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Service Change Notice 11-16
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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FROM: Eli Jacks
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SUBJECT: Implementation of Improved Fire and Public Weather
Forecasts for Southeast Texas Effective August 4, 2011

Effective Thursday, August 4, 2011, at 100 pm Central Daylight Time (CDT), 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Lake Charles, Louisiana (LCH) will reconfigure its current fire and public weather forecast zones for Jasper (TXZ181) County and Newton (TXZ182) County in southeast Texas.

This reconfiguration will provide better fire and public forecast services by splitting each of these counties into separate northern and southern forecast zones. This change is being made because of the large meteorological, climatological and geographical differences from north to south.

The fire and public weather forecast zones for Jasper (TXZ181) County will be split to form Northern Jasper (TXZ259) and Southern Jasper (TXZ261). Newton (TXZ182) County will be split to form Northern Newton (TXZ260) and Southern Newton (TXZ262). This split will account for tropical cyclone, fire weather and winter weather impacts that only affect one portion of these counties and not the other.

These fire and public zone changes require users to take appropriate action to receive the new zone products using the Universal Generic Code (UGC) zone code format(Z) in Table 1.

TABLE 1: New Fire and Public Zone Configuration Identifiers

NEW FIRE/PUBLIC ZONE NAME	UGC (Z)	EXISTING FIRE/PUBLIC ZONE NAME	UGC (Z)
NORTHERN JASPER	TXZ259	JASPER	TXZ181
SOUTHERN JASPER	TXZ261	JASPER	TXZ181
NORTHERN NEWTON	TXZ260	NEWTON	TXZ182

SOUTHERN NEWTON TXZ262 NEWTON TXZ182

Detail regarding why these fire and public zone changes are being made, graphical depictions of the current and new fire and public zones, and a table of WFO LCH affected products are online at:

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lch/?n=jaspernewton_zonereconfig

Updated fire and public weather forecast zone shapefiles are online at:

www.weather.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/pubzone.htm
and
www.weather.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/firezone.htm

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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