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Service Change Notice 18-55
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
710 AM EDT Tue May 28 2018

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

Subject: Change of Heat Advisory Thresholds Across Upstate New York and
Northern New England: Effective June 1, 2018

Effective on or about June 1, 2018, four NWS offices (Albany, NY; Binghamton, NY; Buffalo, NY; Burlington, VT), in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH), will lower Heat Advisory criteria for all of New York for the coming summer season.

Studies and research conducted by the NYS DOH show that emergency department visits and deaths from heat increase significantly on days when the heat index reaches 95 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

Thus, the old threshold of 100-104 degrees Fahrenheit for two or more consecutive hours has been lowered to 95-99 degrees Fahrenheit occurring for two or more consecutive hours.

Also, effective on or about June 1, 2018, two NWS offices (Gray, ME; Caribou, ME) will change Heat Advisory criteria to 95-99 degrees Fahrenheit occurring for two or more consecutive hours from the previous two or more consecutive days.

Excessive Heat Warning criteria (heat index 105 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for two or more hours) remains unchanged.

It is expected that this change will alert people sooner to impending heat threats and if acted upon, reduce the number of heat-related illnesses and emergency department visits.

No communication changes are required to continue to receive heat advisory/warning products. Only the triggering threshold for heat advisories has been changed.

If you have questions, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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