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Service Change Notice 15-20 Corrected
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1117 AM EDT Wed Apr 1 2015

To: Subscribers:
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 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
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From: Robert Rutledge
 Acting Chief, Aviation Services Branch

Subject: Corrected: Operational Implementation of the Helicopter Emergency
Medical Services (HEMS) Tool: Effective May 4, 2015

Corrected effective date to May 4, 2015.

Effective May 4, 2015 at 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Aviation Weather Center (AWC) in Kansas City, MO, will make the Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) Tool operationally available on the AWC website:

<http://www.aviationweather.gov/hemst>

The HEMS Tool interactively displays high resolution grids of critical weather parameters: ceiling, visibility, flight category, winds, icing severity, relative humidity, temperature, radar, satellite, graphical AIRman's METeorological Information (G-AIRMETs), Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMETs), METeorological Aerodrome Reports (METARs), Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs), Pilot Reports (PIREPs), NWS warnings, and Center Weather Advisories (CWAs). Overlays include navigational aids, airports and heliports for the entire United States. More detail is revealed as you zoom in and individual layers can be turned on or off independently. The tool is not a weather product; it is a display that aggregates a number of existing weather products into a single, quick-glance, automated graphic. All underlying products have already gone through a safety risk management process.

HEMS flights represent commercial aviation activity performed by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificated air carrier operators; therefore, operations must have the highest level of safety. Pursuant to Title 49 United States Code Section 44720, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) establishes requirements for the weather information and services necessary for the safe and efficient conduct of operations in the National Airspace System (NAS). As such, NOAA/NWS may be tasked to provide the weather information and services necessary to meet the requirements established by the FAA. Operational implementation of the HEMS tool has been identified as an FAA requirement.

This tool has been specifically designed to show weather conditions for short-distance and low-altitude flights that are common for the HEMS community. By using a highly interactive and intuitive tool that focuses on small, localized regions, HEMS operators gain critical weather awareness to make their flights safer for crews and patients.

Additional information on HEMS can be found at:

<http://www.aviationweather.gov/hemst/help>

The Product Description Document can be found at:

https://products.weather.gov/PDD/HEMS_PDD.pdf

If you have any questions regarding the Helicopter Emergency Medical Services Tool, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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