

NOUS41 KWBC 292115
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 01-17
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
515 PM EDT FRI JUN 29 2001

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/
SUBSCRIBERS
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: ESTHER ATKINS
CHIEF...INTEGRATED OPERATIONS BRANCH

SUBJECT: NON-UNIQUE WMO HEADINGS

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ RECENTLY LEARNED OF A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS PROBLEM IN WHICH UNIQUE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ HEADINGS ARE NOT PROPERLY ASSIGNED TO PRODUCTS IN A LIMITED SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS MESSAGE IS TO ADVISE NWS CUSTOMERS OF THE PROBLEM AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS THE NWS IS TAKING. NWS CUSTOMERS WITH SYSTEMS THAT AUTOMATICALLY PARSE PRODUCTS ORIGINATING AT NWS FIELD OFFICES AND CUSTOMERS WHO RECEIVE PRODUCTS FROM THESE SYSTEMS SHOULD READ THIS MESSAGE.

DESCRIPTION: WHEN TWO UNIQUE VERSIONS OF THE SAME PRODUCT TYPE /E.G. TORNADO WARNING...SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT...SHORT-TERM FORECAST/ ARE CREATED BY THE NWS FOR TRANSMISSION DURING THE SAME MINUTE...TWO MESSAGES WITH IDENTICAL WMO HEADINGS ARE GENERATED. THIS IS MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR DURING ADVERSE WEATHER WHEN TWO MESSAGES /E.G. WARNINGS...STATEMENTS/ OF THE SAME TYPE FOR DIFFERENT AREAS ARE TRANSMITTED FROM DIFFERENT COMPUTER WORKSTATIONS IN THE SAME MINUTE.

PROBLEM: THE SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT VERSIONS OF A PRODUCT TYPE /E.G. TORNADO WARNING/ TRANSMITTED WITHIN THAT SAME MINUTE DO NOT HAVE UNIQUE WMO HEADINGS WHICH CAN BE USED BY AN AUTOMATED DISSEMINATION SYSTEM TO DISTINGUISH ONE MESSAGE FROM THE OTHER. BECAUSE IT IS NOT UNIQUELY IDENTIFIED BY WMO HEADING... SOME NWS AND CUSTOMER DISSEMINATION SYSTEMS DO NOT TRANSMIT THE SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES BECAUSE THEY ARE FILTERED OUT AS DUPLICATE MESSAGES WITH IDENTICAL WMO HEADINGS. THE NWS/S EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/ SATELLITE BROADCAST FILTERS OUT DUPLICATE PRODUCTS IN THIS WAY...BUT THE NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ DOES AN ADDITIONAL BYTE COUNT COMPARISON.

NWS ACTION: THE NWS HAS STARTED ACTION TO REPAIR THE RESPONSIBLE SOFTWARE BUT REPAIR MAY NOT BE COMPLETED FOR SIX WEEKS OR MORE. AS AN INTERIM ACTION...NWS OPERATIONS STAFF HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO THE SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LEAD TO THIS PROBLEM AND ADVISED OF A WORKAROUND TO AVOID THE OCCURRENCE OF NON-UNIQUE WMO HEADINGS. IF...DESPITE THE BEST STAFF EFFORTS...PRODUCTS WITH NON-UNIQUE WMO HEADINGS ARE TRANSMITTED...NWS STAFF HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TRANSMIT CORRECTED

PRODUCTS FOR EACH ORIGINAL PRODUCT TRANSMITTED WITH NON-UNIQUE WMO HEADINGS. THE NWS WILL SEND ANOTHER TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION MESSAGE WHEN THE SOFTWARE REPAIR IS COMPLETED.

WMO HEADING REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OSO/HEADEF.HTML](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oso/heaDEF.html)

QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AT NWS HEADQUARTERS IN SILVER SPRING MARYLAND:

MR. HERB WHITE
DISSEMINATION SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGER
AWARENESS BRANCH
HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV
301-713-0090 EXT. 146

MR. ASHLEY KELLS
INTEGRATED OPERATIONS BRANCH
ASHLEY.KELLS@NOAA.GOV
301-713-0462 EXT. 122

NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

END
NNNN