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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 18-13 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
805 AM EDT Fri Apr 13 2018

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners and NWS Employees

From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Implementing improved public and fire zone
 coverage for WFO Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX,
 effective May 1, 2018

Updated to correct zone names in Tables 1 and 2

Effective Tuesday May 1, 2018, at 100 PM Central Daylight
Time (CDT), 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS will
realign coastal public and fire zones within the Weather
Forecast Office (WFO) Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley area of
responsibility.

Two current zones will be converted into four separate
zones. These new zones are being divided to optimize issuance of
hazard products for conditions that vary significantly within
the coastal and inland environment.

TXZ251 (Kenedy County) will be divided into 2 segments: Inland
Kenedy County (TXZ251) and Coastal Kenedy County (TXZ351)

TXZ253 (Hidalgo County) will be divided into 2 segments:
Southern Hidalgo County (TXZ253) and Northern Hidalgo County
(TXZ353)

Table 1: Current coastal public and fire zones and
corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) for WFO
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

UGC: Current Public/Fire Zone Name

TXZ251: Kenedy
TXZ253: Hidalgo

Table 2: Public/Fire Zones and corresponding Universal
Geographic Codes (UGC) for which WFO Brownsville/Rio Grande
Valley, TX, will issue forecasts and warnings effective
May 1, 2018

UGC: New Public/Fire Zone Name

TXZ251: Inland Kenedy
TXZ351: Coastal Kenedy
TXZ253: Southern Hidalgo
TXZ353: Northern Hidalgo

Table 3: Primary cities included in the new public/fire zones effective May 1, 2018

UGC: Primary cities within New Zones

TXZ251: Sarita, Armstrong
TXZ351: None

TXZ253: Donna, Edinburg, Elsa-Edcouch, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Pharr, Weslaco
TXZ353: Hargill, Linn-San Manuel, McCook

Table 4: NWS products affected by the WFO Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX, public and fire zone changes effective May 1, 2018:

PRODUCT NAME	AWIPS ID	WMO HEADING
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COASTAL FLOOD WARNING	CFWBRO	WHUS44 KBRO
NON PRECIPITATION WARNING	NPWBRO	WWUS74 KBRO
FIRE WEATHER MESSAGE	RFWBRO	WWUS84 KBRO
WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE	WSWBRO	WWUS44 KBRO
HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK	HWOBRO	FLUS44 KBRO
AREA FORECAST MATRICES	AFMBRO	FOUS54 KBRO
FIRE WEATHER FORECAST	FWFBRO	FNUS54 KBRO
SHORT TERM FORECAST	NOWBRO	FPUS74 KBRO
FIRE DANGER STATEMENT	RFDBRO	FNUS64 KBRO
SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT	SPSBRO	WWUS84 KBRO
ZONE FORECAST	ZFPBRO	FPUS54 KBRO

Users of WFO Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley products must reprogram affected hardware and software to continue correctly processing the above mentioned products.

Users accessing NWS graphical forecasts must download updated zone map shapefiles to correctly view forecasts for coastal south Texas. Updated zone map shapefiles containing the new public and fire zones are available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>

Graphical images of the current and future public and fire weather zones listed above are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/media/bro/pdf/RioGrandeValleyTexasZoneCha>

nges.pdf

If you have any questions, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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