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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 13-30  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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From: Eli Jacks  
Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

Subject: Changes in Fire Weather Forecast Zones for Puerto Rico  
and the U.S. Virgin Islands Effective May 16, 2013

Effective Thursday, May 16, 2013, at 800 AM Atlantic Standard Time (AST), 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in San Juan (SJU), Puerto Rico (PR), will reconfigure the fire weather forecast zones for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) to align with the boundaries of the National Fire Danger Rating Areas. Upon implementation of this change, all fire weather forecasts and related products for PR and the USVI will use the zone number, name and geographic description shown below.

PRZ014 - South Coastal Plain and Mona Island  
This zone includes the Aguirre State Forest, Guanica State Forest, Guanica Dry Forest, Boqueron State Forest, the Cabo Rojo and Cartagena Lagoon National Wildlife Refuges and the Mona Island Nature Reserve in PR.

PRZ015 - Southern Hills  
This zone includes the south slopes of PR including the Maricao State Forest.

PRZ016 - North Coastal Plain  
This zone includes the Pinones State Forest and the cities of Arecibo and San Juan, PR.

PRZ017 - Northern Hills  
This zone includes the north slopes of Puerto Rico including the Guajataca State Forest and the Vega Alta State Forest.

PRZ018 - West Coast  
This zone includes the west coast of PR including the city of Mayaguez, PR.

PRZ019 - Eastern Interior

This zone includes the cities of Caguas and Humacao, PR.

PRZ020 - Northeast Coast of Puerto Rico, Culebra, Vieques, and the US Virgin Islands

This zone includes the Virgin Islands National Park and the Salt River Bay National Historical Park, USVI; and Culebra and Vieques National Wildlife Refuges, PR.

PRZ021 - Central and Cayey Mountain Ranges

This zone includes the Cayey Mountain Range and the Central Mountain Range including the Carite State Forest Reserve, Rio Abajo State Forest, Toro Negro Forest Reserve and Guilarte State Forest, PR.

PRZ022 - Luquillo Mountain Range

This zone includes the El Yunque National Rain Forest, PR.

These changes have been requested by and coordinated with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) International Institute of Tropical Forestry, PR Fire Corps, US Fish and Wildlife Service and other local fire weather partners and users.

Additional information regarding these fire weather forecast zones changes is online at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sju/?n=firezonechanges>

Partners and users of WFO SJU fire weather products will need to update their system(s) to continue receiving correct fire weather forecasts/products.

An updated fire weather zone map shapefile containing the new zones is online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.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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