

NOUS41 KWBC 051430  
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-50  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
1030 AM EDT TUE AUG 5 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:  
-FAMILY OF SERVICES  
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE  
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK  
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: ROBERT J. MCLEOD  
CHIEF...AWARENESS BRANCH  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER...AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF CALL-TO-ACTION  
MARKERS IN WATCH/WARNING/ADVISORY/ AND FOLLOW-UP  
STATEMENTS: BEGINNING FEBRUARY 11 2009

ON WEDNESDAY...FEBRUARY 11 2009... NWS WEATHER FORECAST  
OFFICES /WFO/ WILL BEGIN A PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF  
CALL-TO-ACTION /CTA/ MARKERS IN ALL WATCH/WARNING/ADVISORY  
AND FOLLOW-UP STATEMENTS /W/W/A/S/. THE IMPLEMENTATION WILL  
CONTINUE THROUGH APPROXIMATELY MAY 15 2009... AT WHICH TIME  
ALL WFOS WILL BE ISSUING W/W/A/S PRODUCTS WITH CTA MARKERS  
INCLUDED. THE CTA MARKERS IMPLEMENTATION IS PART OF ADVANCED  
WEATHER INTERACTIVE PROCESSING SYSTEM /AWIPS/ OPERATIONAL  
BUILD 9 SOFTWARE INSTALLATION AT EACH WFO. CTA MARKERS WILL  
IDENTIFY THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE CTA STATEMENT/S/ IN A  
PRODUCT. INSERTION OF CTA MARKERS ENABLES SPECIALIZED USE OF  
CTA STATEMENTS BY NWS... PARTNERS AND OTHER USERS.

A PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT ON FEBRUARY 13 2008 ANNOUNCED  
A COMMENT PERIOD THAT WAS CONDUCTED FROM FEBRUARY 13 2008 TO  
MARCH 7 2008 ON THE PROPOSAL TO DELINEATE CTA STATEMENTS  
WITH MARKERS. THE MARINE WEATHER WARNING /MWW/ PRODUCT  
PROTOTYPED CTA MARKERS STARTING IN EARLY OCTOBER 2007. SEE  
SCN 08-36 FOR INFORMATION ON THE OPERATIONAL USE OF CTA  
MARKERS IN THE MWW PRODUCT BEGINNING AUGUST 5 2008.

THE CTA MARKERS WILL USE THE PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS  
ACTIONS... AND && CHARACTER STRINGS AS THE CTA BEGINNING AND  
ENDING MARKERS RESPECTIVELY. THE PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS  
ACTIONS... AND && CHARACTER STRINGS WILL BE LEFT JUSTIFIED  
WITH NO OTHER PRINTABLE CHARACTERS ON THE SAME LINE OF TEXT.

THE GENERIC CTA MARKER FORMAT IS SHOWN BELOW:

/BLANK LINE/  
PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...  
/BLANK LINE/

/SINGLE- OR MULTI-LINE TEXT CONTENT OF CALL-TO-ACTION OR  
INSTRUCTION STATEMENT/S//

/BLANK LINE/

&&

/BLANK LINE/

ONE SET OF CTA MARKERS WILL BE INSERTED INTO EACH WFO  
W/W/A/S PRODUCT SEGMENT THAT CONTAINS A CTA STATEMENT/S/.  
IN CERTAIN HYDROLOGIC POINT-FORECAST FLOOD PRODUCTS IN WHICH  
CTA STATEMENTS ARE IN THE OVERVIEW/SYNOPSIS SECTION... CTA  
MARKERS WILL BE INSERTED ONLY IN THE OVERVIEW/SYNOPSIS  
SECTION.

AN EXAMPLE OF THE CTA MARKER FORMAT IN A TORNADO WARNING IS  
SHOWN BELOW:

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

THIS IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND LIFE THREATENING  
SITUATION. A LARGE TORNADO HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. IF YOU ARE  
IN THE PATH OF THIS DESTRUCTIVE TORNADO... TAKE COVER  
IMMEDIATELY IN A BASEMENT OR OTHER UNDERGROUND SHELTER AND  
GET UNDER SOMETHING STURDY.

&&

IF THERE IS NO CTA... CTA MARKERS NORMALLY WILL NOT BE  
INCLUDED IN THE PRODUCT OR PRODUCT SEGMENT. THIS OCCURS MOST  
FREQUENTLY WITH CANCELLATION OR EXPIRATION PRODUCTS.

THIS CHANGE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT UPDATE TO NWS  
INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-1701...TEXT PRODUCT FORMATS AND  
CODES... AND IN INDIVIDUAL SERVICE PROGRAM PRODUCT  
SPECIFICATION NWSIS.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON CTA MARKERS... INCLUDING A  
DRAFT OF NWSI 10-1701 DESCRIPTION OF CTA MARKERS... A  
LISTING OF THE AFFECTED PRODUCT CATEGORIES... AND SAMPLE  
PRODUCTS IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OS/CTAMARKER/INDEX.SHTML](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/ctamarker/index.shtml)

USERS WHO AUTOMATICALLY PROCESS PRODUCTS DESCRIBED AT THE  
ABOVE WEBSITE SHOULD REVISE THEIR PROCESSING PROCEDURES NO  
LATER THAN FEBRUARY 11 2009 TO ENSURE THEIR CONTINUED  
ABILITY TO PROCESS THESE PRODUCTS.

THERE ARE NO CHANGES TO AWIPS IDENTIFIERS...WMO PRODUCT  
HEADINGS OR PRODUCT ISSUANCE TIMES.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS... PLEASE CONTACT:

HERB WHITE  
DISSEMINATION SERVICES MANAGER

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
SILVER SPRING MD 20910  
PHONE: 301-713-0090 EXT. 146  
E-MAIL: HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV

NWS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm)

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