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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 14-47  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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From: Eli Jacks  
Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

Subject: New Fire and Public Forecast Zones and Boundary  
Changes for Central and Northeast Maryland, Northern  
Virginia and the Blue Ridge of Virginia, effective  
December 3, 2014

Effective Wednesday, December 3, 2014, at 800 AM Eastern Standard  
Time (EST), 1300 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), several  
changes will be made to existing fire and public forecast zones  
in central and northeast Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the  
Blue Ridge of Virginia. These include:

Three existing fire and public forecast zones in central and  
northeast Maryland will be split into six separate zones. The new  
zones are shown below in Table 1.

The dividing line between two existing fire and public forecast  
zones in northeast Maryland will be adjusted slightly to match  
with the other six zones being implemented. These two existing  
zones are Northern Baltimore (MDZ006) and Southern Baltimore  
(MDZ011).

One existing fire and public forecast zone in Northern Virginia  
will be split into two separate zones. The new zones are shown  
below in Table 2.

The Blue Ridge of Virginia will be split off from the counties  
that contain it. This will result in two separate new zones. The  
new zones are shown below in Table 3.

In all cases above, both fire and public zones are identical to  
each other in zone name, zone number and geographic extent.

A graphic depicting these changes is online at:

<http://nws.noaa.gov/om/public/zones-lwx.pdf>

These zones are being changed to improve warning accuracy in highly populated areas in central and northeast Maryland and northern Virginia that have significant elevation differences that affect weather. These changes will result in more geographically precise forecast, watch and warning products for the general public and will enhance web-based graphical product consistency and appearance.

These zone changes require partners and users to take appropriate action to receive the new zone products using the Universal Generic Code (UGC) zone code format (Z) listed in Tables 1, 2, and 3.

Products affected by this change are listed in Table 4. This list of products may not be exhaustive and other products which contain universal generic coding may also be affected.

TABLE 1. New Fire and Public Zone Names and Numbers. Central and northeast Maryland.

OLD ZONE NAME	OLD UGC(Z)	NEW ZONE NAME	NEW UGC (Z)
HARFORD	MDZ007	SOUTHEAST HARFORD	MDZ508
		NORTHWEST HARFORD	MDZ507
HOWARD	MDZ010	CENTRAL AND SOUTHEAST HOWARD	MDZ506
		NORTHWEST HOWARD	MDZ505
MONTGOMERY	MDZ009	CENTRAL AND SOUTHEAST MONTGOMERY	MDZ504
		NORTHWEST MONTGOMERY	MDZ503

TABLE 2. New Fire and Public Zone Names and Numbers. Northern Virginia.

OLD ZONE NAME	OLD UGC(Z)	NEW ZONE NAME	NEW UGC (Z)
LOUDOUN	VAZ042	EASTERN LOUDOUN	VAZ506
		WESTERN LOUDOUN	VAZ505

TABLE 3. New Fire and Public Zone Names and Numbers. Blue Ridge of Virginia.

NEW ZONE NAME	NEW UGC (Z)
NORTHERN VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE	VAZ507
CENTRAL VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE	VAZ508

TABLE 4. WFO LWX Products affected by these changes:

PRODUCT NAME	WMO HEADER	AWIPS ID
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SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT WWUS81 KLWX SPSLWX  
HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT WTUS81 KLWX HLSLWX  
ZONE FORECAST PRODUCT FPUS51 KLWX ZFPLWX  
ENHANCED LOCAL FORECAST FEUS71 KLWX EOLLWX  
SHORT TERM FORECAST FPUS71 KLWX NOWLWX  
HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK FLUS41 KLWX HWOLWX  
NON-PRECIPITATION MESSAGE WWUS71 KLWX NPWLWX  
WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE WWUS41 KLWX WSWLWX  
AREA FORECAST MATRICES FOUS51 KLWX AFMLWX  
FIRE WEATHER FORECAST FNUS51 KLWX FWFLWX  
REGIONAL WEATHER STORY AWUS81 KLWX RWSLWX  
FLOOD WATCH WGUS61 KLWX FFALWX  
HYDROLOGIC OUTLOOK FGUS71 KLWX ESFLWX  
FIRE WEATHER WATCH WWUS81 KLWX RFWLWX  
RED FLAG WARNING WWUS81 KLWX RFWLWX  
PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT WOUS41 KLWX PNSLWX  
POINT FORECAST MATRICES FOUS51 KLWX PFMLWX  
AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION FXUS61 KLWX AFDLWX  
PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE  
SUMMARY SXUS51 KLWX HYDLWX  
DAILY RIVER AND LAKE SUMMARY FGUS51 KLWX RVDLWX  
HYDROLOGIC STATEMENT FGUS81 KLWX RVSLWX  
HYDROLOGIC SUMMARY SRUS41 KLWX RVALWX  
AIR QUALITY ALERT AEUS71 KLWX AQALWX  
AIR QUALITY FORECAST AEUS71 KLWX AQILWX

If you are affected by these changes, take the appropriate action so your system(s) recognize the new zone (Z) Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) and the new zone alignments.

An updated public zone shapefile is online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/pubzone.htm>

An updated fire zone shapefile is online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/firezone.htm>

The proposed changes to the LWX zone boundaries have been closely coordinated with local partners and users to be ready for implementation on December 3 2014.

For more information, please contact:

Christopher Strong	John Koch
Warning Coordination Meteorologist	Public Program Leader
NWS Baltimore/Washington	NWS Eastern Region HQ
Sterling VA 20166	Bohemia NY 11716
703-996-2223	631-244-0104
<a href="mailto:christopher.strong@noaa.gov">christopher.strong@noaa.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:john.koch@noaa.gov">john.koch@noaa.gov</a>

National Service Change notices are online at:

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

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