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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 19-24
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1120 AM EDT Fri Aug 23 2019

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPORT
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From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services
 Branch

Subject: Soliciting comments on experimental provision of Wet
 Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) grids in the NDFD through
 September 30, 2020

Effective on or about August 23, 2019, and continuing through
September 30, 2020, the NWS is seeking user feedback on
experimental Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) grids in the
National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD).

NWS currently uses the Heat Index to convey heat risk during
summer heat events. While the heat index is useful for sedentary
populations, research has proven that the WBGT is a more
effective means of assessing heat risk to persons involved in
physical activity. The WBGT is a composite parameter that
estimates the effect of temperature, humidity, wind chill, and
solar radiation on humans, while Heat Index only takes into
account temperature and humidity.

Based upon engagement with core partners, particularly emergency
management officials, the NWS has identified the need to provide
WBGT forecasts because it is becoming an increasingly needed
parameter by partners in Impact-based Decision Support Services
(IDSS) activities. In particular, WBGT is important for those
partners who need a numerical (finite) value, rather than a
threat index, to determine necessary modifications to their
respective activities in the interest of protecting life.

To better meet users' needs, NWS will provide gridded forecasts
of WBGT in the NDFD on an experimental basis for the Continental
United States (CONUS), Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico. CONUS data
will be available hourly out to 36 hours from NDFD issuance
time, then every 3 hours out to 72 hours from 0000 Coordinated
Universal Time (UTC) Day 1, then every 6 hours out to 168 hours
from 0000 UTC Day 1. Data for Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico will
be available every 3 hours out to 72 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1,
then every 6 hours out to 168 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1.

WBGT data for forecast days 1-3 and forecast days 4-7 will be made available via https and ftp from the following URLs:

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.wbgt.bin>
<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.004-007/ds.wbgt.bin>
<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.hawaii/VP.001-003/ds.wbgt.bin>
<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.hawaii/VP.004-007/ds.wbgt.bin>
<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.guam/VP.001-003/ds.wbgt.bin>
<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.guam/VP.004-007/ds.wbgt.bin>
<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.puertori/VP.001-003/ds.wbgt.bin>
<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.puertori/VP.004-007/ds.wbgt.bin>

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<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.hawaii/VP.001-003/ds.wbgt.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.hawaii/VP.004-007/ds.wbgt.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.guam/VP.001-003/ds.wbgt.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.guam/VP.004-007/ds.wbgt.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.puertori/VP.001-003/ds.wbgt.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.puertori/VP.004-007/ds.wbgt.bin>

Please see NWS Product Description Document (PDD) for more details:
https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpWetBulbGlobeTemperature_2019.pdf

NDFD GRIB2 files can be downloaded and displayed by the user with software available for download at the following URL:
https://www.weather.gov/mdl/degrib_home

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this experimental service by using the brief survey and comment form available online at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WetBulbGlobeTemp>

Questions related to WBGT can be directed to:
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National Public Information Statements are online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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