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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 Geographic 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 UGCs 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 Northwest Harford	MDZ508 MDZ507
Howard	MDZ010	Central and Southeast Howard Northwest Howard	MDZ506 MDZ505
Montgomery	MDZ009	Central and Southeast Montgomery Northwest Montgomery	MDZ504 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 Western Loudoun	VAZ506 VAZ505

Table 3. New Fire and Public Zone Names and Numbers

Blue Ridge of Virginia:

Old Zone Name -----	Old UGC (Z) -----	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 -----
Special Weather Statement	WWUS81 KLWX	SPSLWX
Hurricane Local Statement	WTUS81 KLWX	HLWLWX
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) UGCs 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.

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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