Service Change Notice 18-14
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
240 PM EST Fri Feb 2 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: Changes in Fire and Public Zones for WFO Amarillo, TX, effective May 1, 2018

Effective Tuesday May 1, 2018 at 100 PM CDT, 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Amarillo (AMA), TX, will divide the existing Randall County, TX, public and fire weather forecast zone into two zones: a new Palo Duro Canyon zone and a Randall County zone.

Specifically, the split will be along the rim of the canyon and will encompass the Palo Duro Canyon within Randall County, Texas. These changes are intended to provide increased flexibility and improved accuracy of forecast for various watches, warnings, and advisories in the public and fire weather programs. The current zone is shown below in Table 1. This zone will be split into two zones shown in Table 2.

The Fire and Public 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 2.

Table 1: Current affected WFO AMA Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zone
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Fire/Public Zone Name</th>
<th>Current UGC (Z)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Randall County</td>
<td>TXZ017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: New WFO AMA affected Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zones
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Fire/Public Zone Name</th>
<th>New UGC (Z)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palo Duro Canyon</td>
<td>TXZ317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randall County</td>
<td>TXZ017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All public and fire weather products from WFO AMA that use the Zone (Z) Universal Geographic Code (UGC) are affected by these changes. Partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names. These changes do not affect products using county (C) UGC.

Updated public and fire zone maps are online at:
https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones
https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones

Graphical depiction of WFO AMA’s current and new Fire and Public Weather Forecast Zones are at the following website:
https://www.weather.gov/ama/NewPaloDuroCanyonForecastZone

For more information, please contact:

Mike Gittinger
NWS Amarillo, TX
806-335-1121 x223
or
Melinda Bailey
NWS Southern Region Headquarters
Fort Worth, TX
904-741-4470 x223

NWS National Service Change Notices are online at:
https://www.weather.gov/notification/

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