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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 15-45  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
240 PM EDT Tue Sep 1 2015

To:           Subscribers:  
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From:         Heath Hockenberry  
              Acting Chief, Severe, Fire, Public and Winter  
              Services Branch

Subject:      Change to P-VTEC Line(s) and Associated  
              Headline(s) When Upgrading from Winter Storm Warning  
              or Lake Effect Snow Warning to Ice Storm and Blizzard  
              Warning Effective November 17, 2015

Effective Tuesday, November 17, 2015, the National Weather Service (NWS) is changing some of the P-VTEC line(s) and headlines in the Winter Weather Watches, Warnings and Advisories product (WSW). Positive comments were received from a Public Information Statement on this topic:  
<https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns15vtec-winter.pdf> disseminated July 28, 2015.

The change is summarized below:

When a Winter Storm Warning or Lake Effect Snow Warning is upgraded to an Ice Storm or Blizzard Warning for the same geographical area, the WSW segment will now contain only one headline and two P-VTEC lines. The headline will list the new warning only. The first P-VTEC line will use the "UPG" action code to show the old Winter Storm or Lake Effect Snow Warning being upgraded. The second P-VTEC line will use the NEW action code to start the new Ice Storm or Blizzard Warning.

This change is intended to avoid confusion for those who may not fully understand the distinctions between the two winter hazard products in question (i.e., the original product and the upgraded product). It will lead to more effective automated communication of winter weather warning information.

For example, under current policy, the following P-VTEC lines and headlines are disseminated when a Winter Storm Warning is changed to an Ice Storm Warning for the same geographical area:

/O.CAN.KOUN.WS.W.0005.000000T0000Z-010129T0000Z/ (P-VTEC line  
1) /O.NEW.KOUN.IS.W.0002.010128T1030Z-010129T0000Z/ (P-VTEC line  
2)

...Winter Storm Warning is Cancelled...  
...Ice Storm Warning in Effect Until 6pm CST Sunday...

After this change, the following P-VTEC lines and headline will be disseminated when a Winter Storm Warning is upgraded to an Ice Storm Warning for the same geographical area:

/O.UPG.KOUN.WS.W.0005.000000T0000Z-010129T0000Z/ (P-VTEC line 1)  
/O.NEW.KOUN.IS.W.0002.010128T1030Z-010129T0000Z/ (P-VTEC line 2)

...Ice Storm Warning in Effect Until 6pm CST Sunday...

The example shown above would be identical when upgrading from a Winter Storm Warning to a Blizzard Warning and when upgrading from a Lake Effect Snow Warning to an Ice Storm or Blizzard Warning. No other changes are being made to the WSW product at this time.

Users do not need to take any actions for these changes.

Please submit questions or comments to:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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