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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 18-15
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, Users and Employees

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

Subject: Changes in Fire and Public Zones for NWS Weather Forecast Office
Houston, TX: Effective May 1, 2018

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)
Houston/Galveston area of responsibility along the Texas Gulf Coast.

In total, six current zones will be converted into 15 separate zones.
These new zones are being divided to optimize issuance of hazard products
for conditions that vary significantly within the coastal environment.

TXZ200 (Liberty County) will be divided into two segments: Northern
Liberty (TXZ200) and Southern Liberty (TXZ300).

TXZ213 (Harris County) will be divided into two segments: Inland Harris
(TXZ213) and Coastal Harris (TXZ313).

TXZ235 (Jackson County) will be divided into two segments: Inland Jackson
(TXZ235) and Coastal Jackson (TXZ335).

TXZ236 (Matagorda County) will be divided into three segments: Inland
Matagorda (TXZ236), Coastal Matagorda (TXZ336), and Matagorda Islands
(TXZ436).

TXZ237 (Brazoria County) will be divided into three segments: Inland
Brazoria (TXZ237), Coastal Brazoria (TXZ337), and Brazoria Islands
(TXZ437).

TXZ238 (Galveston County) will be divided into three segments: Inland
Galveston (TXZ238), Coastal Galveston (TXZ338), and Galveston Island and
Bolivar Peninsula (TXZ438).

Table 1: Current Coastal Public and Fire Zones and Corresponding Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) for WFO Houston/Galveston, TX

UGC: Current Public/Fire Zone Name

TXZ200: Liberty
 TXZ213: Harris
 TXZ235: Jackson
 TXZ236: Matagorda
 TXZ237: Brazoria
 TXZ238: Galveston

Table 2: Public/Fire Zones and Corresponding UGCs for which WFO Houston/Galveston, TX, will Issue Forecasts and Warnings Effective May 1, 2018

UGC: New Public/Fire Zone Name

TXZ200: Northern Liberty
 TXZ300: Southern Liberty
 TXZ213: Inland Harris
 TXZ313: Coastal Harris
 TXZ235: Inland Jackson
 TXZ335: Coastal Jackson
 TXZ236: Inland Matagorda
 TXZ336: Coastal Matagorda
 TXZ436: Matagorda Islands
 TXZ237: Inland Brazoria
 TXZ337: Coastal Brazoria
 TXZ437: Brazoria Islands
 TXZ238: Inland Galveston
 TXZ338: Coastal Galveston
 TXZ438: Galveston Island and Bolivar Peninsula

Table 3: Selected Cities Included in the New Public/Fire Zones Effective May 1, 2018

UGC: Primary Cities within New Zones

TXZ200: Cleveland, Dayton and Liberty
 TXZ300: Devers and Moss Bluff
 TXZ213: Houston, Humble, Katy, Pasadena and Tomball
 TXZ313: Baytown, La Porte, Seabrook and Webster
 TXZ235: Edna TXZ335: None
 TXZ236: Bay City
 TXZ336: Palacios and Sargent
 TXZ436: None
 TXZ237: Alvin, Angleton and Pearland
 TXZ337: Freeport, Lake Jackson and Liverpool
 TXZ437: Surfside Beach
 TXZ238: Friendswood, Western League City and Santa Fe
 TXZ338: Eastern League City, Kemah and Texas City
 TXZ438: Galveston and Crystal Beach

Table 4: NWS Products Affected by the WFO Houston/Galveston TX Public and Fire Zone Changes Effective May 1, 2018:

Product Name -----	WMO Heading -----	AWIPS ID -----
Hurricane Local Statement	WTUS84 KHGX	HLSHGX
Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning	WTNT8X KNHC	TCVATX
Local Watch/Warning Statement	WTUS84 KHGX	TCVHGX
Coastal Hazard Message	WHUS44 KHGX	CFWHGX
Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS54 KHGX	FWFHGX
Fire Weather Message	WWUS84 KHGX	RFWHGX
Zone Forecast	FPUS54 KHGX	ZFPHGX
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS54 KHGX	PFMHGX
Tsunami Message	WEXX20 PAAQ	TSUAT1
Public Information Statement	NOUS44 KHGX	PNSHGX
Non-Precipitation Warnings	WWUS74 KHGX	NPWHGX
Flood Watch	WGUS64 KHGX	FFAHGX
Special Weather Statement	WWUS84 KHGX	SPSHGX
Winter Weather Message	WWUS44 KHGX	WSWHGX
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS64 KHGX	AFDHGX
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS44 KHGX	HWOHGX
Area Forecast Matrices	FOUS54 KHGX	AFMHGX
Air Quality Alert Message	AEUS74 KHGX	AQAHGX

Users of WFO Houston/Galveston's 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 Southeast 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>

A graphical depiction of WFO HGXs modified Fire and Public Weather Forecast Zones are online:

<http://www.weather.gov/hgx/HGX2018ZoneChanges>

If you have any questions, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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