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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 19-110  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
120 PM EST Tue Dec 17 2019

To:       Subscribers:  
          -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
          -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
          -NOAAPort  
          Other NWS Partners and NWS Employees

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

Subject:  Implementing improved fire weather zone coverage  
          for WFO Midland/Odessa, TX, effective March 3, 2020

Effective Tuesday March 3, 2020, at 100 PM Central Daylight Time (CST), 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS will realign fire weather zones within the Weather Forecast Office Midland/Odessa (MAF) area of responsibility.

If March 3, 2020, is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 10, 2020.

On that date, 9 current fire weather zones will be converted into 17 fire weather zones. These new zones are being divided to align fire weather zones to public zones in Texas, optimize the issuance of fire weather forecast and hazard products for conditions that vary significantly near the Rio Grande and higher elevations of west Texas and southeast New Mexico, and meet the specific needs of firefighting partners in southeast New Mexico.

NMZ114 (Guadalupe Mountains) will be entirely within one new zone: Sacramento Foothills and Guadalupe Mountains (NMZ116). This new zone will include the western portions of the MAF area of responsibility above 4500 feet as well as adjacent parts of Carlsbad Caverns National Park below 4500.

NMZ115 (Southeast Plains) will be divided among four segments:

- Sacramento Foothills and Guadalupe Mountains (NMZ116) including those areas above 4500 feet in as well as the adjacent parts of Carlsbad Caverns National Park
- Chavez Plains (NMZ117) for Chavez County below 4500 feet
- Eddy Plains (NMZ118) for Eddy County below 4500 excluding Carlsbad Cavern National Park
- Lea (NMZ119) for Lea County

TXZ057 (Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor) will be divided among 4 segments:

- Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains (TXZ271) above 5000 feet
- Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor (TX272) including Culberson County west of the Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains below 5000 feet
- Eastern Culberson County (TXZ273) east of the Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains below 5000 feet
- Presidio Valley (TXZ281) including elevations below 4000 feet near the Rio Grande.

TXZ058 (Reeves County and Upper Trans Pecos) will be divided among 2 segments:

- Eastern Culberson County (TXZ273) east of the Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains
- Reeves County Plains (TXZ274)

TXZ074 (Davis/Apache Mountains Area) will be divided among 2 segments:

- Davis Mountains (TXZ277) above 4800 feet
- Davis Mountains Foothills (TXZ278) for lower elevations

TXZ079 (Presidio Valley) will be divided among 3 segments:

- Chinati Mountains (TXZ275) including elevations above 4000 feet toward the Chinati Mountains
- Marfa Plateau (TXZ276) for elevations above 4000 feet in southern Presidio County
- Presidio Valley (TXZ281) including areas near the Rio Grande in Presidio County below 4000 feet

TXZ080 (Marfa Plateau) will be divided among 4 segments:

- Chinati Mountains (TXZ275) above 5000 feet
- Marfa Plateau (TXZ276) including Presidio County above 4000 feet (excluding the Chinati and Davis Mountains)
- Davis Mountains (TXZ277) above 4800 feet
- Presidio Valley (TXZ281) below 4000 feet

TXZ081 (Big Bend Area) will be divided among 4 segments:

- Davis Mountains (TXZ277) above 4800 feet
- Central Brewster County (TXZ279) including elevations from 3000 to 4800 feet (not including the Chisos Basin)
- Chisos Basin (TXZ280) in southern Brewster County above 4500 feet
- Lower Brewster County (TXZ282) near the Rio Grande below 3000 feet.

TXZ258 (Guadalupe Mountains) will be divided among 4 segments:

- Guadalupe Mountains in Texas above 7000 feet (TXZ270)
- Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains (TXZ271) from 5000 to 7000 Feet
- Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor (TXZ272) west of the Delaware Mountains and below 5000 feet
- Eastern Culberson County (TXZ273) east of the Delaware Mountains and below 5000 feet

Table 1: Current Fire Weather Zones and Corresponding Universal

Geographic Codes (UGC) for WFO Midland/Odessa, TX

UGC: Current Fire Weather Zone Name

NMZ114: Guadalupe Mountains  
NMZ115: Southeast Plains  
TXZ057: Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor  
TXZ058: Reeves County and Upper Trans Pecos  
TXZ074: Davis/Apache Mountains Area  
TXZ079: Presidio Valley  
TXZ080: Marfa Plateau  
TXZ081: Big Bend Area  
TXZ258: Guadalupe Mountains

Table 2: Fire Weather Zones and Corresponding UGC for Which WFO Midland/Odessa, TX, Will Issue Forecasts and Warnings Effective March 3, 2020

UGC: New Fire Weather Zone Name

NMZ116: Sacramento Foothills and Guadalupe Mountains  
NMZ117: Chavez Plains  
NMZ118: Eddy Plains  
NMZ119: Lea  
TXZ270: Guadalupe Mountains Above 7000 Feet  
TXZ271: Guadalupe and Delaware Mountains  
TXZ272: Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor  
TXZ273: Eastern Culberson County  
TXZ274: Reeves County Plains  
TXZ275: Chinati Mountains  
TXZ276: Marfa Plateau  
TXZ277: Davis Mountains  
TXZ278: Davis Mountains Foothills  
TXZ279: Central Brewster County  
TXZ280: Chisos Basin  
TXZ281: Presidio Valley  
TXZ282: Lower Brewster County

Table 3: Primary Cities Included in the New Fire Weather Zones Effective March 3, 2020

UGC: Primary cities within New Zones

NMZ116: Carlsbad Caverns  
NMZ117: Roswell  
NMZ118: Artesia, Carlsbad  
NMZ119: Hobbs  
TXZ270: Guadalupe Peak  
TXZ271: Pine Springs  
TXZ272: Van Horn  
TXZ273: (no city)  
TXZ274: Pecos, Balmorhea  
TXZ275: Chinati Peak  
TXZ276: Marfa, Valentine

TXZ277: Fort Davis  
TXZ278: Alpine, Kent  
TXZ279: Marathon, Panther Junction  
TXZ280: Chisos Basin  
TXZ281: Presidio  
TXZ282: Lajitas, Terlingua

Table 4: NWS products affected by the WFO Midland/Odessa, TX, fire weather zone changes effective March 3, 2020:

PRODUCT NAME	AWIPS ID	WMO HEADING
FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST	FWFMAF	FNUS54 KMAF
FIRE DANGER STATEMENT	RFDMAF	FNUS64 KMAF
FIRE WEATHER MESSAGE (RED FLAG)	RFWMAF	WWUS84 KMAF

Users of WFO Midland/Odessa products must re-program affected hardware and software to continue correctly processing the above mentioned products.

Users accessing NWS graphical forecasts must download updated fire weather zone map shapefiles to correctly view fire weather forecasts, statements, watches and warnings for southeast New Mexico and southwest Texas. Updated fire weather zone map shapefiles containing the new fire weather zones are available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>

Graphical images of the current and future fire weather zones listed above are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/media/maf/news/2019/FireWxZoneChangesMAF.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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