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Service Change Notice 10-47
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington Dc
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TO: Subscribers:
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From: Kevin Schrab
Chief, Observing Services Division
Office of Climate Water and Weather Services

Subject: Las Vegas Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS)
Operational Date and Communications Identifier Changes
For Upper-Air (UA) Products from WFO Las Vegas
Effective December 18 2010

The NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Las Vegas, NV, (VEF) will initiate daily RRS UA observations on Dec. 18, 2010 and reach twice per day observations on Jan. 16, 2011. This change follows the termination at Desert Rock (DRA) of Radiotheodolite Tracking (ART) and Radio Direction Finding (RDF) radiosonde observations.

Please update your metadata files for these initial coordinates immediately so your UA derived products will not give erroneous information on Dec. 18, 2010.

Table 1. Initial Coordinates of Las Vegas Release Point Location

NAME	INDEX	LAT	LON	ELEVATION
LAS VEGAS	72388	36.047139N	115.184639W	693.4 M

NOTE: The WMO Index Number Will Be 72388.

All users are advised to update their communications identifiers immediately in order to receive upper-air coded text products from Las Vegas.

TABLE 2. New AWIPS IDs and New WMO Headings

Current AWIPS ID	Current WMO Headings	New AWIPS ID	New WMO Headings
ABVDRA	UFUS45 KDRA	ABVVEF	UFUS45 KVEF
FZLDRA	UXUS45 KDRA	FZLVEF	UXUS45 KVEF
MANDRA	USUS45 KDRA	MANVEF	USUS45 KVEF

SGLDRA UMUS45 KDRA SGLVEF UMUS45 KVEF

Institutional and commercial distributors who generate derived products must ensure their communication system directories exactly match the new headings by Dec. 18, 2010. Failure to do so will prevent UA data from Las Vegas from reaching the intended user communities.

Although the effective date for this change is less than the 75-days advised in NWSI 10-1805, a 36-day lead time should be sufficient when NWS directly informs service providers to make a priority change in their product meta data to prevent implementation delays. To check the availability of Las Vegas products go to:

<http://esrl.noaa.gov/raobs/>

-Search by "WMO Station Identifier"

-When a blank dialogue window appears, enter: 72388

You should then be able to view the Las Vegas data and metadata.

NWS will issue a follow-on announcement in January 2011 to include the official site coordinates for the Las Vegas UA observations.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact:

Ivan Navarro
National Weather Service, OPS11
1325 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-713-1841 Ext 123
Ivan.Navarro@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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