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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 15-11
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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To: Subscribers:
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 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Mangers Weather Information Network
 -NOAA PORT
 Other NWS partners and NWS employees

From: Eli Jacks
 Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

Subject: New Fire Weather Forecast Zone and Fire Weather
Forecast Zone Boundary Changes for Southwest Alaska,
Effective April 7, 2015

Effective Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at 800 AM Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT), 1600 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), several changes will be made to existing fire weather forecast zones in southwest Alaska by NWS Weather Forecast Office Anchorage, AK, (WFO AFC).

These changes include the creation of a new zone and changes in the boundaries, numbering and naming of two existing zones. The changes are described below in Table 1.

A graphic depicting these changes is online at:

http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/misc/Fire_Weather_Zone_Changes_201504.pdf

These changes will improve fire weather forecast and warning accuracy in southwest Alaska. The new zone is climatologically different than the two zones that presently encompass this geographic region. The changes will result in more geographically precise fire weather forecasts, watch and warning services for resource managers and fire fighters responsible for this region.

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 Table 1.

Products affected by this change are listed in Table 2. This list of products may not be exhaustive and other products which contain UGC (Z) may also be affected.

TABLE 1. Old/New Fire Weather Zone Names and Numbers for Western Alaska

OLD ZONE NAME	OLD UGC(Z)	NEW ZONE NAME	NEW UGC(Z)
BRISTOL BAY	AKZ161	GREATER BRISTOL BAY	AKZ162
BRISTOL BAY	AKZ161	WESTERN ALASKA RANGE	AKZ163
LOWER KUSKOKWIM VALLEY	AKZ152	MIDDLE KUSKOKWIM VALLEY	AKZ153
LOWER KUSKOKWIN VALLEY	AKZ152	WESTERN ALASKA RANGE	AKZ163

TABLE 2. WFO AFC Products Affected by These Changes

PRODUCT NAME	WMO HEADER	AWIPS ID
FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST	FNAK52 PAFC	FWFALU
FIRE WEATHER WATCH	WWAK62 PAFC	RFWALU
RED FLAG WARNING	WWAK62 PAFC	RFWALU
AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION	FKAK68 PAFC	AFDAFC

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 fire weather zone shapefile is online at:

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

The proposed changes to the southwest Alaska fire weather forecast zone boundaries, and creation of a new fire weather forecast zone, have been closely coordinated with fire management partners and users to be ready for implementation on April 7, 2015.

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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