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Service Change Notice 12-14
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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To: Subscribers:
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 -NOAAPort
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From: Russell Schneider
 Director, Storm Prediction Center

Subject: Standardized Format in Free Text Portion of Storm Prediction
Center (SPC) Mesoscale Discussion (CONUS Only): Effective May 1, 2012

Effective Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at approximately 1500 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS will begin using a new standardized format in the free text portion of the SPC Mesoscale Discussion (MD), contiguous U.S. (CONUS) only. This will not involve changes to World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Headers or Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) IDs.

The first three sections of the body of the SPC MD ("AREAS AFFECTED...", "CONCERNING..." and "VALID") will remain the same.

For Severe Potential MDs, a new fourth section will begin with "PROBABILITY OF WATCH ISSUANCE..." followed by a permitted value of 5, 20, 40, 60, 80, or 95 and the word "PERCENT". A fifth section will begin with "SUMMARY..." and contain a concise headline concerning the ongoing/expected severe threat. The final section will begin with "DISCUSSION..." and contain the main body of text.

For all other MDs, the fourth section will begin with "SUMMARY..." and contain a concise headline concerning the ongoing/expected severe threat. The final section will begin with "DISCUSSION..." and contain the main body of text.

A more detailed description and examples of the standardized format of the SPC Mesoscale Discussion can be found at:

http://www.spc.noaa.gov/misc/md_changes_scn.html

If you have any questions about the technical content or generation of these products, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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