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Service Change Notice 18-15
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
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 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 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, 6 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 2 segments:
Northern Liberty (TXZ200) and Southern Liberty (TXZ300).

TXZ213 (Harris County) will be divided into 2 segments: Inland Harris (TXZ213) and Coastal Harris (TXZ313).

TXZ235 (Jackson County) will be divided into 2 segments:
Inland Jackson (TXZ235) and Coastal Jackson (TXZ335).

TXZ236 (Matagorda County) will be divided into 3 segments:
Inland Matagorda (TXZ236), Coastal Matagorda (TXZ336),
and Matagorda Islands (TXZ436).

TXZ237 (Brazoria County) will be divided into 3 segments: Inland Brazoria (TXZ237), Coastal Brazoria (TXZ337), and Brazoria Islands (TXZ437).

TXZ238 (Galveston County) will be divided into 3 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 (UGC) 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 Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) 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:

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

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