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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 06-46  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
1027 AM EST THU DEC 21 2006

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: ELI JACKS  
FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH CHIEF

SUBJECT: UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE /UGC/ CHANGE FOR AVALANCHE  
WATCHES/WARNINGS IN CERTAIN MOUNTAINOUS AREAS  
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY CERTAIN NWS WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFO/  
IN MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF NWS CENTRAL...SOUTHERN...AND WESTERN  
REGIONS MAY BEGIN USING THE ZONE /Z/ FORM OF THE UNIVERSAL  
GEOGRAPHIC CODE /UGC/ INSTEAD OF THE COUNTY /C/ FORM OF THE UGC  
FOR AVALANCHE WATCH /AVA/ AND AVALANCHE WARNING /AVW/ PRODUCTS.  
THE UGC CODE IS EMBEDDED WITHIN THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/  
OF THESE PRODUCTS.

AFFECTED WFOS WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THEIR USERS OF AVA/AVW  
PRODUCTS TO ENSURE USERS ARE AWARE OF THIS CHANGE IF IT AFFECTS  
AVA/AVW PRODUCTS THEY ISSUE. USERS UNSURE WHETHER THIS CHANGE  
AFFECTS AVA/AVW PRODUCTS THEY USE SHOULD CONTACT THE ISSUING WFO  
FOR GUIDANCE.

RECENT EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT USING THE COUNTY /C/ FORM OF  
THE UGC FOR AVA/AVW PRODUCTS IN MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OVERSTATES THE  
INTENDED WATCH/WARNING AREA. IN ADDITION USING THE ZONE /Z/ FORM  
OF THE UGC FOR AVA/AVW PRODUCTS MORE CLOSELY ALIGNS THESE  
PRODUCTS WITH OTHER WINTER WEATHER PRODUCTS THAT USE THE ZONE  
/Z/ FORM OF THE UGC.

TABLE 1 BELOW DETAILS THE GENERIC AWIPS ID AND WMO HEADINGS OF  
AVA/AVW PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE.

TABLE 1. AVA/AVW AWIPS ID AND WMO HEADINGS

PRODUCT	AWIPS ID	WMO HEADING
AVALANCHE WATCH	AVAXXX	WOUSII KYYY
AVALANCHE WARNING	AVWXXX	WOUSII KYYY

NOTE: XXX IS THE THREE-LETTER WFO IDENTIFIER AND YYY IS THE  
AWIPS NODE.

AGAIN ...AFFECTED WFOS WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THEIR USERS OF  
AVA/AVW PRODUCTS TO ENSURE USERS ARE AWARE OF THIS CHANGE IF IT  
AFFECTS AVA/AVW PRODUCTS THEY ISSUE. USERS UNSURE WHETHER THIS  
CHANGE AFFECTS AVA/AVW PRODUCTS THEY USE SHOULD CONTACT THE  
ISSUING WFO FOR GUIDANCE.

ALTHOUGH THIS NOTIFICATION IS LESS THAN THE REQUIRED 120 DAYS AS  
SPECIFIED BY NWSI 10-1805... THE NWS BELIEVES IMMEDIATE  
IMPLEMENTATION IS WARRANTED BECAUSE AVALANCHE DANGER ALREADY  
EXISTS FOR WFOS WITH WARNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOUNTAINOUS  
AREAS.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE CHANGES... PLEASE CONTACT:

PAUL STOKOLS  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
1325 EAST WEST HIGHWAY  
SILVER SPRING MD 20910  
PHONE: 301-713-1867  
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THIS AND OTHER NWS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE POSTED 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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