

NOUS41 KWBC 061146  
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 09-36  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
746 AM EDT WED MAY 6 2009

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

FROM: CRAIG SCHMIDT  
CHIEF...METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION  
WESTERN REGION HEADQUARTERS...SALT LAKE CITY UT

SUBJECT: EXPERIMENTAL CRITERION CHANGE FOR HAIL SIZE IN SEVERE  
THUNDERSTORM WARNING DETERMINATION AT ALL WESTERN REGION WEATHER FORECAST  
OFFICES FROM THREE-QUARTER /0.75/ INCH TO ONE /1/ INCH IN DIAMETER OR  
LARGER: EFFECTIVE JUNE 1 2009

ON JUNE 1 2009...ALL WESTERN REGION /WR/ WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/  
WILL BEGIN USING A NEW EXPERIMENTAL HAIL CRITERION FOR DETERMINING WHEN TO  
ISSUE SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS /SVR/. IN AN EFFORT TO BETTER  
REPRESENT HAIL WHICH PRODUCES DAMAGE AND TO REDUCE USER COMPLACENCY TO  
NUMEROUS SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS FOR THREE-QUARTER /0.75/ INCH  
DIAMETER HAIL...THE WFOS IN WR WILL USE HAIL CRITERION OF ONE /1/ INCH IN  
DIAMETER OR LARGER AS OPPOSED TO THE REFERENCED /0.75/ INCH CRITERION.  
THERE IS NO CHANGE IN HAIL CRITERION FOR AVIATION THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS  
/I.E. CONVECTIVE SIGMETS/ OR FOR SPECIAL MARINE WARNINGS /SMW/.

A SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE /SCN/ ANNOUNCING THE NWS CENTRAL REGION/S /CR/  
SIMILAR EXPERIMENT IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/MEDIA/NOTIFICATION/PDFS/SCN09-19HAIL\\_CHANGE.PDF](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn09-19hail_change.pdf)

A PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT /PDD/ FOR THIS WR EXPERIMENT IS AVAILABLE  
ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://PRODUCTS.WEATHER.GOV/](http://products.weather.gov/)

THIS EXPERIMENT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR ALL AREAS IN EIGHT WESTERN STATES:  
ARIZONA...CALIFORNIA...IDAHO...MONTANA...NEVADA...OREGON...UTAH AND  
WASHINGTON.

NO CHANGE WILL OCCUR WITH RESPECT TO WIND SPEED IN SEVERE THUNDERSTORM  
WARNINGS. WINDS EQUAL TO OR IN EXCESS OF 50 KNOTS /58 MPH/ WILL REMAIN THE  
CRITERION.

FOR THUNDERSTORMS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE AROUND 3/4 INCH TO 7/8 INCH DIAMETER  
HAIL BUT REMAIN BELOW SEVERE WIND LIMITS...WR WFOS ARE EXPECTED TO USE THE  
SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT /SPS/...HEADLINED AS A SIGNIFICANT WEATHER

ADVISORY. WFOS WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO COLLECT AND DISTRIBUTE HAIL REPORTS THAT ARE THREE- QUARTERS /0.75/ INCH IN DIAMETER OR GREATER BY WAY OF THE LOCAL STORM REPORT /LSR/ AS USUAL.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

CRAIG SCHMIDT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
WESTERN REGION HEADQUARTERS  
SALT LAKE CITY UT  
801-524-4000  
[CRAIG.SCHMIDT@NOAA.GOV](mailto:CRAIG.SCHMIDT@NOAA.GOV)

NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

\$\$  
NNNN