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Service Change Notice 13-75
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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To: Subscribers:
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 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
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From: Eli Jacks
 Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

Subject: Change to the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS)
Code Part of Southeast Alaska: Effective February 5, 2014

Effective February 5, 2014, the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Juneau (AJK), Alaska, will implement changes to the FIPS codes adopted in 2009 by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI):

Prince of Wales-Outer-Ketchikan Census Area (FIPS code 02201)

Part of this area (Outer Ketchikan) was annexed by Ketchikan Gateway Borough (FIPS code 02130), part was included in the new Wrangell City and Borough (FIPS code 02275), and the remainder was renamed Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area (FIPS code 02198).

Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (FIPS code 02232).

This area was split to create Skagway Municipality (FIPS 02230) and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (FIPS code 02105).

Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area (FIPS code 02280).

This area was split to create part of Wrangell City and Borough (FIPS code 02275) and all of Petersburg Census Area (FIPS code 02195).

A graphical depiction of these changes is online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/images/ak-fips.html>

The FIPS code is used in the county portion of the NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) code. The correct FIPS code is critical for receiving weather information. All NWS partners and users and weather radio owners who receive products that rely on the NWR SAME code, must reprogram their equipment no later than February 5, 2014. Partners and users may want to program the new codes before February 5, 2014, and retain the current codes in their systems until after February 6, 2014. That way, the change on February 5, 2014, will be transparent and users will only need to delete the old codes after the implementation.

All NWR users and individuals and organizations, such as media, law enforcement, emergency management and schools, who own a weather radio receiver with NWR SAME capabilities, must reprogram their weather radio receivers to continue to receive weather information. Instructions on reprogramming your weather radio are in the owner's manual or available from the manufacturer of your radio, your local retailer or online at the radio manufacturer's website.

For your information, a list of many weather radio receiver manufacturers is online at:

https://www.weather.gov/nwr/nwr_receivers

The NWS NOAA Weather Radio SAME code information page:

<https://www.weather.gov/nwr/nwrsame>

A toll-free number provided by the NWS:
1-888-NWR-SAME (1-888-697-7263).

An updated shapefile is online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/county/html/county.htm>

More detailed information about the ANSI codes for counties and county equivalent entities, commonly known as FIPS county codes, and changes to those codes can be found online at

<http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/ansi.html>
<http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/county-changes.html>

Additional information on this and any future NWS implementations of FIPS code changes is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/nwr/nwsfipschg>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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