

NOUS41 KWBC 281715  
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 10-28  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
115 PM EDT FRI MAY 28 2010

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

FROM: JASON TUELL  
ACTING CHIEF...PERFORMANCE AND AWARENESS DIVISION

SUBJECT: USE OF UPPER AND LOWERCASE LETTERS IN NATIONAL  
PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS...SERVICE CHANGE AND  
TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES EFFECTIVE  
AUGUST 16 2010

REFERENCE: PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT ISSUED MAY 28 2010  
SOLICITING PUBLIC COMMENTS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15 2010  
ON CHANGE TO ALL NWS TEXT PRODUCTS TO USE MIXED CASE  
AND EXPANDED CHARACTER SET

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 16 2010 NWS WILL BEGIN PROVIDING ALL NOTICES SUCH AS THIS ONE IN UPPER AND LOWERCASE ALPHABETIC CHARACTERS RATHER THAN ALL UPPERCASE AS IS PRESENTLY DONE. ADDITIONAL PUNCTUATION AND OTHER CHARACTERS THAT ARE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE ALPHABET NO. 5 WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN NOTICES AS NEEDED. THIS CHANGE WILL APPLY TO PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS... SERVICE CHANGE AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES WITH THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ HEADING OF NOUS41 KWBC AND AWIPS IDENTIFIER OF PNSWSH. THIS CHANGE EXPANDS ON A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT IN WHICH JUST THE EMAIL ATTACHMENT OF NOTICES WAS SENT IN MIXED CASE.

MANY NWS PARTNERS AND USERS HAVE IDENTIFIED THE NEED FOR ALL NWS TEXT PRODUCTS TO BE PROVIDED IN MIXED CASE AND TO INCLUDE AN EXPANDED PUNCTUATION AND CHARACTER SET. INTRODUCTION OF MIXED CASE AND EXPANDED PUNCTUATION CHARACTER SET IN NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND CHANGE NOTICE MESSAGES ALLOWS FOR A RISK REDUCTION EFFORT USING NON-OPERATIONAL PRODUCTS. USERS OF NWS TEXT PRODUCTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY AND CORRECT ANY ANOMALOUS BEHAVIOR OF THEIR SYSTEMS AND THEIR CUSTOMER/S SYSTEMS THAT MAY BE CAUSED BY MIXED CASE AND EXPANDED CHARACTER SET. THIS CHANGE WILL MAKE TEXT PRODUCTS EASIER TO READ AND ALLOW USERS TO CLICK ON INTERNET LINKS DIRECTLY RATHER THAN CONVERTING THEM TO LOWERCASE OR MIXED CASE.

NWS IS SEEKING COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE ALL NWS TEXT

PRODUCTS TO INCLUDE USE OF MIXED CASE AND EXPANDED CHARACTER SET.  
PLEASE SEE THE REFERENCED PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT SOLICITING  
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CHANGE TO ALL NWS TEXT PRODUCTS TO USE MIXED  
CASE AND EXPANDED CHARACTER SET.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS... PLEASE CONTACT:

HERB WHITE  
NWS DISSEMINATION SERVICES MANAGER  
1325 EAST WEST HIGHWAY  
SILVER SPRING MD 20910  
HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV  
301-713-0090 EXT. 146

NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS... SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES  
AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT  
/USE LOWERCASE/:

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

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