

NOUS41 KWBC 191819
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 13-72
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
110 PM EST Tue Nov 19 2013

To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
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From: Eli Jacks
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Subject: Tornado and Flash Flood Emergency Headlines Added
 Effective February 4, 2014

Effective Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at 1500 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will have the option to add a headline in a Tornado Warning (TOR) that includes the terminology "TORNADO EMERGENCY" and in a Flash Flood Warning (FFW) that includes the terminology "FLASH FLOOD EMERGENCY". The headlines will only be used on rare occasions when all of the following criteria are met:

- a. Severe threat to human life is imminent or ongoing
- b. Catastrophic damage is imminent or ongoing
- c. Reliable sources confirm a tornado or flash flood

These headlines will effectively highlight the potential for large scale loss of life and catastrophic property damage in these rare Tornado and Flash Flood events.

The headlines will be on their own line directly following the date/time line in the WMO Header, and before the first line that begins "THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN XXX HAS ISSUED A", where "XXX" is the WFO location. The headline will be preceded and followed by a three dot ellipsis. For example:

...TORNADO EMERGENCY FOR MOORE AND SOUTH OKLAHOMA CITY...
or
...FLASH FLOOD EMERGENCY FOR CENTRAL KENT COUNTY...

These new headlines will duplicate, not replace, the inclusion of "TORNADO EMERGENCY" or "FLASH FLOOD EMERGENCY" in the last line of the third bullet, i.e., the basis statement of the warning.

Partners and users who receive or provide services based on the

parsing of exact text strings are advised to allow for these headlines in their software and system operations.

This change does not impact the Severe Weather Statement (SVS) or Flash Flood Statement (FFS) that currently allow headlines for Tornado and Flash Flood Emergencies.

A more detailed description and examples of a Tornado Warning and a Flash Flood Warning that include the new headline are online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/vtec/TORFFWemerheadline.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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