODUCT	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
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FIRE WEATHER WATCH	WWUS85 KSTO	RFWSTO
RED FLAG WARNING	WWUS85 KSTO	RFWSTO
FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST	FNUS55 KSTO	FWFSTO
NATIONAL FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM FORECAST	FNUS85 KSTO	FWMSTO

NWS CUSTOMERS SHOULD NOW BEGIN PLANS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY  
CHANGES TO THEIR COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS TO ACCOMMODATE THESE ZONE  
CHANGES.

ALTHOUGH THIS NOTIFICATION IS LESS THAN THE REQUIRED 120 DAYS AS  
SPECIFIED BY NWSI 10-1805...THE NEW CONFIGURATION PROPOSED FOR  
IMPLEMENTATION ON JUNE 1 WAS REQUESTED BY...AND HAS BEEN CLOSELY  
COORDINATED WITH...LOCAL FIRE WEATHER PARTNERS AND CUSTOMERS.

SHAPEFILES OF THE NEW FIRE WEATHER ZONES FOR THE NWS SACRAMENTO  
OFFICE ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE  
/USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/GEODATA/CATALOG/WSOM/HTML/FIREZONE.HTM](http://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/GEODATA/CATALOG/WSOM/HTML/FIREZONE.HTM)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE PRODUCT CHANGES...  
PLEASE CONTACT:

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THIS AND OTHER NWS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE  
AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF.HTM](http://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF.HTM)

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